Aldi Portugal confirms it didn't take product from one plant allegedly using North Korean labor, cuts sourcing ties with another

The two Chinese firms are Donggang Jinhui Foodstuff and Donggang Haimeng Foodstuff, which are both based in Dongdang, a Chinese city on the border with North Korea

By Tom Seaman I Feb. 29, 2024 10:50 GMT



Aldi Nord logo. Credit: Aldi

The Portuguese arm of German discounter Aldi Nord has clarified it never took product from one supplier mentioned in the Outlaw Ocean Project report on the use of North Korean labor in Chinese processing but has cut ties with another.

In the Outlaw Ocean report, two Chinese companies are mentioned as having supplied Portugal's Brasmar Comercio de Produtos Alimentares and Riberalves, who are processors selling to Aldi in the country.

The two Chinese firms are Donggang Jinhui Foodstuff and Donggang Haimeng Foodstuff, which are both based in Dongdang, a Chinese city on the border with North Korea. The Outlaw Ocean report alleges both have used North Korean labor, which the US and United Nations consider to be illegal.

On Feb. 27, *Undercurrent News* reported Aldi was looking into whether it'd been supplied with products produced by Haimeng.

Christian Schneider, an Aldi Nord spokesperson, said the retailer has cut ties with Jinhui, but an investigation showed Haimeng never supplied any products via Brasmar or Riberalves.

"Let us clarify: We have been made aware of two suppliers and two production sites in question by Outlaw Ocean Project: Donggang Jinhui Foodstuff and Donggang Haimeng Foodstuff," Schneider told *Undercurrent* in an email.

"The following applies to the Donggang Jinhui Foodstuff production facility: Our research has shown that only the supplier Riberalves has delivered one Alaska pollock article from this production facility to Aldi Portugal in the past.

Following the information provided by OOP [Outlaw Ocean], it was decided to no longer source from this production site," he wrote.

"The following applies to the Donggang Haimeng Foodstuff production site: Neither Riberalves nor Brasmar have supplied goods produced there to ALDI Portugal," added Schneider.

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