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MARE ISLAND
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FORUM

to federal contractors.

But many businesses in the U.S. don't provide this benefit. They may couch that decision in terms of cost – claiming it would hurt their

some time off, but it covers less than half of the American workforce – and the leave is unpaid. Many employees can't afford that.

Anyone who runs a busi-

business strategy.

At our company, new mothers get four weeks of paid leave, plus up to seven sick days, following childbirth; employees whose

Until then, we'd like to see paid leave be the law of the land. Government assistance should not enable businesses to shirk their responsibilities to their employees and force tax-

French circus drops elephant act after abusive past emerges

BY ANIMAL DEFENDERS INTERNATIONAL

In a dramatic move, Circus Bouglione in France has dropped elephant trainer Lars Holscher following protests and negative publicity after Animal Defenders International's (ADI) undercover video revealed Holscher's abuse of elephants during his Great Britain tour a few years ago.

ADI's hidden cameras filmed Holscher's act in 2009, when he was touring in the Great British Circus with three elephants, Vana Mana, Sonja and Delhi. ADI exposed a staggering level of casual violence, including elephants hit in the face with a metal elephant hook, broom, brush, and pitchfork, and a worker cruelly twisting an elephant's tail. The elephants are seen and heard on screen afraid, retreating and crying out. Holscher himself was seen striking the elephants with a metal bar, using a small concealed hook to control the elephants during performances, forcing a lame elephant to continue performing and overseeing the chaining of the elephants for 11 hours a day – while the circus claimed they were never chained.Holscher fled the UK, but has since appeared in at least seven European countries and even supplied an elephant to one of this year's Academy Award nominees.

Jan Creamer, ADI President: "By their nature, circus acts are able to change location easily and often change the names of acts and the animals they use. We have been shocked with the lack of background scrutiny that circuses and filmmakers employ when hiring animal acts. With ADI's Watch List we work to ensure that trainers and suppliers can't escape their abusive history."

While Holscher was touring with Cirkus Scott in Sweden, Vana Mana (then known as Ghandi) joined the set of the Felix Herngren comedy 'The 100-year-old man who climbed out the window and disappeared.' Co-produced by Buena Vista International Sweden, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company Nordic, the film has been nominated for a 2016 Academy Award for Makeup and Hairstyling.

When Cirkus Scott became aware of the abuse Vana Mana and her companion Sonja (known as Baby) endured, they announced they would stop using wild animals altogether, after 76 years of doing so.

This ADI footage was already in the public domain along with a damning report by experts, including Professor Donald Broom, MA, PhD, ScD Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare Science, Cambridge University; Samantha Lindley, BVSc. MRCVS, Edinburgh University, veterinary expert, behaviorist; Dr Joyce Poole, expert in elephant welfare and communication; and Simon JR Adams, BSc, BVMS, MRCVS, zoo & wildlife veterinarian. Still, Holscher continued to use the elephants. At the time, Dr Mel Richardson, a renowned wild animal vet with 40 years experience with captive elephants, noted: "Sonja, Vana Mana, and Delhi are being caused unnecessary suffering…. the day-to-day existence of these elephants is a living hell….. LH Hölscher is not using the bull hook [ankus] as a guide to communicate his desire for the elephant to move up or move back or stand still (steady). He is using it as a club to beat the animal. He is inserting the hook into the ear and on the ear flaps to torment the poor animal with maximum effect for the least effort on his part."

PUBLIC MEETING
MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
January 2016 MEETING
NAVFAC

The Department of Navy (DON) invites interested members of the public to attend updates and presentations with members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) made up of representatives from the local community, Navy, Federal and State regulatory agencies. The DON encourages the public to keep informed about the environmental cleanup at Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINS), Vallejo, California.

January 2016 Featured Topics

Investigation Area F1 Feasibility Study

Installation Restoration Site 15
Proposed Pilot Test Work Plan Implementation
Investigation Area C1

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Mare Island Conference Center
375 G St., Vallejo, CA

Ask questions and voice your concerns. You Can Make a Difference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Navy BRAC Web Page: http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil
Mare Island Environnemental Web Page: http://www.mareisland.org