

FOREIGN WORKERS

The Law And Practice In Malaysia

Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

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CONTENTS

Preface	i	2.4 CONTRACT OF	
Acknowledgement	iii	EMPLOYMENT: A	
Foreword	v	COMMERCIAL OR	
Biographies of Contributors	vii	PERSONAL CONTRACT	33
List of Abbreviations	ix	2.4.1 Employer-Employee	
Table of Cases	xi	Relationship: A Special or	
Table of Legislation	xxix	Personal Relationship	33
Table of Foreign Legislation	xxxvii	2.4.2 Relationship between	
		Employer and Employee -	
		Regulated by 'Status' not	
		'Contract'	36
CHAPTER 1		2.4.2.1 The Introduction of Statutory	
MIGRANT WORKERS:		Protection and Erosion of	
AN INTRODUCTION		Freedom to Contract	38
<i>by Farheen Baig Sundar Baig</i>		2.4.2.2 Against Exploitation of Workers	
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1	in Employment: Implying	
1.2 MIGRANT WORKER AND		Terms	40
WORK PERMIT	9	2.4.3 Implying Terms in the	
1.3 EMPLOYMENT OF		Contract of Employment	41
MIGRANT WORKERS IN		2.4.3.1 The Recognition of the	
A FOREIGN LAND: THE		Implied term of Trust and	
REASONS	11	Confidence	44
1.4 EXPLOITATION OF		2.4.3.2 The Origin of the Implied	
MIGRANT WORKERS	15	Trust and Confidence Term	46
1.5 CHAPTERIZATION	21	2.4.3.3 The Employer's Conduct of	
1.6 CONCLUSION	24	Infringing the Implied Term	
		of Confidence and Trust	49
CHAPTER 2		2.4.4 International Labour	
CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT: A		Organisation Slogan:	
NON-COMMERCIAL CONTRACT		'Labour is not a Commodity'	
<i>by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed</i>		and the Performance of	
2.1 INTRODUCTION	25	Service is not Akin to	
2.2 CONTRACT LAW IN		the Supply of Goods	53
RELATION TO		2.5 CONCLUSION	55
EMPLOYMENT	28		
2.3 FREEDOM OF CONTRACT:			
A REALITY IN CONTRACT			
OF EMPLOYMENT?	29		

CHAPTER 3
MIGRATION OF FOREIGN
LABOURERS INTO MALAYSIA

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

3.1	INTRODUCTION	57
3.2	FOREIGN INVASION INTO THE MALAY PENINSULA	61
3.3	MIGRATION OF FOREIGN LABOURERS	62
3.4	CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT WORKERS	63
3.5	LABOUR LEGISLATION PROTECTING MIGRANT WORKERS	66
3.7	INFLUENCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF <i>LAISSEZ-FAIRE</i>	69
3.7	INFLUX OF MIGRANT WORKERS SINCE 1957	70
3.8	CONCLUSION	71

CHAPTER 4
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
ON TREATMENT OF MIGRANT
WORKERS

by Farheen Baig Sardar Baig

4.1	INTRODUCTION	73
4.2	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)	74
4.3	ILO MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON LABOUR MIGRATION (MFLM) - NON-BINDING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO LABOUR MIGRATION	76
4.3.1	MFLM - Principles and Basic Guidelines	77
4.3.2	Review of ILO's MFLM	92
4.4	ILO RELATED INSTRUMENTS ON MIGRANT WORKERS	93

4.5	UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENT: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES	97
4.6	UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1948 AND THE UNIVERSAL ISLAMIC DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1981	99

CHAPTER 5
RIGHTS OF WORKERS FROM
THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

by Farheen Baig Sardar Baig

5.1	INTRODUCTION	103
5.2	HISTORY OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN ISLAM	103
5.3	TREATMENT TOWARDS SLAVES / FOREIGN WORKERS	105
5.3.1	Equality	106
5.3.2	Kindness, Maintenance as a Moral Duty	106
5.3.3	Masters/Employers Should Not Have Harsh Attitude towards Servants/Workers	108
5.3.4	Humility and Respect towards Slaves and Establishing Brotherhood between Master and Slave	110
5.3.5	Human Dignity	113
5.4	CONCLUSION	116

**CHAPTER 6
EMPLOYMENT STATUTES
AND THEIR APPLICATION
TOWARDS MIGRANT WORKERS**

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

6.1	INTRODUCTION	117
6.2	EMPLOYMENT ACT 1955	118
6.3	EMPLOYMENT (TERMINATION AND LAY-OFF BENEFITS) REGULATIONS 1980	120
6.4	EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND ACT 1991	121
6.5	EMPLOYEES' SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 1969	123
6.6	WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT 1952	126
6.7	WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (FOREIGN WORKER'S COMPENSATION SCHEME) (INSURANCE) ORDER 2005	127
6.8	INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT 1967	127
6.9	TRADE UNIONS ACT 1959	130
6.10	OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT 1994	130
6.11	FACTORIES AND MACHINERY ACT 1967	131
6.12	WORKERS' MINIMUM STANDARDS OF HOUSING AND AMENITIES ACT 1990	132
6.13	SECTION 28A OF THE CIVIL LAW ACT 1956	132
6.14	CONTRACT LAW	137
6.15	PROTECTION AT COMMON LAW	140
6.15.1	Implied Term of Trust and Confidence	140

6.15.2	Employer's Duty of Care for the Health and Safety of Employee	144
6.16	JURISDICTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COURT AND THE LABOUR COURT	145
6.16.1	Industrial Court	145
6.16.2	Labour Court	146
6.17	CONCLUSION	147

**CHAPTER 7A
MIGRANT WORKERS: THE
IMMIGRATION LAW, RULES AND
PROCEDURES IN MALAYSIA**

by Muzaffar Syah Mallow

7A.1	INTRODUCTION	149
7A.2	THE GOVERNING BODY WHICH ENFORCES THE IMMIGRATION LAWS IN MALAYSIA	149
7A.3	IMMIGRATION ACT 1959/1963 (REVISED 1974)	152
7A.3.1	Admission and Departure	153
7A.3.2	Entry Permit	166
7A.3.3	Removal of Prohibited Immigrants from Malaysia	174
7A.4	CONCLUSION	175

**CHAPTER 7B
HIRING MIGRANT WORKERS:
RESTRICTION WITH
REFERENCE TO EMPLOYMENT
(RESTRICTION) ACT 1968**

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

7B.1	RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT (RESTRICTION) ACT 1968	177
7B.2	RESTRICTION UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT (RESTRICTION) (EMPLOYMENT PERMIT) REGULATIONS 1969	184

7B.3 EMPLOYING MIGRANT WORKER WITHOUT A VALID EMPLOYMENT PERMIT: THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE	188
7B.4 EMPLOYMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE 1968 ACT: ITS EFFECT ON CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT	191
7B.5 REMEDY OF MIGRANT WORKERS WITH VALID WORK PERMITS WHOSE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WAS PREMATURELY TERMINATED	193
7B.6 CONCLUSION	196

CHAPTER 8 EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS: ITS FORMS

by Mohammad Naqib Ishan Jan

8.1 INTRODUCTION	197
8.2 DEFINITION OF MIGRANT WORKERS	198
8.3 PULL AND THE PUSH FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION	200
8.4 EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS	200
8.4.1 Forms of Exploitation of Migrant Workers	201
8.5 STATES' OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS	209
8.6 CONCLUSION	218

CHAPTER 9 EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS: THE LIKELY IDENTIFIABLE CAUSES

by Muzaffar Syah Mallow

9.1 INTRODUCTION	219
9.2 THE ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA	220
9.2.1 Inefficient and Inadequate Legal Protection towards Migrant Workers	222
9.2.2 Social Misunderstanding toward Migrant Workers	226
9.2.3 Lack of Religious or Moral Values of the Abuser or Exploiter	226
9.3 CONCLUSION	230

CHAPTER 10 EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS: A CASE STUDY

by Muzaffar Syah Mallow

10.1 INTRODUCTION	231
10.2 AN OVERVIEW OF REPORTED CASES INVOLVING THE EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA	232
10.3 ABUSE CASES INVOLVING MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA: THE LEGAL IMPACT	240
10.4 CONCLUSION	241

CHAPTER 11A
EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT
WORKERS: CRIMINAL
SANCTIONS PROVIDED UNDER
THE MALAYSIAN PENAL CODE

by Muzaffar Syah Mallow

11A.1	INTRODUCTION	243
11A.2	AN OVERVIEW OF THE THEORY AND PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL LAW	244
11A.3	THE STANDARD COMMON LAW TEST OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY: ACTUS NON FACIT REUM NISI MENS SIT REA	249
11A.3.1	<i>Actus reus</i>	250
11A.3.1.1	<i>Act</i>	251
11A.3.1.2	<i>Omission</i>	252
11A.3.2	<i>Mens rea</i>	256
11A.4	EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS: CRIMINAL SANCTIONS PROVIDED UNDER THE MALAYSIAN PENAL CODE	260
11A.4.1	Possible Sanctions under the Malaysian Penal Code (Act 574)	260
11A.4.2	Case Study Involving Migrant Workers which Had Been Tried by the Courts under the Penal Code	267
11A.4.3	Criminal Sentencing Principle in Malaysia	279
11A.6	CONCLUSION	280

CHAPTER 11B
CRIMINAL OFFENCES AND CIVIL
WRONGS BY OR AGAINST
MIGRANT WORKERS

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

11B.1	PHYSICAL ABUSE OR ILL-TREATMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS: THE PUNISHMENT	281
11B.2	OFFENCES AGAINST MIGRANT WORKERS: ILLUSTRATION FROM DECIDED CASES	284
11B.3	A REVIEW OF SELECTED CASES	289
11B.4	CONCLUSION	306

CHAPTER 12
EXPLOITATION OF NATIONAL OR
LOCAL WORKERS AND THE
LIABILITY OF THE EMPLOYER

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

12.1	INTRODUCTION	307
12.2	LABOUR IS NOT A COMMODITY	310
12.3	FORCED LABOUR PROHIBITED	311
12.4	RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE	315
12.5	EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS IN EMPLOYMENT AKIN TO 'PROPERTY RIGHTS'	317
12.5.1	Withholding of Salary or Failure of Salary Payment	318
12.5.2	Demotion or Reduction in Status and Rank	320
12.5.3	Transfer of Employee	322
12.5.4	Secondment Must Be <i>Bona Fide</i>	326

12.5.5 Retrenchment Justifiable on Genuine Commercial Reasons	329	13.6 CASES ON NON-RENEWAL OF FIXED-TERM CONTRACTS INVOLVING MIGRANT WORKERS	360
12.5.6 Outsourcing to Victimise Employee	331	13.7 CONCLUSION	368
12.5.7 Voluntary Separation Scheme Being Forced or Coerced on Employee	332	CHAPTER 14	
12.5.8 Other Circumstances	334	MIGRANT WORKERS: ADEQUACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF LAW	
12.6 CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL AND REMEDIES	335	<i>by Farheen Baig Sardar Baig</i>	
12.6.1 Constructive Dismissal	335	14.1 INTRODUCTION	369
12.6.2 Remedies for Dismissal without Just Cause or Excuse	340	14.2 MIGRANT WORKERS' ACCESS TO JUSTICE	370
12.7 CONCLUSION	342	14.3 ADEQUACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE LAW	374
CHAPTER 13		14.4 PROBLEMS FACED BY MIGRANT WORKERS	378
PREMATURE TERMINATION OF FIXED-TERM CONTRACT AND ITS REMEDIES		14.4.1 Discriminatory Wages	378
<i>by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed</i>		14.4.2 Inadequate Housing	379
13.1 INTRODUCTION	343	14.4.3 Insurance	379
13.2 FIXED-TERM ENGAGEMENT ON GENUINE GROUNDS	347	14.4.4 Medical Facilities	379
13.3 LEGITIMATE EXPECTATION OF RENEWAL OF FIXED-TERM ENGAGEMENT	350	14.4.5 Cancellation of Work Permits	380
13.4 COMPENSATION FOR PREMATURE TERMINATION OF FIXED-TERM CONTRACT	356	14.4.6 High Costs for Renewing Work Passes	380
13.5 HIRING MIGRANT WORKERS OR EXPATRIATES ON FIXED-TERM CONTRACT	358	14.4.7 Other Related Problems	381
		14.5 RECOMMENDATIONS	382
		14.6 ESTABLISHING MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS: ITS IMPORTANCE	385
		14.7 CONCLUSION	388

CHAPTER 15 ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THE RIGHT TO WORK

by Mohammad Naqib Ishan Jan

15.1 INTRODUCTION	389
15.2 THE DEFINITIONS OF ASYLUM AND ASYLUM SEEKERS	391
15.2.1 Definition of Asylum	391
15.2.2 Definition of Asylum Seeker	393
15.3 PROTECTION TO ASYLUM SEEKERS EASIER SAID THAN DONE	394
15.4 CLASSIFICATION OF ASYLUM	395
15.4.1 Territorial Asylum	396
15.4.2 Extra-Territorial or Diplomatic Asylum	399
15.5 THE RIGHT TO WORK: IS IT AVAILABLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW TO ASYLUM SEEKERS	404
15.6 THE RIGHT TO WORK: IS IT AVAILABLE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN MALAYSIA?	412
15.7 CONCLUSION	414

CHAPTER 16 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS: THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND DOMESTIC LAWS OF MALAYSIA

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

16.1 INTRODUCTION	415
16.2 HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE INSTRUMENTS	416
16.2.1 United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime	416

16.2.2 Malaysian Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti- Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 (Act 670)	430
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16.3 DECIDED CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A REVIEW	454
16.4 ISLAMIC APPROACH TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING	475
16.5 CONCLUSION	477

CHAPTER 17 DILIGENCE AND TRUSTWORTHINESS: THE QUALITIES OF A MUSLIM EMPLOYEE

by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed

17.1 INTRODUCTION	489
17.2 EMPLOY HIM WHO IS STRONG AND TRUSTWORTHY	493
17.3 CONCLUSION	504

CHAPTER 18 IMMIGRATION LAW, RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY FROM VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS

by Muzaffar Syah Mallow

18.1 INTRODUCTION	507
18.2 IMMIGRATION LAW, RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS UNDER VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS	510
18.2.1 United States of America	511
18.2.2 United Kingdom	516
18.2.3 Australia	519
18.2.4 Hong Kong	520
18.2.5 Singapore	525
18.2.6 Saudi Arabia	527

18.3 THE ISSUES ON THE EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN SINGAPORE, SAUDI ARABIA & HONG KONG	528	19.7.6 Protection of Informers or Whistleblowers	556
18.4 CONCLUSION	532	19.7.7 Implementation of Minimum Wages Order: The Guidelines	557
CHAPTER 19		APPENDICES	579
THE LAW ON MINIMUM WAGES IN MALAYSIA		Appendix A	579
<i>by Ashgar Ali Ali Mohamed</i>		Appendix B	582
19.1 INTRODUCTION	533	Appendix BA	599
19.2 MINIMUM WAGE FIXING CONVENTION, 1970 (NO. 131)	534	Appendix C	619
19.3 MINIMUM WAGE FIXING RECOMMENDATION, 1970 (NO. 135)	536	Appendix CA	628
19.4 MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE	539	Appendix D	637
19.5 MINIMUM WAGE LAW IN SELECTED COUNTRIES	541	Appendix E	676
19.6 MINIMUM WAGES ORDER 2012 (MALAYSIA)	545	Appendix F	682
19.7 APPLICATION OF MINIMUM WAGES ORDER: AN EMPLOYEE UNDER A CONTRACT OF SERVICE	546	INDEX	697
19.7.1 The Rates of Minimum Wages	549		
19.7.2 Council to Review Minimum Wages Order	553		
19.7.3 Negotiation for Restructuring of Wages	553		
19.7.4 Enforcement of the Minimum Wages Order	554		
19.7.5 Compounding of Offences	555		

CHAPTER 4

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON TREATMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS*

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In the era of technology, globalisation and modernisation, International law cannot be ignored and overlooked with the spate of migration of people out of their countries to seek employment. The whole world is now accessible, from one end to the other in just seconds through internet, telecommunication, shipping and aviation industries, to name but a few. Hence, International laws have become part of the daily lives of most people. Further, the international community over the past years have taken great interest in the subject of migration. Various groups, organisations and commissions, have been set up to remedy the problems faced by migrant workers. These commissions include the Global Commission on International Migration, the Geneva Migration Group, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).¹ This chapter will focus on the contributions of ILO in regulating labour standards for migrant workers and the effect of various United Nations (UN) conventions in promoting and protecting the rights of migrant workers.

* This chapter is contributed by Farheen Baig Sardar Baig.

1 Sandesh Sivakumaran, *The Rights of Migrant Workers One Year On: Transformation or Consolidation in Georgetown Journal of International Law*, (2004), p. 116.