

The Newsletter of
Homeworkers Worldwide

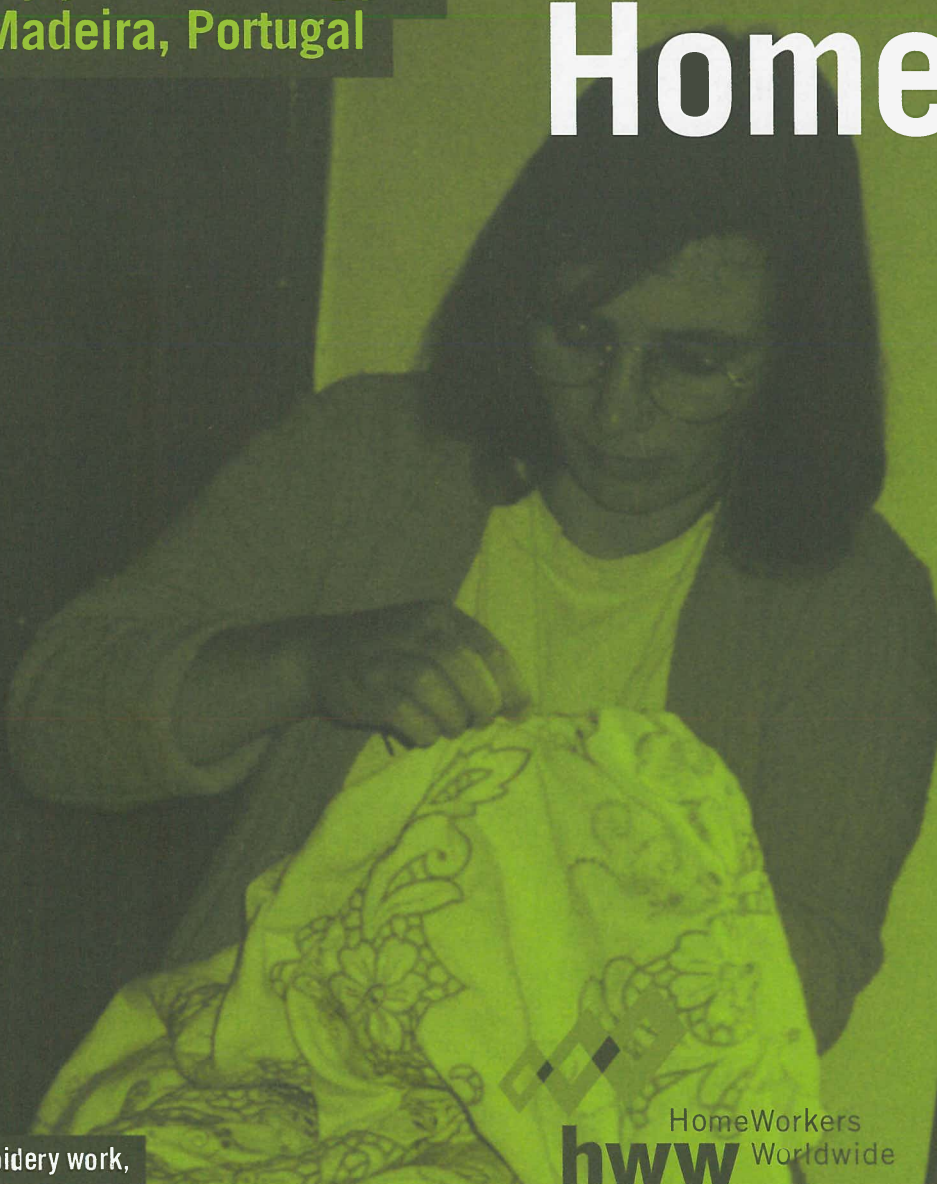
Issue 3
January 2008

We Work At Home

European meeting in
Istanbul

Turkish group organises
for recognition

Thirty years of struggle
in Madeira, Portugal



Embroidery work,
Madeira



HomeWorkers
Worldwide

Organising For Rights

made by women homebased workers.

As the authors point out: "We reward this large group of workers and producers, not by acknowledging them proudly, not by providing them facilities to reduce their labour and increase their incomes, but by pretending they do not exist or are invisible. This is the gravest injustice we can inflict upon them."

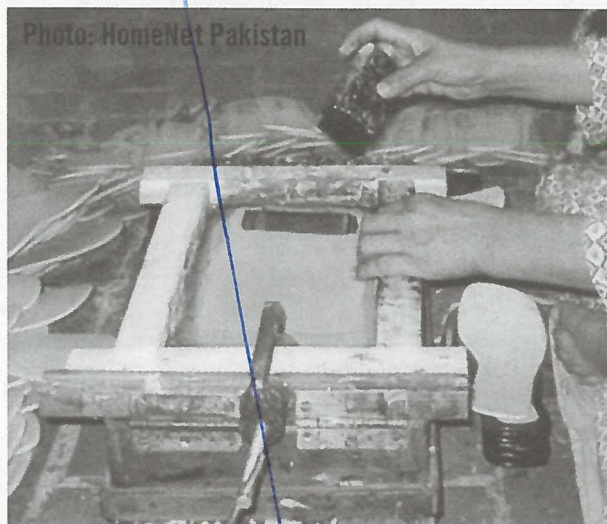


Photo: HomeNet Pakistan

"..During the lean period, Shamim, Razia and Sadiqa also make shoes. They prefer the wedding season, thought the work is hard and Shamim suffers from back-ache and pain in her shoulders from sitting in an uncomfortable and unhealthy position for hours. The girls suffer too. However the work helps to save some money for their dowries. Sadiqa does not want to continue doing this work. "Despite working hard, we don't earn enough to meet household expenses. I want to do something else in the future. I want to learn to read ..."

For more information, contact: HomeNet Pakistan, Room 11, 6-B LDA Garden View Apartments, Lawrence Road, Lahore 54000, Pakistan.

Action Alert

Dutch human rights activists may face deportation to India.

On December 1, the Bangalore magistrate court in India ordered the arrest of seven Dutch human rights activists from the Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) and the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), who have been campaigning around labour rights in a jeans manufacturer supplying a company called G-star. CCC and Labour Behind the Label are asking people to write to G-star urgently asking them to guarantee freedom of speech and of association.

CCC argues that the seven activists are being targeted for their efforts to disseminate information about labour rights violations at the jeans manufacturer, Fibres and Fabrics International Pvt. Ltd. (FFI) and its subsidiary Jeans Knit Pvt. Ltd. (JKPL). The court has asked the India Ministry of Home Affairs to execute arrest warrants and request extradition of the Dutch nationals. The director of the internet service provider Antenna is also included in the request.

The CCC and ICN have been providing G-Star with information about labour rights violations at FFI/JKPL, where G-Star is the primary buyer, since 2005. To date, CCC finds that G-Star has not resolved the problems at FFI/JKPL, and argues that the factory is misusing the judicial system to censor and harass its critics.

Because they feel the situation is now extremely urgent, the CCC and ICN are now urging G-Star to suspend all future orders and works in the pipeline at FFI/JKPL until all court cases are withdrawn and a good-faith dialogue with the local union and labour rights organisations, focused on normalizing industrial relations and remediation of outstanding labour issues, has begun.

For further information please contact the Clean Clothes Campaign: www.cleanclothes.org