



TV

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FAKE MEDICINES IN PERU

VIDEO

FAST-CUT MONTAGE "BOTICA"
SIGNS AND SHOPFRONTS

AUDIO

....*MUSIC*

NARRATION

MEDICINE COUNTER

There are an estimated 10,000 pharmacies or boticas in Lima, Peru's capital city. They sell drugs of all kinds to the eight million people who live here. But almost half the medicines on sale are illegal. Fake medicines are a growing problem both in Peru and worldwide – with deadly results. (20")

TOLOMEO HAVING COFFEE

Tolomeo Almonacin bought prescription medicines, only to find they did not do what he was expecting ... (5")

TOLOMEO ON CAMERA

TOLOMEO ALMONACIN (SPANISH) **M**

"My feet started to shake ... then my hands started they started to shake too ... I held a pencil like this ... I couldn't control them." (8.75")

TOLOMEO AND MARGARITA
PREPARE FOOD IN KITCHEN

NARRATION

Tolomeo has prostate cancer. Eighteen months ago, he needed surgery but until an infection was cleared, he could not be operated on. He was admitted to hospital and given a course of intravenous antibiotics. They turned out to be counterfeit. (14.8")

VAR. SHOTS OF MEDICINES

According to the Peruvian Ministry of Health, sales of fake, stolen and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines are on the increase. It is estimated that 40% of medications on sale are illegal. Seriously ill people are too often left without the life-saving treatment they need. (18.5")

CANCER PATIENT IN HOSPITAL
BED

DR CARMELINO ON CAMERA

DR ELIZABETH CARMELINO (SPANISH) F

"If you've got a health problem and you're taking a medicine which is toxic or poisonous, or you're taking something in good faith thinking it's going to cure you and it's having no effect at all, you end up dying and no-one knows why." (13.5")

DR CARMELINO WALKING PAST
CAMERA

NARRATION

As head of the Ministry of Health's regulatory group for drugs, Dr Elizabeth Carmelino, sees these illegal medicines as silent killers. (8")

STREETS/ PEOPLE
SIDE MIRROR/HEALTH
INSPECTOR 'S IMAGE

NARRATION

With *thousands* of outlets across the city, and only eight inspectors to regulate both the production and sales of medicines, the task facing her team of inspectors is monumental. (10.2")

POLICE RAID ON PHARMACY –
POLICE AND HEALTH INSPECTOR
ENTER PHARMACY

NAT SOUND (POLICE RAID):

WOMAN HEALTH INSPECTOR: (SPANISH) **F**

“We’re from the Ministry of Health, we’re carrying out this operation together with the city police force.” (4.5”)

POLICE/HEALTH INSPECTOR AT
PHARMACY

NARRATION

Last year, over-stretched health inspectors and the police carried out 230 raids on pharmacies in Peru. (6.45”)

MALE HEALTH INSPECTOR
WITH PANADOLS, AND ON CAM

MALE HEALTH INSPECTOR (SPANISH) **M**

Panadols): *“These are fakes ... you can see from the quality of the packaging and the printing... there are masses of them here” (4.85”)*

POLICE OFFICER PICKS UP BOX
OF MEDICINES FROM FLOOR

NARRATION

In one year alone, more than eight tons of illegal medicines were confiscated in Lima. They were all destroyed but the authorities fear this is just the tip of the iceberg. (9”)

MEDICINES: BULLDOZER
DESTROYING DRUGS

The World Health Organisation is concerned at the fakes flooding the global drug market. Dr German Perdomo, a senior advisor in Peru, feels that poverty is sustaining this market in illegal medicines. (12.35”)

EXT WHO BUILDING: GERMAN
PERDOMO ENTERS

DR GERMAN PERDOMO (SPANISH) **M**

DR GERMAN PERDOMO,WHO, ON
CAMERA

“The population doesn’t have the means to buy brand medicines and medications that have been made in this country, or imported, legally. The price makes them completely out of their reach.”

(11”)

TOLOMEO AND MARGARITA
WALK ALONG STREET

NARRATION

Tolomeo and Margarita spent their life-savings on *his* medication. But they could only buy from a botica, where prices were 20% cheaper than from a more reputable pharmacy. (10”)

TOLOMEO ON CAMERA

TOLOMEO ALMONACIN (SPANISH)

“I lost all my money, on a medicine that had no effect on me at all...” (4”)

TOLOMEO AND MARGARITA
HAVING BREAKFAST WITH THEIR
FAMILY

NARRATION

Tougher laws to deal with both producers and vendors of fake medications *are* on the way. But, for Tolomeo, whose cancer has now spread to his bone, and thousands of others like him around the world, it is too late. (12”)

TOLOMEO ON CAMERA

TOLOMEO ALMONACIN (SPANISH)

“That’s where I am at the moment ... I still don’t know how all this is going to finish ...” (4.5”)

UN LOGO

NARRATION

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4)