

**CRC****138****182**

Total Population: 8,142,000



Child Population: 3,763,000

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

For the year 2000, 248,236 children between 10-14 years were economically active.

A May 1999 study by the ILO estimated that approximately 70,000 children between the ages of 7 and 14 were working in cities, and that approximately 300,000 children in the same age group were working in rural areas.

According to a study by the ILO, approximately 369,385 children between the ages of 7 and 14 work, 23% of that age group, in uncontrolled and sometimes unhealthy conditions.

Rural children often work with their parents from an early age.

CHILD SLAVERY

The old practice of "criadito" service still persists in some parts of the country. Criaditos are indigenous children of both sexes, usually 10 to 12 years old, whom their parents indenture to middle and upper-class families to perform household work in exchange for education, clothing, room, and board. There are no controls over the benefits to, or treatment of, such children, who may become virtual slaves for the years of their indenture.

Some rural indigenous workers are kept in a state of virtual slavery by employers.

CHILD TRAFFICKING

There were unconfirmed press reports that children sometimes were sold to sweatshops in Argentina.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Child prostitution is a growing problem, particularly among girls between the ages of 14 and 18.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

On May 15, Defense of Children International, an NGO, criticised narcotics traffickers for using children under the age of 14 to transport drugs as "mules."

CHILD SOLDIERS

Almost half of Bolivia's armed forces are under 18, including some children as young as 14.

Bolivian authorities acknowledged that "although the minimum age for performing military service is 18 years, when the annual intake into the armed forces cannot be made up on a voluntary basis, compulsory recruitment is indiscriminate, an occasion for forcibly recruiting poor adolescents, including some as young as 14, by means of organised sweeps".

ILO, Yearbook of Labour Statistics, 2001

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000, February 2001 citing ILO study, May 1999

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000, February 2001

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000, February 2001

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2001, March 2002

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001, 12 June 2001

CSUCS, Americas Report, July 1999 citing Periodic Report of Bolivia to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, op. cit., para 154

CHILD SERVANTS

Criaditos are indigenous children of both sexes, usually 10 to 12 years old, whom their parents indenture to middle and upper-class families to perform household work in exchange for education, clothing, room, and board.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

OTHER HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

Urban children sell goods, shine shoes, and assist transport operators. Rural children often work with parents from an early age.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000

Practices of child apprenticeship and agricultural servitude by indigenous workers exist in the country. Some rural indigenous workers are kept in a state of virtual slavery by employers.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 1999, 25 February 2000