

Onderwerp: Think slavery, think New Zealand?

Van: "Debra Rosen, Walk Free" <debra@walkfree.org>

Datum: 19-4-2014 4:33

Aan: apollosolaris@buijsadvies.nl



Dear Apollo,

*"The vessels were a floating freezer... absolutely appalling conditions just like a slum... there are definitely human rights abuses out there. **They are slave ships.**"*¹

Perhaps you've read some of the stories of appalling cases of modern slavery aboard fishing vessels around the world but would you guess that this quote is from New Zealand? **Reports hit the headlines in 2012 that crew members were toiling as slaves aboard ships in New Zealand waters: threatened, abused and forced to work 30-hour shifts.**² But government action has been slow.

Finally this week, after a long wait, parliament had an opportunity to show its strong support for a proposed new law, which would help end modern slavery at sea. But this is not the end. We need to act now to ensure that the government doesn't delay and supports the progression of this new law, without exemptions.

[TAKE ACTION: Tell New Zealand's Prime Minister to pass comprehensive laws preventing slavery at sea with immediate effect.](#)

Every year, New Zealand exports fish worth US\$250 million caught by foreign charter vessels -- the same boats responsible for the slavery scandal.³ **This is big business, yet crew members on these vessels are currently not assured the same labour protections as other workers in New Zealand.** Right now crew are fighting for tens of millions of dollars in owed wages.⁴

The Government, led by Prime Minister John Key, has prepared legislation which would protect workers at sea by bringing these ships under New Zealand labour law. When introducing the bill, the Government stated: *"these changes are necessary to protect the human rights of crews"*.⁵ **This law must come into force with immediate effect and without exemptions** so that we can be confident that slavery aboard fishing vessels can be consigned to history beginning with New Zealand.

[Tell New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key to protect maritime workers, and pass anti-slavery laws as an urgent priority.](#)

The horror stories from New Zealand are a snapshot into how the US\$85 billion global fishing industry profits from the labour of people forced to work without pay, often under threat of violence. **By taking bold, necessary action, New Zealand will send a signal to other nations that slavery in the fishing industry can never be tolerated.**

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have a moment, please forward this email to 3 of your friends so we can become one step closer to building a world where no worker falls victim to slavery, at sea or on land.

In solidarity,

Debra, Joanna, Andrew, Mich, Kamini & the Walk Free Team

P.S. We're proud to be partnering with Slave Free Seas on this campaign to end slavery in New Zealand waters. To learn more about their work visit **www.slavefreeseas.org**

¹ <http://joeg.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/09/23/jeg.lbt027.full>

² <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-02-23/the-fishing-industrys-cruelest-catch>

3 <http://www.dol.govt.nz/news/media/2012/2012-foreign-charter-vessels.pdf>

4 <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/9943488/Fishing-pay-fight-damaging-NZ>

5 <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2012/0075/6.0/DLM4794401.html>

Walk Free is a movement of people everywhere, fighting to end one of the world's greatest evils: Modern slavery.

[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Friend on Facebook](#) | [Subscribe on Youtube](#) | [View this email in your browser](#)

This email was sent to . You can [unsubscribe](#) from WalkFree.org at any time.

© 2013 WalkFree.org | All rights reserved | www.walkfree.org

