

# Clean Clothes

newsletter

no. 18 December 2004

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**PILO**

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# Editorial

## Greetings from the Clean Clothes Campaign!

In this edition of the CCC newsletter we bring you a report of the Play Fair at the Olympics campaign, one of the biggest initiatives the CCC has participated in, to date. The sampling of events highlighted in this issue points to the enormous range of activities undertaken by labor rights supporters around the world in the context of the Play Fair campaign.

CCC activists came up with many creative ways to communicate the Play Fair message, a necessary strategy in order to continue to connect with the very diverse public about the range of problems faced by workers making sportswear today. In some cases the activists were themselves garment workers – for example in India, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Pakistan, and Thailand – who know firsthand the hardships of working in an industry where rights violations are widespread. With actions taking place around the globe, involving people of all ages, in countries where the sportswear companies are headquartered and where they produce their goods, the Play Fair campaign was truly an inspiring example of international solidarity.

The Play Fair coverage in this issue reports on what the campaign accomplished and what still needs to be done. Future issues of the CCC newsletter will continue to bring you updates on our progress in pursuing the demands to the sportswear industry that were set out in “From Athens to Beijing - a Programme of Work for the Sportswear Industry” a document developed by the Play Fair campaign.

Though the CCC network was busy with Olympic campaigning during the period leading up to the Athens games, CCCers continued with other activities as well. Included in this issue is a report on an art installation

that connects visitors to the lives of women in the garment industry. Another article reports on a project where unionists at the grassroots level reached out to Swedish teenagers to raise their awareness of how and where their clothes are actually made (and, of course, encouraged them to play a role in pushing for improvements).

While all these awareness-raising activities went on, the CCC itself also became aware of new cases of workers rights violations. Reports on several of the urgent appeals cases taken up by the campaign in recent months are included in this issue, as well as information on a strategy seminar focusing on how to tackle the bad conditions faced by informal workers in the garment industry. News on resources that have been developed by network members and others that might be useful in your own work to support labor rights is also included.

Please copy and pass along this newsletter to other interested readers. For the latest news from the CCC, please visit our website [www.cleanclothes.org](http://www.cleanclothes.org).



Lighting the torch at the Workers' Olympics in Thailand, see the story on page 12

The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) aims to improve working conditions in the garment industry worldwide. The CCC is made up of coalitions of consumer organizations, trade unions, researchers, solidarity groups, world shops, and other organizations. The CCC informs consumers about the conditions in which their garments and sports shoes are produced, pressure brands and retailers to take responsibility for these conditions, and demand that companies accept and implement a good code of labor standards that includes monitoring and independent verification of code compliance. The Clean Clothes Campaign cooperates with organizations all over the world, especially self-organized groups of garment workers (including workers in factories of all sizes, homeworkers, and migrant workers without valid working papers).

Editing by Celia Mather and Nina Ascoly | graphic design by Maaïke Pfann, [www.kunstenmakerij.com](http://www.kunstenmakerij.com) | printing by PrimaveraQuint, Amsterdam



# “Clean Clothes” in Swedish Schools

During just four days in early October 2004, dozens of high schools across Sweden were visited by local members of the Swedish LO trade union confederation with a “clean clothes” message. They took with them a short version of the video “We Shop - Who Pays?” plus an exhibition and leaflets provided by Rena Kläder (the Swedish Clean Clothes Campaign).

LO representatives in 13 regions in Sweden participated in the CCC project, visiting about five schools per region. In each LO regional body there are people responsible for liaising with schools on trade union information. To do this “clean clothes” outreach work, they received training through a Study Circle called “Global Respekt,” organized on the internet. This gave them the background they needed to hold classroom discussions about labor conditions in the global supply chain.

According to Joel Lindefors, the coordinator of Rena Kläder, over the years school children have always been an important target group for the campaign.

“It has resulted in changed behavior,” Lindefors said of this work, noting that it is still too early to evaluate the impact of

this specific project. “A retailer that sells school clothing in Sweden has been targeted with a lot of questions from school kids and teachers about the labor conditions in its supplier factories. Up to now the supplier has been Fruit of the Loom. Now they are searching for one that can guarantee that labor rights are respected in the supply chain.”

In 2005, Rena Kläder plans to target fashion students at college/university level too.

For Rena Kläder, the aim of the school visits in October was not only to reach more school youth with a “clean clothes” message, but also to involve more grassroots trade unionists. The LO trade union’s participation in the Swedish CCC has been growing in recent years. In 2004, the union played an active role in the Olympics “Play Fair” campaign. ✂



Debating strategy during the Meissen, Germany seminar on informal workers in the garment industry.

## Strategizing

to Support Informal Worker Organizing

On September 23-25, 2004, forty-five people from 20 countries participated in a seminar organized by the CCC, the International Restructuring Education Network Europe (IRENE), and the Evangelische Akademie Meissen, in Meissen, Germany on the global garment industry and the informal economy. Participants included NGO and trade union representatives from the CCC campaigns in Europe and partners from the broader garment workers’ rights network. One of the most important aims was to formulate specific goals and strategies for labor rights campaigns seeking to support workers in the garment sector’s informal economy.

Key issues discussed included the legal issues surrounding the informalization of the garment industry; the difficulty of organizing workers in the informal economy; and current trends affecting the garment industry, such as the ending of global quota system for garments. Participants brainstormed to develop campaigning

# Using Clothes to Tell Garment Workers' Stories

**What kinds of things do the women who sew our clothes wear?**

**What does it feel like to work long hours making garments in a factory or at home?**

In 2002, Amsterdam-based artist Siobhan Wall was appointed "artist-in-residence" at CCC. She decided to raise these questions through an innovative art installation.

Wall invited women garment workers from eight different countries to send her some of their clothes. Women from countries as far apart as Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Australia, Britain, Thailand, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Mexico responded by sending in their skirts, blouses, shoes, trousers, bags, and scarves, as well as information about themselves. Working with the Clean Clothes Campaign International Secretariat and workers' organizations in the eight countries, Wall produced a fashion collection with a difference.

Instead of showing the latest models by well-known designers, "The Clothes She Wears" shows the actual clothes worn by women who work in the

garment industry. Stories about the women's lives are displayed next to each outfit and included in a catalogue.

"There is something intriguing about being in close proximity to things that other people have worn, as their things seem both intimate and familiar," said Wall. "We may not know what it is like to work very long hours in a factory but we can imagine what it might feel like to wear these skirts, trousers, and shoes."

The exhibition opened at the Amsterdam Town Hall in February 2004, supported by the Amsterdam City Council. It then moved to another Dutch city, Utrecht. By September, it opened in the UK, at the Museum and Art Gallery in Worthing. This museum has one of Britain's foremost costume collections and so it was an ideal location. The exhibition now travels on to Belgium, where it will be shown at

the January launch of an awareness-raising campaign on informal work organized by Wereldsolidariteit and partners, then it will continue on to various events in the country, finally ending up in late April at the congress of the Christian Workers' Union.

Funding to produce the exhibition came from the HIVOS aid agency in the Netherlands. "The Clothes She Wears" can be borrowed for free by museums, galleries, libraries, and sympathetic organizations and can easily travel to European locations.

**For more information on "The Clothes She Wears" please contact Siobhan Wall via [info@cleanclothes.org](mailto:info@cleanclothes.org).**



Visitors to "The Clothes She Wears" exhibition in September at the Museum and Art Gallery in Worthing, UK.>

priorities and strategies in relation to raising these issues with consumers, government, and companies.

Because of the important (and growing) role of the informal economy in garment and sportswear production and the particularly vulnerable position of these workers within supply networks, an increasing number of labor rights groups focusing on these industries, including the CCC and allies, aim to more actively take up these issues.

Industry subcontractors are increasingly operating in the informal economy: meaning production involves workplaces and workers who have been marginalized, de-linked, or excluded from social and legal frameworks. Garment workers in the informal economy are often: women, migrants, not legally recognized as workers, unprotected, barred from organizing, working in conditions that fall far below internationally-recognized standards in workplaces that are not legally recognized as such.

While there has been recognition of the key role that the informal economy plays in the garment and sportswear sectors, campaigning organizations like the CCC acknowledge that there has not been enough strategizing about how international solidarity action can best be used as a tool to support workers' attempts to address labor rights violations in the informal economy.

This seminar provided a unique opportunity to invigorate the dialogue on informal garment economy issues and move closer toward developing an agenda for action. A full report on the seminar will soon be available from the CCC International Secretariat.



***What is the reality for workers in the garment industry's informal economy? See the story of homeworkers in Australia, page 6.***

# The Nguyen Family: Homeworking in Australia

The Nguyens\* came to Australia from Vietnam and settled in a suburb of Melbourne. For some years, they were unemployed. Then they began working at the house of a friend who was a homemaker. It was here that they learned to sew.

In the seven years they have been working in their own home, the Nguyens say they have sewn clothes for a long list of brands: Katies, Country Road, Atelier, Just Jeans, Myer, Target, Converse, Stussy, Kamikaze, PTO, Trisstar, Witchery, Diamond Cut, and Ellen Tracey.

Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen work on average 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week. Even then, they cannot make enough to get by unless their children help. Their four children are aged 3 to 18 years old. When still young, they help by folding and turning garments out, sorting and cutting threads. By the age of 13, they work on the sewing machines. Each child works an average of three hours a night and up to 10 hours a day on the weekend. The children have been involved in the production of all the labels mentioned.

For all this, the family gets about A\$500 to A\$700 a week, well below the national legal pay rate for the clothing industry. Sometimes they come under intense pressure to complete work in less time than originally allocated. Sometimes to complete an order they have had to go without sleep for a day, or get their children to work through the night.

The Nguyens feel they have no choice but to do what the contractor wants. Otherwise, they risk not getting paid or the contractor might stop bringing them work altogether. Sometimes, the contractors fail to pay for one, two, or three lots of work at a time. According to the Nguyens, this is a common form of intimidation and harassment used against homeworkers.

It is difficult for the Nguyens to say anything publicly. They have no records of the work they have completed, which they could otherwise use to make a claim against the company. Also they have been warned they will get into trouble if they tell anyone, and in particular if they go to the union. The Nguyens say they know many families in Melbourne in the same situation.

*\*The name of the family has been changed to protect their identity.*

**This profile was provided by the Fair Wear campaign ([fairwear.org.au](http://fairwear.org.au)): a coalition of churches, community organizations, and trade unions in Australia that aims to stop the exploitation of home-based workers.** ✂

Members of the Nguyen family earn less than the national legal pay rate while working at home to complete a garment order.



# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

Does the CCC have a list of "good" or "clean" garment brands, retailers or manufacturers? Where can we buy such clothes?

Unfortunately, we don't have a list of "clean" retailers or manufacturers. We don't feel able to endorse or recommend any particular companies, since they all have a long way to go.

Recently, there has been an increase in small companies that come from a fair trade or activist background and are trying to provide an ethical alternative for consumers. For an overview of these fair trade companies and brands, and the questions you should ask them if you plan to buy something via them, see the critical overview we've compiled of ethical brands at: [www.cleanclothes.org/companies/04-04-alternative-ethical-clothes-review.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/companies/04-04-alternative-ethical-clothes-review.htm).

Some companies have made progress at a policy level, for example by agreeing to have a code of conduct that refers to standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Of course, they also have to implement the standards in the code, and this is where it gets difficult.

CCC believes that trade unions and NGOs, and ultimately the workers themselves, must have a voice in determining how codes are implemented. In that sense, participation by companies in so-called "multi-stakeholder initiatives" (MSIs) is a step forward. They include the Ethical Trading Initiative in the UK, the Fair Wear Foundation in the Netherlands, and the Fair Labor Association in the US.

Even then, it does not mean that the clothes these companies make or sell

are "clean." It means these companies have committed themselves to a certain programme of work, and workers and their organisations can file a complaint with the MSI if they believe a company has violated the code. For a comparison of MSIs and a list of member companies, see Workers' Tool or PR Ploy? A guide to codes of international labour practice by Ingeborg Wick at: [www.cleanclothes.org/codes/01-03-26.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/codes/01-03-26.htm).

Some companies have agreed to work with trade unions and NGOs on experiments in making codes work. The CCC has been involved in several pilot projects. Again this offers no guarantee of 'clean' production. It does, however, show that these companies are prepared to cooperate with organisations like ours in working out effective means to protect workers' rights. For more information on these projects and the companies involved, see [www.somo.nl/monitoring](http://www.somo.nl/monitoring) and <http://www.cleanclothes.org/codes.htm>

We know this does not give you a handy list, just extra work and a confusing range of initiatives and abbreviations. This is the present situation, and we can only change it by keeping up the pressure.

We need you to keep asking questions when you buy your clothes. Ask the sales staff, "Where do these clothes come from?" "Do you know how much the workers got paid for making them?" "Does this brand have a code of conduct?" Try asking them, "Do you know if freedom to join a union and a living wage are included in the code?" "Does your company cooperate with trade unions and NGOs to improve workers' standards?" Try asking for proof.

Most of the time they will not be able to answer. But if we keep asking, shop managers must, at some point, seek answers from their suppliers. After all, to them it's the market that counts.


Also, participate in the CCC's urgent appeal system, responding when workers who have seen their rights violated call for support. It often takes the form of letter-writing. See: [www.cleanclothes.org/appeals.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/appeals.htm)

Won't "clean clothes" be expensive?

No. Sourcing companies may say they will be, but this is often a tactic to avoid implementing better labour standards such as those in the CCC code.

Actually, the claim is ridiculous. Total wages are never more than 5% of the total cost of an article of clothing. That means that, even if wages were to double and the cost was passed on to consumers, a pair of jeans that now costs 41 euros would still only cost 43 euros.

But the cost of higher wages should not be borne by consumers but by the brand-name companies and retailers that sell the clothes. They take the lion's share of the profit. For example, in the case of a US\$100 sports shoe made in Indonesia, the brand-name owner takes 33% and the retailer takes 50% of the profit. So they can afford to pay for higher wages, and still make a profit.

Even improvements such as bringing wages up to a "living wage" standard, and better working conditions in terms of lighting, ventilation, and meeting safety regulations, should still not make "clean clothes" expensive for consumers. 

For more FAQs about the CCC, please visit: [www.cleanclothes.org/faq/index.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/faq/index.htm)>



**PLAY FAIR  
AT THE OLYMPICS**



Photo: Olan Kasak

# Play Fair at the Olympics

The 2004 Olympics was a perfect opportunity to intensify the pressure on garment companies to improve working conditions. What could be better than to extend the Olympic values of ethics and fair play to the women and men who make the Olympic's sportswear?

In the months leading up to the Opening Ceremony in Athens on August 13th, CCC organizations and their allies in the trade unions in no fewer than 35 countries organized hundreds of high-profile and imaginative events to capture public attention. More than half a million signatures worldwide were gathered in support of the campaign. There was extensive coverage on television, radio, and in the press all over the world.

At the international level, the campaign drew together CCC, Global Unions - the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), and the International Textile, Garment and

Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF) - and Oxfam. In many countries the CCC coalition already include unions and Oxfam but this campaign was an opportunity to cooperate more intensively.

Good co-ordination was needed. CCC, Global Unions, and Oxfam produced a joint background report called "Play Fair Olympics" detailing abuse and exploitation of workers making sportswear. Images of a T-shirt carrying various statistics such as "4 Shirts a Minute for 30 Cents an Hour" were sent out to be used across the world, as were the logo, poster, and





leaflets. Leaflets were translated to support actions in countries as far apart as Bulgaria and India. Lobbying/campaign updates were regularly issued.

#### Champions

One important campaign activity was to engage sports men and women on labor rights issues. In Spain, five-time winner of the Tour de France cycle race and Olympic gold medallist in 1996, Miguel Indurain said, "We sports lovers want the Olympic spirit to be alive in all human activities, including the work relationship... If we all stand for it, we can change it." Also from Spain, Gemma Mengual wrote "Come on. Things can change" on a quilt panel destined, like Mengual, for Athens (see "Athens Sew-In"). Mengual is a member of the Spanish team that came fourth in this year's Olympic Synchronised Swimming.

Other famous athletes giving their names to the campaign included former champion Canadian runner Bruce Kidd, three time Australian Olympic gymnast Graeme Bond, Sarah Houbolt who swam for Australia in the Sydney Paralympics in 2000, and Dutch long-distance runner Kamiel Maasse.

In most countries, campaigners approached their own national Olympic Committee, as well as individual sports committees, asking them to support the campaign and to discuss the conditions in which their team's uniforms were made. In a number of countries including Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands (see country briefs) the National Olympic Committees engaged in a dialogue with the campaign on these issues.

In the US, a bill entitled "Play Fair at the Olympics" was introduced in Congress by two Democrat Representatives.

This would oblige the US Olympic Committee to publish the names of all companies that produce goods under its license and set up a fund to investigate allegations of workers' rights violations at those companies.

On April 22nd, the European Parliament adopted an emergency resolution in support of the campaign, at the initiative of the European Socialist Party and the Greens. The resolution calls on sports brands, industry associations and the International Olympics Committee (IOC) to start negotiating and promoting a sector-wide solution to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of workers as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). It also calls on the European Commission to work with the ILO to ensure the IOC includes respect for internationally-agreed workers' rights in its Charter and Code of Conduct.

In the British Parliament a motion was passed supporting the campaign. In Austria the campaign issues were raised by the Green Party, while in the New South Wales Legislative Council in Australia the campaign was also discussed.

#### Unwilling IOC

The International Olympics Committee (IOC), however, proved far less receptive. The campaign had hoped that the IOC might agree to stronger standards for its extremely lucrative licensing and sponsorship deals with sportswear companies, and to add some wording on workers' rights to the Olympic Charter. But the IOC was very reluctant. It did agree that the campaign aims were in the spirit of the Olympic ideals of fair play and ethics, and eventually said it would participate in the industry-wide dialogue. Campaign representatives met with the IOC at a meeting in April. A follow-up meeting was planned for May, but the IOC cancelled.



In April, the IOC's own responsibilities seemed not up for discussion. It also denied, in contradiction with the Olympic Charter, that it has a say in sponsorship arrangements for national Olympic teams. Not only did the IOC stonewall, it also issued misleading statements in the media, and attempts to move the dialogue forward privately were ignored. The IOC refused to accept the half a million campaign signatures, and so these were offered instead to the world through a media event in Athens (see "Athens Sew-In").

The IOC's response was intensely disappointing, but the campaign remains optimistic that progress at national committee level and in the industry-wide dialogue may eventually work through to the IOC.

Meanwhile, the Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Committee (TOROC) has adopted a "Charter of Intent" which may contribute to defining ethical standards for global sporting events. TOROC agreed to meet with the campaign in late 2004, though as this report went to print no such meeting had taken place.

**Industry: moving, but still far from the finishing line**  
There were some key achievements with the sportswear industry. On May 25th, seven major sportswear multinationals and the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI) sat around the table with CCC groups, Global Unions and Oxfam, at an informal meeting hosted by the ILO in Geneva. The campaign presented the industry with proposals for a work program "From Athens to Beijing," and asked for their responses.

Although the WFSGI said it would consider the proposals at its September meeting, there has not at the time of writing been any meaningful response. Also still lacking is any indication from the WFSGI about how it is going to address the failure of most of its members to follow its own basic code of labor practice.

In a joint response to the "Athens to Beijing" program, Fair Labor Association member companies (including Nike, Reebok, adidas, and Puma) were more positive. Most importantly, they confirmed the central importance of promoting workers' freedom of association. They agreed that monitors who check factory standards need more guidance on this, and remedial strategies should promote awareness of this fundamental right directly to the workers themselves. There are also commitments to develop more effective complaints mechanisms and new forms of co-operation with local stakeholders.

FLA companies are starting to open up their supply chains to greater scrutiny. Sharing information on the locations of suppliers is something few sportswear brands have been willing


to do in the past, but it greatly increases the possibility of monitoring workers' rights at the workplace.

Meanwhile, pressure was put on sportswear companies that have been in the shadows while the spotlight was on the big brands (this was one of the strategies of the campaign). Meetings were held with Puma, Asics, Mizuno, and Umbro. Asics, for example, is the official supplier of the Olympic uniform for the national teams of Ireland and the Netherlands (see country briefs). Fila, Lotto, and Kappa were more reluctant, but eventually also agreed to meet with the campaign.

In varying degrees, these companies agreed to start addressing some of the fundamental issues, notably freedom of association at their supplier factories, and more credible workplace investigations and complaints procedures. Puma says it will pay greater attention to the impact of purchasing practices on ethical programs and will share information with the campaign. Asics, Mizuno and Lotto are going to call upon the WFSGI to come up with an industry wide benchmark, which will make it easier for smaller companies such as them to make progress. Dialogue with the international trade union ITGLWF, and other active companies and non-governmental organizations via the Fair Labor Association, has been further opened up.

Despite the progress, all sportswear companies are still nowhere near the finishing line. Stories of worker abuse and exploitation continue to emerge, linked to every sports brand.

What the 2004 Play Fair at the Olympics campaign did win is a general acceptance that current models of implementing codes of conduct have largely failed; they focus too much on corporate auditing and too little on freedom of association. We have pushed the sportswear industry – especially the powerful brands Nike, Reebok, Puma, Asics, Mizuno, Umbro, and Adidas - to begin discussing an industry-wide solution. Also some are accepting that they need to integrate their fair labor pledges into their purchasing practices in the global supply chain.

The CCC hopes that they seriously commit to this process. Beijing is less than four years away. 

Further reading...

**A more detailed matrix of company responses can be found at [www.fairolympics.org/en/actnow/table.htm](http://www.fairolympics.org/en/actnow/table.htm)**

**For a more complete summary of the achievements and disappointments of the campaign, see:**

**[www.fairolympics.org/en/gains.htm](http://www.fairolympics.org/en/gains.htm)**

**"From Athens to Beijing - a Programme of Work for the Sportswear Industry" can be found at:**

**[www.cleanclothes.org/campaign/olympics2004-07-08.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/campaign/olympics2004-07-08.htm)**



Below: Participants in the Fair Play at the Olympics Bike Tour along the bike route in Lucerne, Switzerland; (upper right) at the beginning of the tour, Leuven.



## Leuven to Athens 2004

Play Fair cycle tour across Europe

On July 30th, 27 Dutch and Belgian labor rights campaigners left the city of Leuven, Belgium, to cycle all the way to Athens, a distance of 2150 km., in just 13 days. Their route took them through Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, and Italy before arriving in Greece.

All along the way, they were met by campaigners, sportsmen and women, and local authorities, who successfully helped to raise the profile of Play Fair campaign. In Lucerne, Switzerland, the cyclists were greeted by a huge signpost encouraging them to keep going (only 1331 km left to Athens!). On arrival in Athens, they were met by the Belgian ambassador. ✂





# Asian "Workers' Olympics" celebrates solidarity, not competition

"Every day sportswear workers work as hard as any athlete in training. But instead of medals there are poverty wages, long working hours, and constant pressure to work faster.

Today we are competing for fun, but we are also saying that we object to our working lives being dominated by competition. Asian workers want to support each other, not compete."

- Sunee, a Thai sportswear worker

On August 8th, five days before the Olympic Opening Ceremony in Athens, over a thousand sportswear and garment workers and activists gathered in a stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. They came from seven Asian countries, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines, to take part in a "Workers' Solidarity Olympics."

Organized by the Thai Labour Campaign and the Asia Monitor Resource Centre, these were the first Worker Olympics since World War II and the first ever Asian Worker Olympics.

In Bangkok, workers lit their own Olympic flame, and competed in soccer and javelin events and labor rights quizzes. The event received strong media coverage, including in the Guardian newspaper (UK), the Hindustan Times (India), and the front page of the Bangkok Post.

During the following two days, the workers and activists shared stories of factory life and told each other about the many creative activities of the Play Fair campaign in their own countries. Indonesian participants announced they had collected over 1,000 signatures from sportswear workers for workers' rights. Groups in many countries had held exhibitions and rallies in garment production centres, and produced posters, buttons, leaflets, and other materials.

Many groups had contacted their national Olympic Committees and government officials, as well as sportswear brands. Some had done education work with athletes in their country. On the final day, there was a discussion of future campaigning activities. ✂

## World Snapshots

### Canada

In Vancouver, activists of the Maquila Solidarity Network and Oxfam awarded a gold medal to a local garment worker and member of the UNITE union, symbolizing the Olympic-like effort put in by garment workers everyday for little reward.

### Taiwan

On May Day 2004, a coalition of the Kaohsiung City Human Rights Association, the Taiwan Democratic Labour Party, the Taiwan Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Association, and the Institute of Industry and Labor Study gathered in front of the Kaohsiung City Hall to appeal for worker's rights in the sportswear industry.

### Australia

The Play Fair campaign put pressure on

John Coates, President of the Australian Olympic Committee and member of the IOC. Two Thai activists Premjai Jaikla (Yong) and former sweatshop worker Somphit Pongkhwa (Noi) went on tour, giving a first-hand account of conditions in Thai garment factories. Campaigners took public action in many locations. At the annual May Day parade in Fremantle, women campaigners stripped down and painted up their near-naked bodies in support of women workers in the global sportswear industry.

### Thailand

On May Day 2004, over 50,000 people joined in the biggest ever labor march in the country to ask the Olympics movement to respect the rights of workers, and in opposition to privatization.

### Ireland

Oxfam Ireland and the Irish trade unions ICTU and SIPTU jointly targeted the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI). The official supplier of the Irish Olympics Uniform is Asics. OCI President Patrick Hickey publicly accepted hundreds of postcards signed by campaigners, and showed willingness to discuss labor standards for OCI licensed goods. He promised to raise the issue within the IOC.

Among other activities, Oxfam volunteers made patches and added them to the "Olympics Quilt" that ended its international journey in Athens. Fair Play runners ran in the Women's Mini-Marathon in Dublin. ✂



At the end of the Alternative Torch Relay in Amsterdam, Dutch Play Fair activists stand by while the message "eis eerlijke sportkleding" (demand fair sportswear) burns in the Nieuwmarkt square June 22nd, the day before the arrival of the official Olympic torch.

## CCCs express their olympic spirit

Campaigners in many countries took part in the Play Fair campaign, using a variety of creative means to raise awareness. National Olympic committees and specific sportswear companies were targeted by the campaign's coalitions of NGOs and trade unions. Here are reports from just some of the countries involved.

### Netherlands

The Olympics campaign opened on March 4th with a parade through the streets of Amsterdam. A huge Greek God Zeus handed over the Play Fair research report to a representative of NOC\*NSF, the Dutch Olympics Committee.

There were many presentations at sports events, and meetings with individual sports associations. The NOC\*NSF made some

welcome commitments, for example to add a clause on labor rights into their sponsorship contract with Asics, and to ask the sport associations to consider doing the same. The campaign is following up on these verbal commitments.

The main company focus was Asics, sponsors of the Dutch Olympics team and whose European headquarters are in the Netherlands. Several meetings were held with the company.



Bringing the Play Fair message to Puma UK headquarters.

Some 30,000 signatures were collected, and as a result Asics has promised to work on transparency and to talk with the Fair Labor Association (see main text).

Later, attention turned also to Fila which was doing its best to ignore the campaign. 100,000 postcards were distributed at sports schools, targeting Fila with the slogan "FAIL on Fair Play." In late July there was a campaign action at Fila's importing office in Leusden.

Public awareness campaigning continued throughout the months. On June 22nd, with the official Olympic Torch due to arrive in Amsterdam the next day, campaigners held a "flame action" of their own and another parade through the streets. A month later, there was a public send-off in Utrecht for 30 cyclists going to Belgium to meet the cycle tour leaving for Athens. By August 19th, to coincide with the 100 meter swimming finals in Athens, a big screen was put up in the center of Amsterdam to show the finals as well as campaign videos.

## Belgium

As well as organizing the European cycle tour "Leuven to Athens 2004," the Belgian CCCs were very active in Play Fair. Local Oxfam groups held 300 local activities in a one-month

period after the campaign launch on March 27th, with street stalls, leafleting and gathering of signatures. The NGO World Solidarity set up a stage with three bands at the Mano Mundo music festival, attended by 40,000 people. Many local, regional and national events were held also with the two main trade union federations FGTB-ABVV and ACV-CSC.

Eventually the country's petition totalled 91,800 signatures. Half were handed to Guido de Bondt, Secretary General of the Belgian Olympics Committee (COIB) on September 29th. Prior to the Olympics two meetings were held with the COIB. The COIB has been impressed by the level of public support, and the campaign is expecting to meet with them again in early 2005.

The other 45,000-plus signatures were given to Fila Belgium. Despite actions in June and September, and contact with Fila International, Fila in Belgium remained closed to discussions.

Adidas, the official sponsor of the Belgian Olympic team, was specifically targeted over its purchasing practices. Recently, adidas agreed to increase the price paid per pair of sports shoes to its supplier Panarub in Indonesia to pay for better working conditions and respect for fundamental labor rights for the 10,000 workers there. Adidas now favors an industry-wide approach.





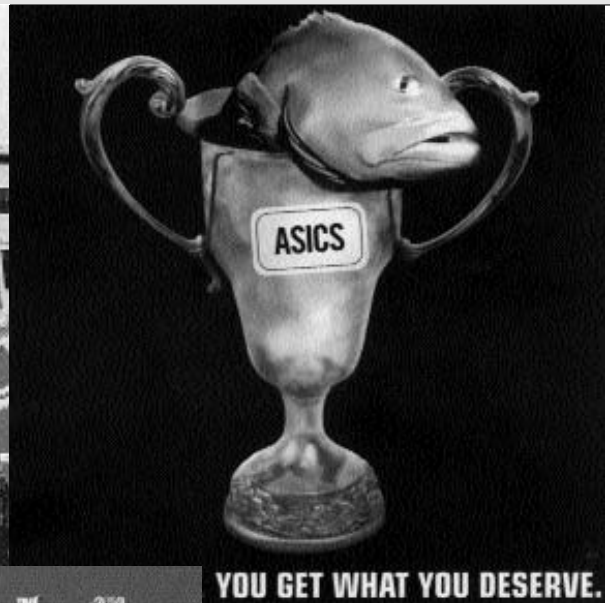
Extreme athlete Dietmar Muecke joins activists from CCC Germany member organization INKOTA at the Alternative Torch Relay demonstration in Berlin June 30th.

Another key activity by the Belgian campaign, hosted by Vêtements Propres was an international forum in Brussels in April. Field activists from Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, China, the US, and Europe were joined by representatives of the international trade union movement (Global Unions), NGOs, the Belgian Olympic Committee, adidas, and the employers' body, the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industries. Unfortunately, Fila and the International Olympics Committee declined to attend.

## Germany

Sonia Lara Campos of the National Labor Committee in El Salvador toured Germany in June, hosted by CIR, an NGO member of the German CCC. She visited 10 cities and towns in 14 days, and met with one of the country's regional parliaments, giving talks about the working conditions in supplier factories of adidas in her country.

One of Campos's presentations was made to a three-day action workshop organized by CCC member INKOTA-netzwerk and the Evangelische Akademie Meissen. As part of the workshop, CCC activists developed a play which they then performed as street theater in front of sportswear shops in Leipzig. Later the same month, there was a public performance at the Tanzfabrik in Berlin, and then again on June 30th as the Olympic Torch arrived in the city.



Materials from the Play Fair campaign in Swedish (above) and German (left)



To coincide with the official Olympic Torch Relay, INKOTA-netzwerk organized its own alternative torch relay. World champion Dietmar Micke, famous for his barefoot ultra-marathon running, led the way, inviting the public to join him in pounding the streets for fair working conditions. Other games included olympic ring throwing. Activists talked to the public and invited them to sign a letter to brand companies.

On 9 July, representatives from Oxfam, the trade union IG Metall, and the German CCC met with Bernhard Schwank, the General Secretary of the German Olympic Committee. Another meeting is planned for January 2005.

## Sweden

The Play Fair campaign in Sweden involved over 40 activities in nine different Swedish cities. There was a festival tour that went to three big music festivals, an action day on July 1st to coincide with the arrival of the Olympic torch, and street events in Malmö, Uppsala, Göteborg, and Falun.

In Umeå, Play Fair runners took part in a women's race, and all the participants received action cards to fill in. In all, 16,000 signatures were gathered in Sweden. Good media coverage lasted all through the campaign, with the press and TV approaching Swedish sportswear retailers for comment. The campaign intends to build on this in the future.

# PLAY FAIR AT THE OLYMPICS



CCC France supporters at the Play Fair demonstration June 24th in front of the Eiffel Tower, with 4.5 meter alternative Olympic torch in the background.

Team of runners supporting the Play Fair campaign at the 10km Women City Run in Berne, Switzerland June 13.



Photo: Daniela Auerbach



CCC activists use a fashion show to raise awareness of labor rights issues and the Play Fair campaign during a music festival in Sweden (left), French Play Fair materials (right).

## Switzerland

About 71 different groups undertook Play Fair activities across Switzerland. Leaflets in German, French and Italian were given out widely, for example at a May Day football tournament and other sports events in seven cities, and in shopping malls. There was also a presentation to a teachers' conference.

Almost 5200 signed the appeal to the IOC. In May, the Swiss Olympics Committee wrote to say they agreed with the aims of the campaign and a meeting is scheduled for February 2005.

Swiss-based companies approached were Intersport, Athleticum, Migros/Sport XX, and Dosenbach/Ochsner, with differing reactions but all with follow-up potential.

## UK

The Play Fair campaign in the UK focused on Umbro, a company not represented at the Olympics but heavily involved in football team and supporters' wear, and one highlighted in the "Play Fair" report for violations at its suppliers.

A tour by Neneng, a worker from an Umbro supplier in Indonesia, and Agung Hermawan of the Legal Aid Foundation in Bandung, West Java, included several trade union conferences and education seminars, as well as a meeting with Umbro in

London. As a result, Umbro has applied to join the Fair Labor Association, is working with Reebok on code implementation, and agreed to work with the international unions on workshops on freedom of association in Vietnam and China. However at press time there was still no evidence that Umbro had taken appropriate steps to address workers' grievances at some of their suppliers.

After lobbying, the British Olympic Association moved from not wanting "anything to do with this" to agreeing to meet the campaign and "look at contracts and at what needs to be changed to improve the conditions." The British Parliament voted in support of the campaign. The support base of Labour Behind the Label (the UK CCC) grew by about 17% during the campaign!

## Austria

CCC Austria launched their campaign on March 4th, with an action in front of the office of the Austrian Olympic Committee





Activists from Rena Kläder (CCC Sweden) on the streets of Stockholm in conjunction with the arrival of the Olympic torch.

(AOC). With a sewing machine and a lot of sewing machines noise, five people in campaign-shirts formed the Olympic logo to get media attention for the campaign.

After they presented the Olympic research report to the AOC, the president agreed to meet with campaign representatives the following week. The accompanying press release won the campaign support from the Social Democratic and Green political parties. The Greens brought the campaign's demands (mainly targeting Asics, adidas, and the IOC/AOC) to the attention of the Austrian Parliament.

Furthermore, a lot of running for the cause went on. On May 16th, a special Clean Clothes Campaign-team ran the Vienna City Marathon, which drew a lot of attention from the public and the media. The following month, the campaign turned its attention to the Austrian womens run. They managed to cooperate with the race director and all 8,000 female runners received a CCC flyer in their "starter bags" (in addition to shower gels, cereals, Nike info, etc.). This was a great success and lots of people came to the CCC stand to get informed and sign the petition.

## France

On June 24th, in front of the Eiffel tower, a 3-hour-long demonstration took place in Paris. With posters, a 4.5 meter high "alternative" Olympic flame, music, clothes on washing lines, and public races, the attention of the public was drawn to the central question: "Olympics made in human rights?" The day after, while the Olympic torch passed through the city, on the Pont des Arts (Arts bridge) many people protested by wearing T-shirts asking the same question.

In France, more than 300 actions were organized locally in the context of the Olympics campaign, from conferences, debates, and video screenings to sports competitions, barefooted walks and information stalls at numerous occasions. More than 100,000 signatures were collected.



## Athens "Sew-In"

For a while on August 10th, an Athens hotel rooftop overlooking the Acropolis became a sportswear factory. Women worked behind sewing machines, wearing masks to draw attention to the fact that the working lives of women who make sportswear are usually hidden from public attention. Engin Kaya Sedat from Turkey and Parkati from Indonesia described conditions in sportswear production in their countries.

The campaign had hoped to present the petition of over 550,000 signatures gathered worldwide to the International Olympic Committee in Athens. However, they turned down the opportunity. So the signatures were presented to the public, via the rooftop media event.

The event gained significant press and media coverage around the world. A picture of the stunt was the main photo of the week on the BBC website.

The next day, an event celebrating the worldwide Play Fair campaign was held on a hilltop overlooking the Acropolis. Photos from campaign events were attached to 2-meter high Olympic rings in front of giant letters which spelled the words "Play Fair." A newsletter in Greek was distributed in Athens in the days before the Games opened.

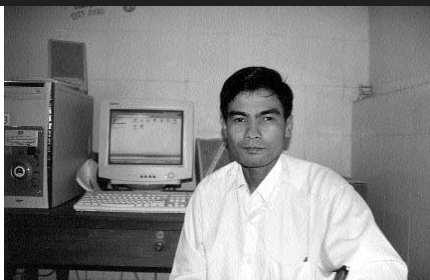
Also featured at the hilltop event was a quilt made up of imaginative and colorful patches depicting labor abuses of sportswear workers throughout the world. Individual patches had been made by hand by garment workers in Thailand, Indonesia, Honduras, and Morocco, as well as campaign supporters including athletes in Australia, Ireland, and Spain.



August 10th sew-in at temporary "factory" in Athens







Chea Vichea

## Assassinations in Cambodia

Cambodia has seen a series of murders of leading opposition and trade union figures. Among them are Chea Vichea, outspoken leader of the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia (FTUWKC), and Ros Sovannareth, union president at the Try Nonga Komara Garment Factory.

Chea Vichea, 36, was shot in the head and chest on January 1st 2004, while reading a newspaper at a busy kiosk in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. He died of his wounds on the spot after his assailants fled on a motorcycle. He is survived by his wife and two young children. As well as a trade union leader, Vichea was a founding member of the main opposition Sam Rainsy party which strongly criticizes the Hun Sen government. He left the party to focus on his union work but maintained close links with it.

"Chea Vichea did a lot of work defending the rights of garment workers and this incident is an attempt to threaten those who protect those rights," Kem Sokha, head of the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, told reporters. The procession that accompanied Vichea's coffin on January 25th involved 10,000 people, many of them garment workers, led by Buddhist monks.

Almost a year earlier, in April 2003, the FTUWKC had lodged a complaint with the Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) after the INSM Garment Factory in Phnom Penh

dismissed Vichea, the FTUWKC General Secretary, and 30 other members as a reprisal for helping to establish a trade union at the company. Then in September, Vichea won an appeal court case against the head of security at the Vinstar garment factory, who had physically attacked Vichea when he was distributing leaflets inviting workers to a May Day rally.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) immediately condemned the killing of Vichea and filed an official complaint with the International Labor Organization (ILO). The ICFTU says that Vichea had received several death threats, one via a text message on his cell phone saying that he should be "killed like a dog." Vichea apparently went into hiding a number of times due to these threats. He was also reportedly denied police protection.

Two men were arrested on January 28th in connection with Vichea's murder. One has denied involvement in the murder and the other reportedly confessed. Chea Vichea's brother and various NGOs believe that these suspects are not those responsible for Vichea's murder.

In subsequent months, other FTUWKC members received threats and came under pressure to switch to pro-government unions. Then on May 7th, Ros Sovannareth was murdered by two people. He was a mechanic at the Try Nonga Komara Garment Factory, where he was also the union president. In this case too, a suspect has been detained but CCC contacts in Phnom Penh are calling this an "artificial" suspect.

Pressure is being put on the Prime Minister of Cambodia for an impartial investigation into these killings, and the arrest and conviction of the killers and those who organized the killings.

**As these are on-going cases, please see the CCC website for latest details: [www.cleanclothes.org/appeals.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/appeals.htm).**

Additional reading

The text of the ICFTU Complaint to the ILO can be found at: [www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991218896](http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991218896)

An ICFTU report on the future of the Cambodian garment industry can be found at: [www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991218894](http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991218894) 

## Violations in Indian textile mills

Employers of the textile mills in Vedasanthur, India, are earning good profits from the export of yarn. But their industry is characterized by the use of forced overtime, child labor, and the denial of fundamental union rights. The CCC Task Force – Tamil Nadu has been calling for pressure on the region's public authorities to ensure that workers' rights are respected.

An estimated 950 children are employed in the Vedasanthur cotton mills. In some of the mills, which are located in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu state, workers, including child workers, are beaten with sticks as a punishment or to keep them working at a fast pace. Old machinery is in use and conditions are so unsafe that fingers are often cut, sometimes even amputated. Fine cotton dust in the air affects the workers' breathing.

Information gathered by local unions (CITU and others) and an NGO called HOPE, reveals a wide range of abuses.

A woman worker from one of the Vedasanthur spinning mills photographed in front of her home with her two children.





A worker from one of the Vedasanthur spinning mills at an interview with researchers in 2004.

Vedasanthur workers are regularly denied their right to free association. Of the 167 cotton mills in Dindigul, only 56 allow trade unions. One obstacle is that trade unions have been banned from conducting gate meetings in front of the mills. The unions say such meetings are vital as the only opportunity for workers who are drawn from scattered villages to meet together. But mill owners have obtained a stay from the Munsif Vedasanthur District Court that prevents workers from assembling in a radius of 300 meters of the mill gate.

Workers report that employers will dismiss them if they try to form or join trade unions, and they will be placed on a blacklist and unable to obtain work in the region. Several workers have been beaten up and dismissed for their organizing efforts.

Sometimes experienced workers are forced to resign, and then have no option but to get a job at another mill at beginner's wages. Some who have worked at the mills for as long as three years are still categorized as "temporary." Wages are below the legal minimum. They are regularly denied benefits to which they are legally entitled, such as the Employees State Insurance (ESI), Provident Fund (a social security retirement system into which both workers and employers make contributions), and paid maternity leave. Standards of nutrition and housing are very poor.

The CCC Task Force – Tamil Nadu is made up of 30 NGOs and seven trade unions working on labor rights issues in the region. They have

requested letters to the Tamil Nadu public authorities to push for improvements.

**For more information on conditions in Vedasanthur spinning mills or to send a message of concern to the Tamil Nadu state government please visit the CCC website: [www.cleanclothes.org/urgent/04-03-22.php](http://www.cleanclothes.org/urgent/04-03-22.php)** ✂

## Partial victory for Indonesian garment workers

In February 2004, the PT Sarasa Nugraha factory at Balaraja in Indonesia announced that it was closing down. The workers, who produced for Polo Ralph Lauren amongst others, had demanded the annual wage increase provided for in their collective bargaining agreement. By mid-October, pressure on buyers and management resulted in an agreement to re-open the factory.

Within hours of a half-day stoppage in February in protest against closure of the factory, workers found civil paramilitary groups and vigilantes preventing them from entering their factory and helping the movement of factory assets to another site owned by PT Sarasa Nugraha. Over 1650 workers came under pressure to accept a fraction of the legal severance pay due to them.

International pressure was put on PT Sarasa clients, including Polo Ralph Lauren, The Limited, Jones New York, and Kohl's Department Stores in the US to

push for a just resolution to this dispute. Apparently as a result of the pressure from buyers and the public, Sarasa management returned to the negotiating table. In October an agreement was worked out to reopen the factory, with new investment, and to take back 800 of the workers. The CCC is pleased that complete closure of the Balaraja Unit has been avoided and that 800 workers have been promised reinstatement. However, the agreement falls short of Indonesian legal standards and a verdict of Indonesia's Central Labor Court.

Legally, the 800 workers should be rehired with their previous seniority levels and without a three-month trial period. 200 workers who accepted termination should get a severance package consistent with the Central Labour Court's verdict. All should get five months' back wages. The employees' bargaining committee decided not to press further for the rights of those who accepted the 25% severance package. Returning workers are also concerned for their daily transportation to and from the factory, formerly provided by PT Sarasa. Many live far from the Balaraja plant and would have to pay up to 50% of their daily wage if transport is not provided.

Continued monitoring of the situation will be needed to ensure that management lives up to the promises made in October, and that in the future union rights will be respected at PT Sarasa factories. The factory is scheduled to re-open in January 2005. Should additional pressure be needed to push management to follow up on their agreement with the workers, requests for action will be posted on the CCC's website. ✂



# The Multifiber Arrangement Comes to an End

Understanding the Impact of  
the Quota Phase-Out

The Multifiber Arrangement (MFA) has governed world trade in garments and textiles for thirty years. Now the industry is being brought in line with the "free trade" rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). A 10-year phase-out period (under the ATC international agreement) expires on January 1st 2005. Changes in the industry worldwide are anticipated.

The MFA provided the basis by which the industrialized countries of the US, Canada, and the European Union restricted imports from developing countries. Quotas were negotiated each year on a country-by-country basis, saying how many of each specified item could be exported from each country to find their markets in the developed countries.

Even though the MFA had many critics in the developing world, it provided a kind of stability, and the quotas were an important reason why the industry grew in certain countries. With the lure of the quotas gone, the industry in some countries may go under.

There is a particularly gloomy forecast for Bangladesh for example, an estimated 1.8 million people, mostly women, today work in the garment industry, and garment exports represent nearly 80% of the country's hard-currency earnings. Without the attraction of its quotas, it's predicted that Bangladesh will not be able to compete with countries such as China. Some analysts are predicting "social catastrophe."

Below are some of the resources available on the MFA phase-out:

SOMO Bulletin on Issues in  
Garments and Textiles

No.5, April 2004

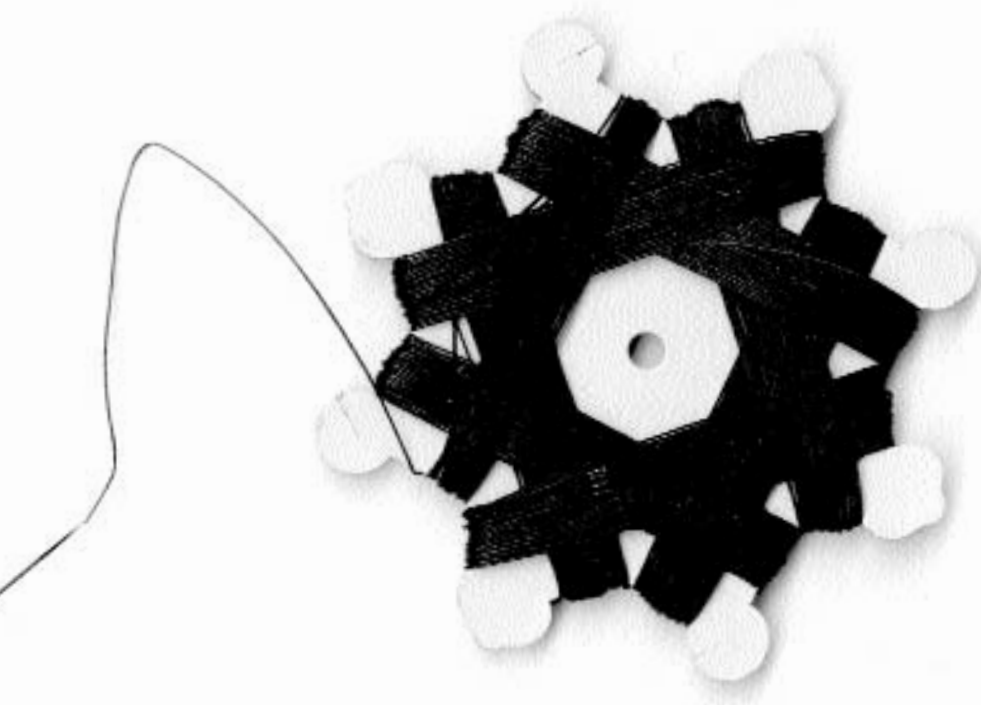
This is a special double edition on the MFA phase-out of a bi-monthly on-line bulletin produced by SOMO (the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations) in 2004. It explains the quota system, the phase-out plan, and government reactions. It gives projections for what the global trade in garment and textiles may look like without the MFA, including brief country impact studies (Bangladesh, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka), and the impact on workers, particularly job losses. The bulletin reports on the idea that countries can compete by finding ethical consumer markets if they raise their labor and environmental standards. Elsewhere, there will be a need for large-scale retraining programs for garment workers, especially millions of women, who are predicted to lose jobs. There is a full list of references for further reading.

Available at:

[www.somo.nl/html/paginas/pdf/5\\_Phase-out\\_multifiber\\_arrangement\\_2004\\_EN.pdf](http://www.somo.nl/html/paginas/pdf/5_Phase-out_multifiber_arrangement_2004_EN.pdf)

E-mail: [info@somo.nl](mailto:info@somo.nl)





*“Assessing the Impact of the Phasing Out of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on Apparel Exports on the Least Developed and Developing Countries”*

**By Richard Appelbaum**

**Centre for Global Studies, University of California, Berkeley, May 2004, to be published by UNCTAD, early 2005**

Produced in part for Sweatshop Watch (US), this comprehensive study reviews the current global textile and garment trade, and the future of the industry in the poorest countries. Its country studies focus on Africa, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South Asia. Much useful data is given, for example, on comparative wages rates, the top importers and exporters, China's comparative advantages, and so on. It includes the growing role of the large retailers and major producers in the global industry, and a review of policy options.

A draft version is available at:  
[www.sweatshopwatch.org/global/appelbaum\\_5\\_10\\_04.pdf](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/global/appelbaum_5_10_04.pdf)  
E-mail: [rich@isber.ucsb.edu](mailto:rich@isber.ucsb.edu)

**Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)**

ICCR is taking a campaigning approach to the MFA phase-out. It is calling on investors and consumers to write to textile and apparel companies and urge them to provide information on their phase-out plans. What disruptions to their supply chains are they anticipating, and how do they intend to mitigate any dislocation of workers in their sourcing factories?

**Campaign materials include a sample letter and set of information resources are available at:**

[www.iccr.org/issues/css/featured.php](http://www.iccr.org/issues/css/featured.php)  
E-mail Rev. David Schilling at:  
[dschilling@iccr.org](mailto:dschilling@iccr.org)

**Fact sheet on the MFA phase-out:**

[www.iccr.org/issues/css/mfa\\_factsheet.htm](http://www.iccr.org/issues/css/mfa_factsheet.htm)

**Country reports indicating how the MFA phase-out will affect Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Mexico, Central America, Guatemala, Africa, UAE, Cambodia, and Vietnam:**

[www.iccr.org/news/press\\_releases/countryresponsestomfaphaseout.PDF](http://www.iccr.org/news/press_releases/countryresponsestomfaphaseout.PDF)

**Summary of trade union and NGO responses to the MFA phase-out:**  
[www.iccr.org/news/press\\_releases/unionresponsetomfaphaseout.PDF](http://www.iccr.org/news/press_releases/unionresponsetomfaphaseout.PDF)

**Disaster Looms with the End of the Quota System**

“The textile and clothing sector is set to experience a revolution on 1 January 2005” including “the loss of millions of jobs in countries which are already some of the poorest in the world,” according to this report published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in November 2004. Focusing on the impact of the quota phase-out and unfair competition from China, the report examines the outlook for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mauritius, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, whose economic development has been largely based on the textiles and garment industry. The impact on countries of the EU, US, and Canada is also explored.

**Available at:**

[www.icftu.org/www/PDF/rapporttextilEOK.pdf](http://www.icftu.org/www/PDF/rapporttextilEOK.pdf)



*“Global Game for Cuffs and Collars: The Phase-Out of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing Aggravates Social Divisions”*

**By Sabine Ferenschild and Ingeborg Wick SÜDWIND Institut für Ökonomie und Ökumene, and Ökumenisches Netz Rhein Mosel Saar, Germany, July 2004 ISBN 3-929704-26-9**

This booklet from the Southwind Institute (a member of the German Clean Clothes Campaign) analyses the development of the textile and clothing trade in the framework of GATT and the WTO. It looks at the main actors involved, and presents a series of country case studies (China, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the European Union) as well as proposals for action.

Available in German, English, and soon Spanish. English version can be found at:  
[www.suedwind-institut.de/Downloads/global-game-2004.pdf](http://www.suedwind-institut.de/Downloads/global-game-2004.pdf)  
E-mail: [info@suedwind-institut.de](mailto:info@suedwind-institut.de)



# RESOURCES

**FLA Second Annual Report**  
The Fair Labor Association's latest annual report (August 2004) contains progress reports on labor compliance programs from its 25 member companies, including Reebok's footwear compliance program (the first program accredited by the organization). Also included are the FLA's findings during the second year of monitoring (2003) in which FLA-accredited monitors conducted 110 independent monitoring visits to company supplier factories in 20 countries. It pays particular attention to the issue of freedom of association, and includes case studies of third-party complaints received by the FLA in 2003.

**Available at:**  
[www.fairlabor.org/2004report](http://www.fairlabor.org/2004report)  
**E-mail:** [annelally@fairlabor.org](mailto:annelally@fairlabor.org)



**ETI: Two New Reports**  
In June 2004, a roundtable organized by the Ethical Trading Initiative (UK) discussed purchasing practices and their impact on suppliers' ability to uphold international labor standards. Over 40 ETI member companies, including staff from buying departments, joined a further 30 from non-member companies, NGOs, trade unions, consultants, and ETI secretariat staff.

**The roundtable report on purchasing practices is available at:**  
[www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/lib/2004/07/rt-purprac/index.shtml](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/lib/2004/07/rt-purprac/index.shtml)

In May 2003, the NGO caucus of the ETI organized a consultation with participants from 18 organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. The aim was to obtain feedback on ETI activities, particularly from organizations of the South.

**The consultation report is available in English and Spanish at:**  
[www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/events/conf/index.shtml#voices](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/events/conf/index.shtml#voices)  
**E-mail:** [eti@eti.org.uk](mailto:eti@eti.org.uk)



**Guide on Campaigning for Homeworkers' Rights**  
"Campaigns at Work: A guide to campaigning for homeworke organisations, unions, campaign groups and activists" by Annie Delaney is a very practical booklet recently published by HomeWorkers Worldwide in 2004. Its focus is on assisting campaigning in ways that improve the visibility and organization of homeworkers themselves.

**Available at:**  
[www.homeworkersww.org.uk/resources.htm](http://www.homeworkersww.org.uk/resources.htm)  
**E-mail:** [info@homeworkers.org.uk](mailto:info@homeworkers.org.uk)

**Olympics International Forum Report**  
As part of the Fair Play at the Olympics campaign, an international forum was organized by the Belgian Clean Clothes Campaign in Brussels on April 21st-22nd 2004. (See Belgium country brief in this edition).

**A report of the forum is available in French and English at:**  
[www.vetementspropres.be](http://www.vetementspropres.be)  
**Email:** [info@vetementspropres.be](mailto:info@vetementspropres.be)



**MSN Codes Memo**  
The most recent Codes Memo of the Maquila Solidarity Network (Canada), published in July 2004, is a special issue on labor standards reporting. It takes a close look at some of the Fair Labor Association's projects, as well as recent trends in company corporate social responsibility reports, including analyses of the recent reports of Gap, adidas, and several Canadian retailers. Also profiled are new resources on CSR reporting.

**Available at:**  
[www.maquilasolidarity.org/resources/codes/memo17.htm](http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/resources/codes/memo17.htm)  
**E-mail:** [info@maquilasolidarity.org](mailto:info@maquilasolidarity.org)



**Analysis of Fiji Garment Industry**  
Oxfam New Zealand's new report "The Fiji Garment Industry" analyzes the

industry's fragile situation in Fiji, and calls on the New Zealand government to take urgent action to keep it alive in the face of the imminent loss of crucial trade preference arrangements with Australia.

Available at:

[www.oxfam.org.nz/media/Oxfam%20Fiji%20Garment%20Study.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/media/Oxfam%20Fiji%20Garment%20Study.pdf)  
E-mail: [oxfam@oxfam.org.nz](mailto:oxfam@oxfam.org.nz)



#### CSR Conference Report

In November 2003, UNRISD held a two-day conference in Geneva entitled "Corporate Social Responsibility: Towards a New Agenda?" Two hundred participants and over 20 speakers from a range of United Nations, NGO, and academic institutions contributed in three thematic sessions: "CSR and Development," "New Relations with TNCs" (including multi-stakeholder and UN-business partnerships), and "Beyond Corporate Social Responsibility? Alternative Approaches and Proposals."

The edition of Conference News reporting on this event is available at: [www.unrisd.org](http://www.unrisd.org)  
E-mail: [info@unrisd.org](mailto:info@unrisd.org)



**Report on Lian Thai Apparel**  
This factory in Bangkok, Thailand, has produced university-logoed goods for Nike, and sportswear for several other brands including Puma. Following a complaint from Lian Thai workers, the Workers' Rights Consortium (US) investigated and identified significant worker rights violations. Despite early reluctance, factory management is now in constructive discussions with worker representatives. The WRC inquiry also examined alleged violations at two Lian Thai subsidiaries. Both have since been sold, and there are unresolved issues over compensation due to workers.

A full report is available at: [www.workersrights.org/Lian\\_Thai\\_Report.pdf](http://www.workersrights.org/Lian_Thai_Report.pdf)  
E-mail: [wrc@workersrights.org](mailto:wrc@workersrights.org)



#### Garment Workers Seminar at World Social Forum

At the fourth WSF in Mumbai, India, in January 2004, CCC joined forces with the Centre for Education and Communication (CEC, India), Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE, India), the Thai Labour Campaign, and We in the Zone (Sri Lanka) to host a seminar on organizing garment workers. The seminar included three international panels that focused on the challenges of organizing migrant workers, gender issues and worker organizing, and international

campaigning to support worker organizing.

The seminar report *Experiences in Organising Garment Workers* is available at: [www.cleanclothes.org/news/04-wsf.htm](http://www.cleanclothes.org/news/04-wsf.htm)  
E-mail: [info@cleanclothes.org](mailto:info@cleanclothes.org)



#### Research Manual Available from WWW

"Action Research on Garment Industry Supply Chains is a useful manual to guide research compiled by Women Working Worldwide in 2003 as part of its project, "The Rights of Workers in Garment Industry Subcontracting Chains." It has sections on understanding and tracing supply chains, and on how to analyse and present information. The appendices provide suggestions for useful internet sites and for questions to ask workers and others.

Available at: [www.cleanclothes.org/ftp/03-www-action\\_Research.pdf](http://www.cleanclothes.org/ftp/03-www-action_Research.pdf)

Also in the same series, "Garment Industry Supply Chains: a resource for worker education and solidarity," provides educational materials for garment workers, based on modules developed by WWW partners in Asia. For now, this can be ordered in hardcopy via WWW but is expected online soon.

E-mail: [info@women-ww.org](mailto:info@women-ww.org)