



Labour Behind the Label

Clean Clothes Campaign 

# KILLER JEANS.

how distressed is your denim?

## SANDBLASTING KILLS....

For the last twenty years the trend for 'distressed' denim has become a mainstay for high street fashion and up-market designers alike. In many cases the effects are achieved by blasting sand at the fabric to produce faded patches and a worn-out look.

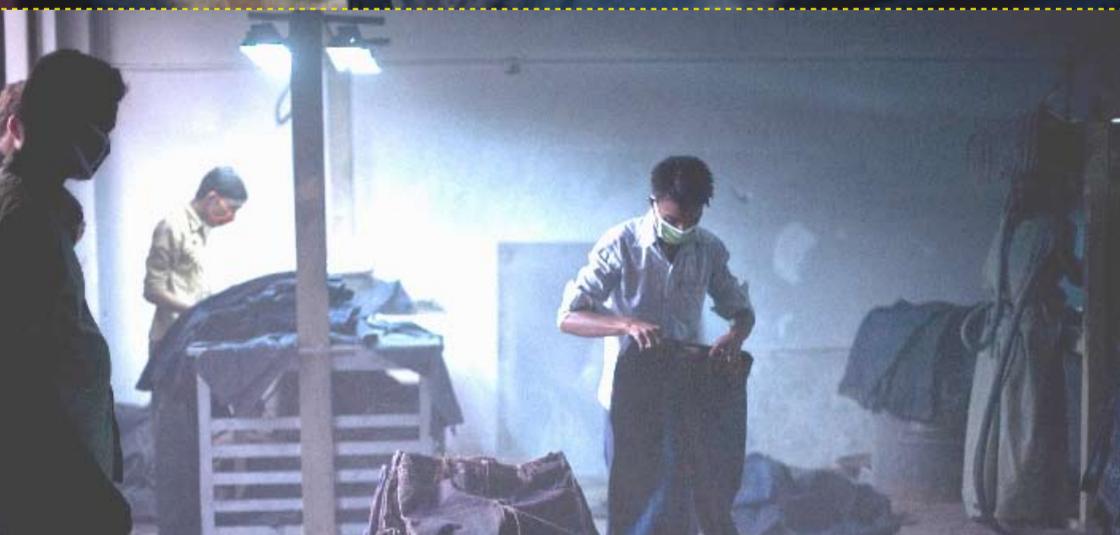
Over 550 Turkish workers employed in sandblasting workshops have now been diagnosed with silicosis, an often fatal lung disease caused by breathing in silica dust; 46 workers have died. Experts estimate that over 5000 Turkish sandblasting workers could be affected. Sandblasting has now been banned in Turkey but the technique is still practiced around the world in countries including Bangladesh, China, Mexico, Argentina, Lesotho, Syria, Egypt and Pakistan.

... **BAN IT!** The industry must now eliminate sandblasting by banning the process from their supply chain, but a ban alone will not be enough. Companies need to make sure this ban is more than just a paper promise: they must make sure those workers already affected by silicosis are given medical checks and, if needed, treatment and compensation.

» **TAKE ACTION:** Of those brands we have contacted River Island and ASDA George have yet to commit to eliminating sandblasting; they even advertise sandblasted jeans on their websites. Please send the attached postcards to demand that they immediately and effectively ban this technique and take responsibility for those workers already affected by this terrible disease. Go to [www.labourebehindthelabel.org](http://www.labourebehindthelabel.org) to take further action online.



**Sandblasting can cause a slow and painful death**



**Sandblasting kills**

**Labour Behind the Label is...** a campaign that supports garment workers' efforts worldwide to improve their working conditions by educating consumers, lobbying companies and government, and encouraging international solidarity. We are the UK platform of the international Clean Clothes Campaign. Action updates like these are sent to all our supporters every few months. If you picked this up somewhere else, like inside a publication and would like to join our mailing list please email [info@labourbehindthelabel.org](mailto:info@labourbehindthelabel.org) and ask to subscribe. You can order more resources from this address too.

## ...a crucial way for workers to be heard

Our work is really important in the struggle to improve rights and working conditions for vulnerable workers worldwide. We're looking for workers' rights heroes like you to join our campaign and help us. Please become a member - it costs min just £24 per year/£2 per month - by filling in the standing order form below or sending a cheque payable to Labour Behind the Label Ltd. If you can give more, that will help us even more. Members receive a bi-annual bulletin with in-depth articles and updates on all our campaigns and urgent worker appeals. **Stand together in solidarity with garment workers - help LBL give a voice to those who need us most. You can also join or donate online by going to [www.labourbehindthelabel.org/donate](http://www.labourbehindthelabel.org/donate)**



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Clean Clothes Campaign



## Labour Behind the Label Standing Order Form

Your bank's name:

Your bank's postal address:

Your name:

Your sort code:    -    -

Your account number:

Please pay the Co-operative Bank plc, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT. For the account of Labour Behind the Label Ltd, Sort code 08-92-99, Account no 65229826

The sum of: £ (in numbers) In words:

Starting on: / /20\_\_\_\_\_ (Please leave at least one month until the start date to ensure your form is processed in time)

And monthly/annually hereafter (please delete as appropriate)

Your postal address:

Signed:  Date:

This order cancels any previous order to the same payee.

Please send this form to LBL, not to your bank: 10-12 Picton Street, Bristol, BS6 5QA.

Dear Mr Clarke,

I have just learnt about the terrible impact that the sandblasting of jeans is having on the health of those workers employed to do it. I understand ASDA George has yet to ban this process from your supply chain. I am calling on you to take decisive action to:

- » Announce an immediate ban on sandblasting in your supply chain and issue a public statement to that effect.
- » Develop a robust system for enforcing and monitoring the ban.
- » Provide medical checks for all workers employed and treatment and compensation for those affected by silicosis.

I look forward to hearing that ASDA George has joined the global fight against sandblasting.

Yours sincerely

Name:  
Address:

Email:

Affix  
Stamp  
Here

To:

Andy Clarke, CEO  
ASDA George  
ASDA House  
Great Wilson Street  
Leeds  
LS11 5AD

Dear Mr Lewis,

I have just learnt about the terrible impact that the sandblasting of jeans is having on the health of those workers employed to do it. I understand River Island has yet to ban this process from your supply chain. I am calling on you to take decisive action to:

- » Announce an immediate ban on sandblasting in your supply chain and issue a public statement to that effect.
- » Develop a robust system for enforcing and monitoring the ban.
- » Provide medical checks for all workers employed and treatment and compensation for those affected by silicosis.

I look forward to hearing that River Island has joined the global fight against sandblasting.

Yours sincerely

Name:  
Address:

Email:

Affix  
Stamp  
Here

To:

Ben Lewis, CEO  
River Island Clothing Co. Ltd  
Lewis Trust Group  
Chelsea House  
W Gate  
W5 1DR