

Nestlé, Cargill, & Others Linked to Forced Labor in Palm Oil Industry



If you've ever bought chocolate, cleaning supplies, or makeup, chances are high that you've consumed or used palm oil. But this inescapable ingredient has a seedy human rights record, and [new C4ADS analysis](#) reveals why many major consumer brands have continued sourcing palm oil produced by forced labor, despite public reporting and U.S. law enforcement.

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Examining public data from 12 major international commodity traders, we found that many of the world's biggest palm oil traders are still buying from one conglomerate that has a history of abuse – Sime Darby. A major Malaysian palm oil producer and sourcer, Sime Darby's supply chains are tainted by deforestation, forced labor, and human rights abuses, which ultimately taint the products of major food companies, including Cargill and Nestlé.

Despite clear evidence of Sime Darby's human rights abuses, major food companies continue to purchase palm oil from Sime Darby and its affiliates. While this trade is legal for non-US importers, it violates basic standards of human rights and due diligence that consumers expect from their suppliers. **To learn more, read [Spoiled Fruit](#).**

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ABOUT C4ADS

C4ADS is a global security nonprofit with a mission to detect, disrupt, and defeat transnational illicit networks. Through data-driven analysis, emerging technology, and an international network of partners, we work to combat the underlying drivers of security issues that destabilize states, prevent development, and harm the environment.

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