

March 23, 2015

# AP Investigation: Are slaves catching the fish you buy?

By ROBIN McDOWELL, MARGIE MASON AND MARTHA MENDOZA  
Associated Press

BENJINA, Indonesia (AP)

**T**he Burmese slaves sat on the floor and stared through the rusty bars of their locked cage, hidden on a tiny tropical island thousands of miles from home.

Just a few yards away, other workers loaded cargo ships with slave-caught seafood that clouds the supply networks of major supermarkets, restaurants and even pet stores in the United States.

But the eight imprisoned men were considered flight risks — laborers who might dare run away. They lived on a few bites of rice and curry a day in a space barely big enough to lie down, stuck until the next trawler forces them back to sea.

“All I did was tell my captain I couldn’t take it anymore, that I wanted to go home,”

said Kyaw Naing, his dark eyes pleading into an Associated Press video camera sneaked in by a sympathetic worker. “The next time we docked,” he said nervously out of earshot of a nearby guard, “I was locked up.”

Here, in the Indonesian island village of Benjina and the surrounding waters, hundreds of trapped men represent one of the most desperate links criss-crossing between companies and countries in the seafood industry. This intricate web of connections separates the fish we eat from the men who catch it, and obscures a brutal truth: Your seafood may come from slaves.

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*EDITOR’S NOTE: The Associated Press notified the International Organization for Migration about men in this story,*

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

## Hidden Wealth Flows to Elite New York Condos



TODD HEISLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Condo ownership in the Time Warner Center reflects the rising use of shell companies to buy high-end real estate.

By **LOUISE STORY** and **STEPHANIE SAUL**

**O**N the 74th floor of the Time Warner Center, Condominium 74B was purchased in 2010 for \$15.65 million by a secretive entity called 25CC ST74B L.L.C. It traces to the family of Vitaly Malkin, a former Russian senator and banker who was barred from entering Canada because of suspected connections to organized crime. Last fall, another shell company bought a condo down the hall for \$21.4 million from a Greek businessman named Dimitrios Contominas, who was arrested a year ago as part

of a corruption sweep in Greece. A few floors down are three condos owned by another shell company, Columbus Skyline L.L.C., which belongs to the family of a Chinese businessman and contractor named Wang Wenliang. His construction company was found housing workers in New Jersey in hazardous, unsanitary conditions.

Behind the dark glass towers of the Time Warner Center looming over Central Park, a majority of owners have taken steps to keep their identities hidden, registering condos in trusts, limited liability companies or other entities that shield their names. By piercing the secrecy of

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### TOWERS OF SECRECY

*First of five articles.*

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# The Washington Post

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015

## ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN

3.1%

SANDTOWN-  
WINCHESTER

1.2%

BALTIMORE CITY  
AVERAGE

## CHILDREN IN POVERTY

54.8%

SANDTOWN-  
WINCHESTER

33.4%

BALTIMORE CITY  
AVERAGE

## VACANT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

34.3%

SANDTOWN-  
WINCHESTER

8.8%

BALTIMORE CITY  
AVERAGE

Based on 2009-2013 data from Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, for children ages 0 to 6

## Lead poisoning is 'toxic legacy' that still haunts Freddie Gray's Baltimore

BY **TERRENCE MCCOY**

BALTIMORE — The house where Freddie Gray's life changed forever sits at the end of a long line of abandoned rowhouses in one of this city's poorest neighborhoods. The interior of that North Carey Street house, cluttered with couches and potted plants, is lacquered in a fresh coat of paint that makes the living room glow.

But it wasn't always this way. When Gray lived here between 1992 and 1996, paint chips flaked off the walls and littered the hardwood floor, according to a 2008 lawsuit filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court. The front windowsills shed white strips of paint.

It was worst in the front room, where Gray bedded down most nights with his mother, he recalled years later in a deposition.

"There was a big hole when you go up the steps," Gray recalled in 2009. "There

was a couple of walls that wasn't painted all the way, peeled. ... And like the windows, paint was peeling off the windows."

Before Freddie Gray was injured in police custody last month, before he died and this city was plunged into rioting, his life was defined by failures in the classroom, run-ins with the law and an inability to focus on anything for very long.

Many of those problems began when he was a child and living in this house, according to a 2008 lead-poisoning lawsuit filed by Gray and his siblings against the property owner. The suit resulted in an undisclosed settlement.

Reports of Gray's history with lead come at a time when the city and nation are still trying to understand the full ramifications of lead poisoning. Advocates and studies say it can diminish cognitive function, increase aggression and ultimately exacerbate the cycle of poverty that is already exceedingly difficult to break.