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Connecting Uyghur Forced Labor to the Fashion Industries

Kandice Chandra, Summer Farriss, and Zarina Roy

Overview

- Genocide of Chinese ethnic minorities
- Predominant population affected are Uyghur Chinese who are forced into “re-education” camps, tortured and treated inhumanely
- Former detainees are sent into forced labor factories and Uyghurs work against their will and receive little wage
- The Chinese government advertises goals of poverty alleviation Forced labor products, primarily cotton, imported globally



Roadblocks

- Difficulty identifying the subsidiaries beyond first tier suppliers
- Problems with translation
- Many subsidiaries disappeared after being reported in ASPI
- Difficulty tracing backwards from the footnotes of the ASPI report

Legal Framework

- Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 makes it illegal to import into the United States “goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part by forced labor.”
- The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act of 2020 is currently pending but generally it would prevent all goods “manufactured wholly or in part” in Xinjiang from entering any ports of the United States

Scan here for a full legal analysis submitted to Binghamton Law Quarterly:



Central Questions

- What are the suppliers of these US fashion companies and are they tied to Uyghur Forced Labor in Xinjiang factories?
- What roadblocks do consumers face in ensuring the products they buy are ethical and what changes could be made?

Research Methodology

- 1) Read the statements published by the companies, which all lacked urgency and action
- 2) Conducted supply chain tracing by searching on importyeti.com and the Chinese internet for suppliers involved with factories in Xinjiang in order to compile lists of suppliers
- 3) Used keywords like “poverty alleviation” and “labor transfer” to identify forced labor involvement

Findings

Victoria’s Secret:

- Top 3 suppliers: Same Choice Printing Products, Hong Kong Color King Products, and API Logistics China
- Lack of information beyond first tier, therefore making it difficult for consumers to know where their products are coming from

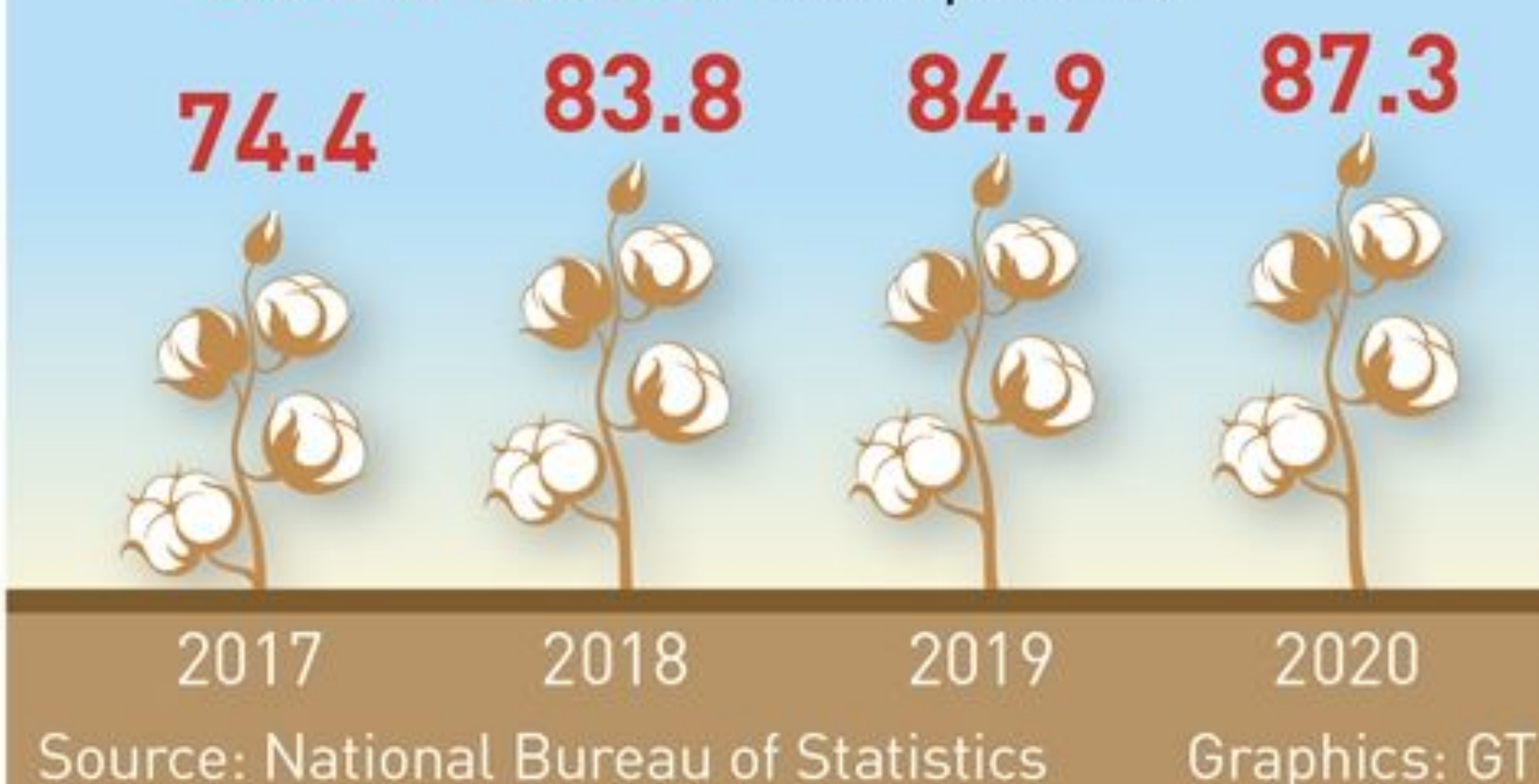
Calvin Klein:

- The parent company Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation has had many accusations of forced labor association
- Lack of information on PVH suppliers

Abercrombie & Fitch:

- Supplier companies with correlation to Xinjiang forced labor confirmed by ASPI included Huafu Top Dyed Melange Yarn Co. Ltd, Shandong Zoucheng Guosheng, Qingdao Jifa Huajin Garment Co. Ltd
- A&F claims to not have worked with any factories in the region of Xinjiang, and does not tolerate forced labor.

► Share of Xinjiang’s cotton output in China from 2017-2020 Unit: percent



Background

- ASPI = Australian Strategic Policy Institution
- ASPI published a report that included a list of 82 global companies active in Uyghur forced labor supply chains
- Included in this list was Calvin Klein, Victoria’s Secret, and Abercrombie and Fitch

Conclusion

- We recommend the US to take greater responsibility and impose legislation requiring total transparency for all levels of suppliers
- The tracking process should be easier for consumers
- Consumers should have the right to easily know where their products came from
- Open sourcing about Chinese company name translations would help consumers shop more ethically



Works Cited & Acknowledgements:

