

Support blacklisted former adidas, Nike and Puma workers in El Salvador

NIKEWATCH NEWS – January 2007

NikeWatch – Challenging Sports Brands to Respect Workers' Rights

**There are now 2,473 people on the NikeWatch email lists.
The more of us there are, the harder we are to ignore.**

In this edition you can take action to support blacklisted union organisers in El Salvador, play a new interactive sweatshop game and read how Esprit, Giordano and other Hong Kong clothing companies fall short on labour standards reporting.

Happy New Year, 2007! We hope yours is full of victories and happiness.

1. Support blacklisted union organisers in El Salvador
2. Enter the world of sweatshops: new online game
3. Hong Kong clothing companies falling short on labour standards reporting
4. Success! Legal rights of Australian clothing workers protected

1. Support blacklisted union organisers in El Salvador

In May 2005, the Hermosa factory in El Salvador, which was producing for adidas, Nike, Puma and other brands, closed. This followed an attempt by workers to organise a union. Since the closure, a determined group of 63 workers have been campaigning to receive their legally owed severance pay and to end the blacklisting that prevents them from getting new jobs in the Maquila.

Just before Christmas some (small) progress was made: the Fair Labour Association (FLA) on 22 December reported it had established an emergency fund intended to "provide immediate and direct assistance to the workers while efforts continue to hold the government of El Salvador and the factory owner responsible for carrying out their legal obligations to workers". Nike, adidas and Puma are members of the FLA. Workers have accepted the fund stating "it is a reaction to our pressure and struggle against so many injustices. The amount, in our view, is miserable compared to the profits that the brands make based on the sacrifice of workers and on violations of human and labor rights" (source: Clean Clothes Campaign).

adidas, Nike and Puma need to do more: click this link to take action:

<http://www.cleanclothes.org/urgent/07-01-03.htm#action>

2. Enter the world of sweatshops: new online game

This new [free online interactive game](#) invites you to enter the world of the sports shoe worker. Work hard and you will be paid your full wage. Make a mistake and you will be punished accordingly.

3. Esprit, Giordano and other Hong Kong clothing companies falling short on labour standards reporting

In November 2006, Oxfam Hong Kong launched a report titled: *Transparency Report: How Hong Kong Garment Companies Can Improve Reporting on Labour Standards*.

This report assesses and rates how well 16 Hong Kong garment factories are reporting on their labour standards in the supply chain. Only four companies received above zero. Companies surveyed include Esprit, Giordano and Chickeeduck (baby and children's wear).

Click this link to learn more about the report:

<http://www.oxfam.org.hk/public/contents/press?ha=transparency%2breport&wc=1&hb=&hc=&revision%5fid=41592&item%5fid=41564>

Click this link to take action relating to the report:

http://www.maketrade-fair.org.hk/trad_06/petition_eng.asp

4. Success! Legal rights of Australian clothing workers protected

Finally, some good news! Most clothing made in Australia is made by women who work from home (outworkers) – usually migrant women with limited English and hence limited job opportunities. Last year the Independent Contractors Bill threatened outworkers' right to the same minimum entitlements as other employees.

Fairwear organised a big campaign to get amendments made to the law so that outworkers legal rights would be protected. FairWear, outworkers themselves, the TCFUA and other organisations, including several church bodies, made submissions to the government.

The government accepted that amendments were needed and the legislation was amended before it became law. While this represents a success for outworkers, FairWear recognises that other aspects of the Commonwealth's industrial relations framework are bad for working families.

Congratulations to FairWear and many thanks to all who responded (last year) to our request to write to the Australian Government about this issue.
