

## Labor Advocates Keep Fighting for International Worker Rights!

As May Day / International Workers' Day passed this weekend, it is a great time to reflect on some recent developments in our fight for labor rights globally and to commit to building the movement for worker solidarity. Last month, we commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire with our allies from Bangladesh who are organizing to stop similar exploitation occurring today. Just as the 1911 factory fire in the US galvanized a movement for labor rights, it's time to join workers around the world in the fight for justice.

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If you haven't yet gotten your commemorative, union-made (Alta Gracia or Union Line) t-shirt, we still have shirts available. [Place your order here!](#)

### Hershey Brand Jamming Contest Winners Announced

Creative activists across the country recently made mock taglines, print advertisements and commercial videos that cleverly reveal the child labor, forced labor and trafficking in the cocoa industry that lies behind Hershey's joyful advertising images. The action was part of the Hershey Brand Jamming Contest that was coordinated by ILRF along with our "Raise the Bar, Hershey" campaign allies Global Exchange and Green America. Last week we announced the winners of the contest -- [check them out here!](#) You can also [send an e-mail to Hershey here](#) and [check out our report on Hershey here](#).



### Anti-Union Intimidation by Dole Philippines Continues

Thank you to everyone who took action calling on Dole to respect union rights leading up to a new union election at the company's pineapple operations in the Philippines earlier this year. Unfortunately, the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights documented cases of worker intimidation by company management and security forces in the Philippines around the time of the elections. The leaders of the AK-NAFLU union, which was elected democratically by a landslide in 2006, expressed their gratitude to those who took action to support their struggle globally. They wrote in a letter to supporters: "We may have lost the election, but not our political will to fight for our basic rights... There is always a ray of hope in our collective strength." Keep watching for updates from ILRF about new ways to continue to show your solidarity with workers in the Philippines in the future and thanks again for your support.

### Help Us Reach 10,000 Signatures to Walmart!

Fueled in part by Walmart's subcontractor factory, the threats to peaceful labor advocates in Bangladesh continue without an end in sight.



We've already received over 5000 new signatures since we sent out our online petition last week. **Help us reach our goal of 10,000 signatures by June 1st.** Circulate the [online petition](#) to your friends or collect signatures on the [hard-copy petition](#) at events in your community. Until falsified criminal charges on peaceful Bangladeshi labor advocates are dropped, Walmart should not continue its business with suppliers that are behind the fabricated charges.

For background on the situation, see this recent [letter](#) from Human Rights Watch to Bangladesh's Prime Minister.

### **Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium Makes Strides**

With support from ILRF, the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, an organization of state and local governments committed to purchasing products made in decent working conditions, is continuing to develop capacity for monitoring and enforcing labor standards of government contractors and their suppliers. Currently in the making: a guide to sweatfree procurement; an online supplier database; and a variety of supplier evaluation tools designed to measure contractors' capacity to comply with labor standards. The Consortium's first annual meeting is coming up on May 31st; a list of nominees to the Board of Directors is available [here](#). Contact [organize@sweatfree.org](mailto:organize@sweatfree.org) if you are interested to help bring your city, county, or state into the Consortium.

### **Not One More Fire! Organizing Globally ~ Remembering the Triangle Fire**

As part of a series of commemorative activities to remember the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire around its centennial, ILRF held a reception and award ceremony in Washington, DC. The gathering served to remember the 146 workers who lost their lives in the tragic fire of 1911 and to bring attention to similar conditions that persist in our world today. At the event, ILRF honored the work of Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, the American Federation of Teachers, the United Steelworkers, and the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity in combating labor rights abuses. To read more about the event, special guests, and to see photos, visit [ILRF's blog](#).



### **Congratulations to the Sweatfree Grant Recipients**

We are delighted to announce the awardees of SweatFree Communities' new small grants program. These grants are slated to support grassroots campaigns that are promoting sweatshop-free procurement to build the market for decent work. This year's recipients are Sweatfree Northwest, Sweatfree New York, and Sweatfree Massachusetts. In the Northwest, the campaign is engaging with the states of Oregon and Washington and the city of Eugene, building upon previous successful campaigns in Portland, Olympia, and Seattle. In Massachusetts, the campaign, which is housed at Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, is urging the state to act upon a decades-old law that would require disclosure of the factories making uniforms and other apparel for the state, and to join the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium. The campaign in New York is working to solidify the state's commitment to sweatshop-free purchasing and to develop a campaign in New York City. To learn more and to connect with any of these initiatives, contact [organize@sweatfree.org](mailto:organize@sweatfree.org).

### **We're Hiring!**

Interested to work for international labor rights? **ILRF is currently hiring summer interns:** campaigner, researcher, development assistant, graphic designer, Spanish translator, and other positions are available.

**We're also seeking a Deputy Director** to ensure smooth operation of the administrative and financial systems of the ILRF and to play a leadership role in program planning and fundraising. You would join an exciting team in an advocacy organization that is dedicated to promoting new and creative means to stop the exploitation of workers worldwide. [Visit our employment & internships page for the details.](#) Applications are due by May 20th.