

Industries | Transportation

BYD Accused by Labor-Rights Group of Violations at Hungary Plant

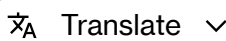


By Bloomberg News

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✦ Takeaways by Bloomberg AI

- A worker-rights group found evidence of labor violations at BYD Co.'s new plant in Hungary, including practices amounting to debt bondage and illegal visa use.
- China Labor Watch discovered grueling working hours affecting some Chinese migrant workers hired by subcontractors and recruiters, including seven-day working weeks and shifts exceeding legal limits.
- The report found evidence of employment in a multi-layered system of intermediaries that shifts financial risk onto the laborers, with workers instructed to lie to inspectors about working hours.

A worker-rights group said it found evidence of labor violations at [BYD Co.](#)'s new plant in Hungary, where the Chinese electric-vehicle maker plans to start mass-producing cars [this quarter](#) 🗄️ .

[China Labor Watch](#), a New York-based nonprofit organization, said its investigation discovered practices amounting to debt bondage, illegal visa use and grueling working hours affecting some Chinese migrant workers hired by subcontractors and recruiters, according to [a report](#) published on the organization's website on Tuesday.

BYD didn't respond to multiple requests for comment. China Labor Watch said it conducted field investigations, engaging with 50 workers, in October and November after receiving a complaint from a whistleblower at BYD's Hungarian plant.

The report comes as BYD accelerates its [global ambitions](#) with the facility, located in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged, which is its first major carmaking plant in the European Union. The Shenzhen-based automaker

is aggressively pivoting toward international markets, targeting sales outside China to increase more than 40% to 1.5 million units this year.

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In Szeged, China Labor Watch said it found evidence of employment in a multi-layered system of intermediaries that shifts financial risk onto the laborers. Employees also described seven-day working weeks and shifts exceeding legal limits and overtime caps. Workers were reportedly instructed during pre-departure training to lie to inspectors about working hours.

The Hungarian Labor Protection Authority didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. China Labor Watch has been investigating labor conditions for two decades with a focus on labor rights within China and across Chinese overseas investment projects.



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