
International Labor Rights Forum

September 2013

CONTENTS:

1. [Bangladeshi garment workers demand justice](#)
2. [Activists call on Rainforest Alliance to stop certifying union-busting](#)
3. [Industry-based solutions cannot protect Thai shrimp workers](#)
4. [Vote for us by Oct. 8](#)
5. [ILRF will help carry forward USLEAP's Latin-America work](#)
6. [Announcing our new campaigns director](#)
7. [We're hiring!](#)

Bangladeshi garment workers demand justice

Tens of thousands of Banglaeshi garment workers who can hardly make ends meet have been [striking this week](#) to pressure the government to raise their minimum wage from about \$38 to \$103 a month. Meanwhile, some U.S. companies are refusing to accept their responsibility for safety in their Bangladesh supply chains by not compensating the victims of recent disasters and refusing to join with the 88 other clothing companies that have signed the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, a legally-binding safety agreement between unions and companies.



Earlier this month, ILRF and United Students Against Sweatshops organized a demonstration with fashion models in front of New York Fashion Week to call on VF -- the largest apparel company in the world -- to sign onto the Accord. Check out the [photos](#) and [video](#), or take part in on our ongoing campaigns urging [Walmart](#) and [Children's Place](#) to pay their fair share of victim compensation and sign the Accord.

Activists call on Rainforest Alliance to stop certifying union-busting

More than 4,600 activists signed onto an [ILRF letter](#) to Rainforest Alliance, which had recently recertified the Tres Hermanas banana plantations in Honduras as "sustainable," despite years of systematic labor rights abuses. In response to this pressure from ILRF, USLEAP and allies, Rainforest Alliance issued a statement saying it would strengthen labor standards. ILRF will continue to pressure Rainforest Alliance to take worker rights seriously and decertify union-busting plantations like Tres Hermanas.



Industry-based solutions cannot protect Thai shrimp workers

As the International Labor Organization (ILO) begins work on its Global Labour Practices Programme for the Shrimp and Seafood Industry in Thailand, launched September 16, 2013, ILRF is highlighting the findings from our recent report, [The Walmart Effect: Child and Worker Rights Violations at Narong Seafood](#). The report and accompanying research documented extensive labor abuses among factories that supply companies working on the ILO project, including Walmart and Thai Union Frozen Products. To address these issues, it recommends amending Thai labor laws to assist migrant workers, empowering migrant worker organizations and Thai unions to help develop and implement workplace auditing systems, and transparent, independent workplace monitoring.



Vote for us by Oct. 8

ILRF and our coalition allies have been nominated for the Business Ethics Network's BENNY Award for our work on promoting factory safety in Bangladesh. [Vote for us](#) today! Voting closes Oct. 8.



ILRF will help carry forward USLEAP's Latin-America work

The US Labor Education in the Americas Project is a non-profit organization that promotes respect for the rights of workers in Latin America. USLEAP and ILRF share members on our respective boards of directors and have a quarter-century of collaboration. Following the unexpected death of USLEAP executive director Stephen Coats in April, the boards have now agreed that ILRF will house a dedicated [USLEAP program](#) that lifts up the day-to-day struggles of farmworkers and trade unionists in Latin-America – from abusive working conditions to union-busting to death threats – by highlighting their stories, launching urgent action alerts, and building consumer support for USLEAP's union partners in Latin-America. We hope you will join us in [supporting USLEAP's work](#)



Announcing our new campaigns director

We're delighted to welcome Abby Mills to ILRF as our new campaigns director. She comes to us after more than six years in the international affairs department of the American Federation of Teachers. We have worked closely with Abby on several child labor campaigns through our alliance with the AFT and are thrilled to have her on board running our campaigns. To reach Abby directly, send her a note using our [online form](#). You can find her bio [here](#).



We're hiring

[ILRF seeks an operations director](#) to facilitate the smooth operation of our administrative and financial systems. The position requires strong financial management skills, including experience managing government and foundation grants, and the ability to create systems, adapt to organizational needs, and remain highly organized.

