Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards in a celebration to honor this year’s awardees! These inspiring advocates work tirelessly to advance corporate accountability and dignity and justice for workers in supply chains around the world.

Senator Sherrod Brown is a long-time champion for workers’ rights at home and abroad. In the House of Representatives, Senator Brown collaborated with ILRF on our Fairness in Flowers campaign to advance labor standards in trade agreements. In the Senate, he introduced legislation to strengthen the enforcement of our trade laws, and to highlight unfair ongoing trade practices and likely foreign currency manipulation. He is also advocating to close an outdated loophole in the US Tariff Act that allows certain goods made with forced and child labor to be imported and sold in the United States. Senator Brown leads our community’s opposition to the fast track of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the Senate, and is demanding a trade policy that promotes good jobs, at home, while raising labor and environmental standards abroad.

Tonight we also celebrate two trade unions that have done incredible work in grassroots organizing. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and the Tobacco and Allied Workers of Malawi (TOAWUM) are on the front lines, fighting to end child labor and debt bondage in agriculture and to secure decent living standards and alternative livelihood options for tobacco workers.

FLOC has set international precedents in labor history, including being the first union to negotiate multi-party collective bargaining agreements, and the first to represent H2A international guest workers under a labor agreement. FLOC’s leadership and innovative organizing strategies on its long-time campaign against Reynolds American has highlighted the urgent need to increase Big Tobacco’s accountability to the men and women harvesting its toxic crop.

TOAWUM has led the fight against the tobacco tenancy system prevalent in Malawi that locks tobacco farmers into systems of poverty and debt bondage. As a long-time ally of ILRF, TOAWUM has worked to push for key reforms that help tobacco farmers improve their working conditions and break dependence on the tobacco crop as a key component of Malawi’s economy.

We are inspired by the work of this year’s awardees who continue to strengthen the voices of workers worldwide and push the bar to keep big corporations accountable for worker rights in their supply chains. Tonight, please join us, with advocates here and worldwide, to honor those who are fighting on the front lines of our global labor rights movement.

Many thanks for all that you do for worker justice.

In Solidarity,

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
TONIGHT’S PROGRAM

6:00 GENERAL RECEPTION

6:45 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Welcome: Princess Moss, Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association
Remarks: Judy Gearhart, Executive Director, International Labor Rights Forum

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Introduced and Presented by: Congressman George Miller
Accepted by: Senator Sherrod Brown

Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi (TOAWUM)
Introduced and Presented by: Emira Woods, Co-Director of Foreign Policy, ThoughtWorks
Accepted by: Raphael Sandramu, Secretary General, TOAWUM

Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)
Introduced by: Pat Keefer, Director of International Affairs Dept., American Federation of Teachers
Presented by: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Accepted by: Baldemar Velasquez, Founder and President, FLOC

CALL TO ACTION
Sarita Gupta, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice

7:30 CLOSING REMARKS AND POST-CEREMONY RECEPTION
Remarks: Cam Duncan, ILRF Board President
A SPECIAL THANK YOU

ILRF salutes the tremendous work and commitment of everyone who made the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards possible. We are proud to be working with such great allies, mentors, and supporters.

HOST COMMITTEE
Congressman George Miller, Chair
Cam Duncan, National Labor College
Joseph Eldridge, American University
Claude Fontheim, Fontheim International
Sam Fried, Limited Brands Foundation
Sally Greenberg, National Consumers League
Owen Herrnstadt, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
Keith Mestrich, Amalgamated Bank
Yvette Pena-O’Sullivan, LiUNA

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Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
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*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.
MANY THANKS TO TONIGHT’S SPONSORS

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SPECIAL THANKS*
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Tim Ryan, Solidarity Center
Trina Tocco, Change to Win
Haley Wrinkle
*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.
ILRF is honoring Senator Sherrod Brown for his visionary leadership and collaboration on leveraging trade policy to advance workers’ rights.

Since January of 2007, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown — a champion of middle-class families in the Senate — has been described as “Congress’ leading proponent of American manufacturing.” Brown is working with the Obama Administration on the creation of a national manufacturing policy that would invest in manufacturing innovation, strengthen our component supply chain, connect workers with emerging industries, and align our trade policies to promote our national interests. He is also working with Ohio’s universities, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders to use Ohio’s resources to create new jobs in high-growth industries and make Ohio a national leader in clean energy manufacturing.

A long-time advocate for fair trade, Senator Brown has stood up to presidents of both parties on shortsighted trade agreements that ship U.S. jobs overseas. He led the bipartisan opposition to NAFTA in 1993 — as a freshman in the U.S. House of Representatives — and to CAFTA in 2005. Informed by his faith as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Sherrod Brown is committed to social and economic justice. He helped pass the historic health care law that makes health insurance more affordable and accessible for American families.

Brown serves on the Senate Committee on Finance. He also serves on the Senate Banking Committee, where he played an instrumental role in passing the historic Wall Street reform law, and is Chairman of its Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee. Brown is also the first Ohio Senator in 40 years to serve on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, where he has been instrumental in strengthening the farm safety net and addressing childhood hunger. He serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation.
ILRF is honoring FLOC for its innovative work organizing U.S. tobacco workers and holding tobacco companies responsible for poor working conditions.

FLOC, led by the charismatic Baldemar Velasquez, is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO organizing thousands of migrant workers across the Midwest and South. Under Velasquez’s leadership, FLOC was founded in 1967 and won its first collective bargaining agreement among migrant farmworkers in Ohio picking tomatoes for Campbell’s Soup in 1986. FLOC has set international precedents in labor history, including being the first union to negotiate multi-party collective bargaining agreements, and the first to represent H2A international guest workers under a labor agreement.

FLOC has led an eight-year campaign against Reynolds American, Inc., one of the largest tobacco corporations in the world, and its primary shareholder British American Tobacco. These entities use their power to set the terms and prices for the farmers who grow their tobacco, leading to pervasive problems of child labor, long hours of stoop labor in harsh conditions, physical and verbal harassment, abject poverty and debt, exposure to lethal nicotine and pesticides, and denial of basic labor and human rights protections. FLOC has arranged yearly demonstrations outside the annual Reynolds shareholder meeting, field visits for U.S. congressional representatives and British parliamentarians, convenience store campaigns and other innovative strategies in its battle with Reynolds American.
ILRF is recognizing TOAWUM for its advocacy and organizing to end child labor and improve the lives of tobacco tenant farmers, farm workers and their families.

Raphael Sandramu grew up in a farming family and cofounded TOAWUM to unionize the sector, and combat the tobacco tenancy system prevalent in Malawi that locks tobacco farmers into general systems of poverty and debt bondage. Labor recruiters for Malawian tobacco estates entice thousands of families to plantations with promises of plentiful harvests, food allowances and guaranteed access to materials needed to grow tobacco. Most of these promises, however, are reneged upon, leaving farmworkers and their families locked to their landlord by deceptive contracts and debt. This system denies an estimated 300,000 tobacco tenant families their basic rights to adequate food, clean water, proper housing, and fair payment for their crop. Most alarming is that this system forces around 78,000 children into tobacco fields each year.

In 2014, Sandramu participated in a meeting of the World Health Organization in Moscow, Russia to bring farmer voice into important language about farmer livelihoods in a major international tobacco control treaty. TOAWUM is trying to use treaty provisions to help Malawi break its dependence on tobacco, which accounted for up to 60 percent of the country’s foreign earnings in 2014, the highest economic reliance on tobacco growing in the world. TOAWUM has been a long-time ally of ILRF, and has worked as part of the Child Labor Action Fund (CLAF) project to push for key reforms in Malawi and at the global level that help tobacco farmers improve their working conditions and achieve dignity in the tobacco fields.
HONORING A LEGACY
OF LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Our 2015 Award Recipients join a prestigious group of advocates and organizations who have demonstrated their lifelong commitment to workers’ rights in the U.S. and abroad.

2014
+ Congressman George Miller
+ Communications Workers of America
+ Maquila Worker Organizing Project (CGT, Honduras)

2013
+ Senator Tom Harkin
+ State Enterprises Workers’ Relations Confederation (SERC) and the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN)
+ United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Warehouse Workers United, Warehouse Workers for Justice, and the National Guestworker Alliance

2011
+ U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis
+ United Steelworkers
+ American Federation of Teachers
+ Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity

2009
+ U.S. Representative Jan. Schakowsky
+ Francisco Ramirez Cuellar, Colombian Mineworkers’ Union (Sintraminercol)
+ International Brotherhood of Teamsters

THIS JUNE 16TH

Please join Nobel Peace Prize recipient and ILRF’s long-time ally, Kailash Satyarthi, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial from 4 - 6 p.m.

We will celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize recognition of Kailash’s tireless advocacy to end child labor around the world.

Help us rally support to continue the fight!
TEAMSTERS

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

SALUTES

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS:

SEN. SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
TOBACCO AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF MALAWI

JAMES P. HOFFA  General President
KEN HALL  General Secretary-Treasurer
Special thanks to the
National Education Association
for hosting the
Hasta La Victoria! Farm Worker Justice in Global Supply Chains
&
2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards!

Members and Officers of the
International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers
Congratulate and salute the
International Labor Rights Forum
and the
2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards Honorees
Senator Sherrod Brown
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

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Diane Babineaux and Dora Cervantes.
The Teamsters Union is North America’s strongest and most diverse labor union. In 1903, the Teamsters started as a merger of the two leading team driver associations. These drivers were the backbone of America’s robust economic growth, but they needed to organize to wrest their fair share from greedy corporations. Today, the Union’s task is exactly the same.

The Teamsters are known as the champion of freight drivers and warehouse workers, but have organized workers in virtually every occupation imaginable, both professional and non-professional, private sector and public sector. Our 1.4 million members are public defenders in Minnesota; vegetable workers in California; sanitation workers in New York; brewers in St. Louis; newspaper workers in Seattle; construction workers in Las Vegas; zoo keepers in Pennsylvania; healthcare workers in Rhode Island; bakery workers in Maine; airline pilots, secretaries and police officers.

Teamsters stand ready to organize workers who want to bargain collectively. Once a contract is negotiated and signed, the Union works to enforce it—holding management’s feet to the fire and invoking contract grievance procedures if management chooses not to. Wages and benefits under Teamster contracts are markedly better than those of non-union employees in similar jobs. Teamster contracts are the guarantors of decent wages, fair promotion, health coverage, job security, paid time-off and retirement income.

The Teamsters Union also performs vital tasks in such areas as pension management, safety & health, community outreach, governmental affairs and communications. For more than a century, the Teamsters have been a public voice for the rights and aspirations of working men and women and a key player in securing them.

Fontheim International, LLC is proud to support

International Labor Rights Forum
and congratulates

Senator Sherrod Brown
for being a champion of workers’ rights,

the Farm Labor Organizing Committee
for its innovative work in tackling poor working conditions,

and the impactful efforts of the
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi
to end child labor and improve the lives of workers.

www.fontheim.com
The men and women who build America congratulate the 2015 honorees of the Labor Rights Defenders Awards.

LIUNA commends the ILRF for all that you do to achieve dignity and justice for workers worldwide.

The American Federation of Teachers is proud to stand with the International Labor Rights Forum to stop exploitative child labor and to improve the lives of workers around the world.

On behalf of the AFT’s 1.6 million members, we salute those honored with the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards:

- **Sen. Sherrod Brown**, for his visionary leadership on leveraging trade policy to advance workers’ rights.
- **Farm Labor Organizing Committee**, for its innovative work organizing U.S. tobacco workers and holding tobacco companies responsible for poor working conditions.
- **Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi**, for its advocacy to end child labor and organizing to empower tenant farmers, farm workers and their families.

The Communications Workers of America is proud to support the International Labor Rights Forum and joins in honoring this year’s recipients of the Labor Rights Defenders Awards, all dedicated advocates for workers’ rights in the United States and throughout the world.

Senators Sherrod Brown
The Farm Labor Organizing Committee
The Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

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The IBEW Congratulates
Senator Sherrod Brown
The Farm Labor Organizing Committee
The Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER Awardees

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Edwin D. Hill, International President
Salvatore J. Chilia, International Secretary-Treasurer
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applauds the ILRF for its continued leadership and congratulates the 2015 Labor Rights Awards Honorees

Senator Sherrod Brown
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

www.globalworksfoundation.org
The Food Chain Workers Alliance congratulates all of the recipients of the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards!

We’re honored to have the International Labor Rights Forum as a founding member of the Food Chain Workers Alliance.

www.foodchainworkers.org

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THE FIGHT FOR WORKER RIGHTS NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE.

Congratulations to the 2015 International Labor Rights Defenders Award recipients

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AFGE is Proud to support
The 2015 Labor Rights Defender Forum as they honor Senator Sherrod Brown, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi (TOAWUM).

We salute them for their tireless service to working people around the world.

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President
Eugene Hudson, Jr.
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INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

is proud to support

JOBS WITH JUSTICE

as they honor the important work of

Senator Sherrod Brown,
Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

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