

# SLAVERY

STOP PRIMATE



**BOYCOTT Southeast Asian Coconuts**

**C**OCONUTS and their various derivatives—coconut water, coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut meat, and coconut cream—have become the darlings of the vegan and health food movements. In 2016, a new plant-based product was introduced almost every single day, 100 more than the year before, and growing at a rate of 11% per year. And the majority of those products are coconut-based or contain coconut ingredients.

Yet few who purchase these products are aware of the terrible animal cruelty behind their production, a disturbing truth deeply at odds with the coconut's celebrated image. 85% of the coconuts for sale across the globe come from Southeast Asia—countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia—where they are harvested frequently, and in the case of Thailand, almost exclusively, by primate slave labor.

Agile and adept climbers, pig-tailed macaques are taken from the wild by poachers who shoot their mothers and steal their babies. The babies are then chained by the neck and forced into submission through fear and pain. With whips and beatings, primates are trained to climb trees and pick coconuts.

Using monkeys to harvest coconuts is profitable, as these animals can work ten times quicker than humans, are not paid, and cannot fight back against their exploitation. Monkeys are not only worked to the point of exhaustion—one trainer admits they faint during the course of the day—they are fed stimulants and caffeinated beverages to force them to work even harder. Brutalized, worked to the point of collapse and denied autonomy and the ability to socialize with their kind, these primates live miserable, brutal lives of inescapable torment.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP END PRIMATE SLAVERY

- ✓ Growing demand is fueling a boom in the Southeast Asian coconut market. More demand equals more enslaved primates. Please join ethical consumers in boycotting all coconuts and coconut products from Southeast Asia (many coconut products list country of origin on their label). Visit website below for a list of companies selling primate labor-free coconut products.
- ✓ Encourage others to boycott primate-harvested coconuts by increasing awareness of this issue. Distribute this free flyer, available for download and printing on the website below, to friends, family, coworkers and restaurants that sell coconut-based products. In addition, contact companies that produce items made with coconut ingredients to encourage them to source such ingredients from parts of the world where primates are not used for harvesting, such as the Mexico and the rest of the Americas.



**It is, in a word, slavery.**

For more information, including videos documenting this abuse, visit: <https://www.vegancandycookbook.org/coconuts.html>