

Palm oil labour abuse linked to beauty brands

Women are burdened with some of the most dangerous duties in the production of palm oil, which is contained in almost three out of every four personal care products, according to an Associated Press report



Selected products made by some Western companies that source palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia

■ **Palm oil:** World's most versatile vegetable oil, found in about half of supermarket products – everything from pizza and pills to pet food

■ **Cosmetics:** Palm oil needed to produce foam in toothpaste and shaving gel, moisturising soaps and lathers in shampoo. Ingredient used by some top names in \$530 billion beauty business – including **L'Oréal, Unilever, Avon, Procter & Gamble** and **Johnson & Johnson**

■ **Allegations:** Women working in palm plantations subjected to brutal treatment, including sexual abuse, ranging from verbal harassment and threats to rape. Many women workers experience health problems caused by carrying heavy loads or exposure to agricultural chemicals

PALM OIL PRODUCTION

Million tonnes

