Dear Friends,

2015 marked ILRF’s completion of three decades fighting for dignity and justice for workers worldwide. As we prepared for our 30th anniversary in 2016, we took stock of the many ways that ILRF has been an instrumental force in stimulating solutions to advance workers’ rights and labor standards around the world.

In the early 1980s, strong voices in human rights, labor, academic, and faith-based communities formed a coalition to fight for the rights of workers in international trade. In 1984, the coalition succeeded in winning legislation linking the granting of U.S. trade and investment benefits – through the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) – to a country’s respect for fundamental labor rights. In 1986, the group founded the International Labor Rights Forum to monitor enforcement of these laws and to develop other means to protect workers’ rights globally.

We have continued to propose, negotiate and secure legal reforms and more meaningful corporate accountability policies and we have tested and critiqued each new reform to make them more effective for workers. Today, we are pushing for a sea change in corporate accountability: to move away from the voluntary, confidential “corporate social responsibility” programs that have repeatedly sidelined workers’ voices, towards transparent, legally-binding agreements negotiated between corporations and unions. And we are pursuing multi-layered strategies to advance labor law reforms. In today’s time of increased migration, debt bondage and human trafficking, we must push back against laws that make it illegal for migrant workers to organize and bargain collectively.

Please visit the About section of our website – www.laborrights.org – to see some of the highlights of ILRF’s impact over the years. What stands out throughout the timeline is that all of our greatest successes have been linked to strong grassroots partners and transnational movements that generate solidarity and unite advocacy campaigns.

Please join us and support one or all of our campaigns by taking action online, joining a demonstration, or donating to help us sustain our ability to continue innovating and advocating for workers’ rights in global supply chains.

In solidarity,

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
2015 YEAR IN REVIEW
FIGHTING FOR DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR WORKERS WORLDWIDE

JANUARY
• Thai government scraps plan to use prison labor at sea after ILRF leads international opposition campaign

FEBRUARY
• ILRF’s Valentine’s Day cards informed about the low wages that cocoa farmers earn

MARCH
• Raised urgent issues of violations of women’s rights at work during the UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings

APRIL
• Brought a delegation of activists and faith-based leaders to Bangladesh for the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse
• Helped coordinate a global day of action remembering Rana Plaza workers
• Worked with John Oliver’s team in advance of Last Week Tonight’s fashion story

MAY
• Submitted comments to U.S. government on protecting workers’ rights through procurement
• Co-published Principles for Free and Fair Labor in Palm Oil Production

JUNE
• Campaign victory: Compensation secured for Rana Plaza victims and families
• Celebrated the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders
• Held briefing on child labor in tobacco fields with the Child Labor Coalition
• Published Golden Vener, documenting union-busting at a farm supplying McDonald’s

JULY
• With Peruvian unions, filed complaint against the government of Peru for dismissing workers for union activity and employing workers on fraudulent contracts
• Supported independent monitoring of forced labor in Uzbek cotton fields, and urged ILO to recognize forced labor in its own monitoring

AUGUST
• Delivered petition with over 20,000 signatures to Reynolds American calling on the company to improve conditions for tobacco farmworkers

SEPTEMBER
• Amplified EUROBAN’s Make Fruit Fair action on pineapples in Costa Rica

OCTOBER
• Launched campaign against H&M for its failure to keep its factory safety promise

NOVEMBER
• Raised concerns about forced labor at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil conference
• Amplified Cambodian garment workers’ demands for a minimum wage of $177/month

DECEMBER
• Released ILRF report Our Voices, Our Safety, documenting Bangladeshi garment worker voices
• Urged World Bank to stop supporting forced labor in Uzbekistan with action projecting images onto Bank headquarters

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM
2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue

- Foundations: $1,169,318
- Government: $381,322
- Individual Donors: $262,288
- Other Income: $9,184
- Total: $1,222,112

Expenses

- Rights at Work: $1,753,107
- Ending Child & Forced Labor: $603,428
- Management & General: $163,860
- Other Programs: $195,584
- Total: $2,175,027

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS
Don't Die to fashion.