



# SWEATSHOP

# WATCH

Connecting you to  
worker struggles in the  
garment industry!

Fall 2003 Vol. 9, No. 3

## Globalization Threatens Garment Workers

The collapse of the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting signals a ray of hope for workers across the globe. Developing nations demonstrated a united front and successfully challenged the bullying of the U.S. and European Union on agricultural and other issues. Nonetheless, a difficult fight still lies ahead for the world's farm workers, as well as the world's garment workers.

The textile and apparel industries are vital parts of the world economy, providing employment to tens of millions of mostly women workers in nearly 200 countries. For the past 30 years, a complex quota system has governed global textile and apparel trade, valued at US\$344 billion. The elimination of this quota system in 2005 portends disaster for garment workers in the U.S. and worldwide, as complete free trade in apparel will cause massive job losses in many countries and accelerate the "race to the bottom" in wages and working conditions.

In 1974, the United States, Europe and Canada adopted the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) and imposed import quotas to protect their domestic industries. Quotas limit the amount of textiles and apparel that can be imported into these countries. Developing countries that rely on garment exports for jobs and foreign exchange earnings demanded the removal of quotas to gain greater access to large American and European markets. A decade ago, the countries that created the WTO established

the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), which phases out all quotas on textiles and apparel over ten years, eliminating quotas altogether on December 31, 2004.



Korean farmers, carrying rope, march to take down WTO barricades in Cancún. Photo by Arnoldo García, 2003.

### Workers in the U.S. and Smaller Developing Countries Will Suffer

The U.S. garment industry has already been devastated by free trade policies, losing 450,000 jobs since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994. What prevented the rest of the industry from leaving the U.S. were the worldwide quotas. Some studies project that only half of the country's apparel jobs will remain after 2005. As a result, the jobs of 50,000 California and 15,000 New York garment workers, primarily Latina and Asian immigrant women, are in jeopardy.

Apparel corporations like The Gap and Levi-Strauss will soon stop producing their garments in as many as 50 countries at a time. The elimination of quotas in 2005 will allow apparel retailers and garment manufacturers to consolidate production in fewer countries,

most likely in those countries offering the lowest labor costs, most efficient production (including textile production), and most developed transportation and telecommunications infrastructure.

The traditional giants of textile and apparel – China, India and Pakistan – and the upcoming Vietnam have the competitive advantage in all these areas. As the quota phase out nears its completion, where production is now being

continued on page 3...

## TAKE A PEEK:

2

Member Profile

3

Globalization

4

Tarrant México -  
Ajaltan Campaign

5

Burma Update

6

Workforce  
Development

7

Campaign Updates/  
Resources

## Member Profile: Asian Law Caucus

The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) is a founding member of Sweatshop Watch. The mission of the ALC is to promote, advance and represent the legal and civil rights of the Asian Pacific American communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities continue to exist in the United States, the ALC is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of society with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The Asian Law Caucus is the nation's oldest legal and civil rights organization serving the low-income Asian Pacific American communities. The practice of law at the ALC has never involved simply representing clients in court. Since beginning in 1972, the model of individual and community empowerment has been a multifaceted one, combining legal representation, community education, organizing, media, and policy advocacy. Each of these strategies works in tandem to serve the broader goal of empowering Asian Pacific Americans.

The ALC has strived to defend and empower the Asian Pacific American community through a three-pronged strategy of (1) community education and advocacy, (2) provision of direct legal services, and (3) strategic impact litigation.

The ALC holds 6-8 free legal clinics every month in the areas of labor/employment, immigration, and housing. The Asian Law Caucus currently employs a staff of 15 with six attorneys and three paralegal/community organizers focused in the areas of labor/employment, housing, immigration and immigrant rights..

The Asian Law Caucus is at the forefront of labor and employment issues, and has fought to ensure garment workers win justice in the Bay Area. Currently they are representing 20 garment workers in a claim against San Francisco factory G.N.T., Inc; and manufacturers R.E.I, Biscotti and Bellwether, all of whom were contracting with G.N.T. when they abruptly closed their doors in April 2002. ALC will utilize California's Assembly Bill 633, signed into law in 1999, which holds manufacturers responsible for abuses that occur in the factories they contract with. Damages for unpaid wages are approximately \$120,000, as workers contend they were paid below minimum wage, denied overtime payments and left with up to six months of unpaid wages.

The ALC, along with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles, is an affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington, D.C.



Rosaline Chan, Long Li, Joannie Chang, Ngan Chun Kuang Yee, Phillip Chiu at the G.N.T workers press conference. Photo courtesy of Asian Law Caucus, 2003.

## Sweatshop Watch Staff Transitions

This Fall marks several staff transitions for Sweatshop Watch.

- ❖ We said farewell to Program Coordinator **Marissa Nuncio**, who started law school at Loyola University. Marissa joined Sweatshop Watch 3 years ago. She played a critical role in opening our Los Angeles office, coordinating our policy and public education work, and supporting the formation of the Garment Worker Center. Her contributions were invaluable. We miss her and can't wait to work with her again in the summers when she interns with us!
- ❖ We also welcomed **Karin Mak** as our New Voices Fellow/Globalization Project Coordinator. Karin has a strong social justice and media arts background, and speaks Mandarin and Cantonese. She most recently worked with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. She previously volunteered with the Garment Worker Center, and has participated in our educational workshops all year, so she already feels like part of the family. We look forward to collaborating with Karin to build our Globalization Project by addressing the needs of displaced garment workers in Los Angeles and building stronger solidarity links with our international allies.
- ❖ Soon, we will say good-bye to Co-Director **Victor Narro**, who will become Project Director for the UCLA Labor Center where he will focus on economic development projects, which will benefit immigrant workers. Victor won't be far and will rejoin our Board of Directors. We thank Victor for his leadership and coalition-building. We've achieved several important policy victories under his leadership, despite a challenging political and economic climate, and we've strengthened our network of supporters.
- ❖ Sweatshop Watch has appointed **Nikki Fortunato Bas** the Executive Director, and is seeking an **Associate Director**. Please visit our web site <[www.sweatshopwatch.org](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org)> for a job announcement.

## Globalization continued from page 1...

shifted confirms the smaller developing countries' fears that China, India and Pakistan may get the lion's share of global apparel production. For example, quotas on brassieres and baby clothes have already been phased out. After the lifting of quotas on brassieres, China's exports into the U.S. rose 232%. After the removal of quotas on baby clothes, China's exports surged 826% while those from Bangladesh fell 18% and from the Philippines 17%.

Smaller developing countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and the Dominican Republic fear that there may be little or nothing left of their apparel industries after 2005. Bangladesh is faced with a potential loss of one million jobs, as is Indonesia.

### A Call for Action

As 2005 draws near and with the dawning realization of the impact on their apparel industries, some developing countries are calling for extending the quotas. The U.S. garment workers union, Unite, and the Brussels-based International Textile, Garment & Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF) are also calling for extension of quotas and/or restrictions on dominant suppliers such as China. The U.S. textile industry, fearing that a surge of imports from China will decimate the domestic industry is calling for the same. But the WTO agreement to eliminate quotas explicitly prohibits any extensions. All 148 WTO member countries will have to agree to renegotiation. With China, India and Pakistan poised to benefit from total quota phase out, it is doubtful that consensus can be reached.

Indeed, during the WTO Ministerial Conference in September, proposals fell short of an explicit call for extending quotas. Led by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the world's largest union body, the labor movement called on the WTO to conduct an urgent review of the impact of the quota phase out on development sustainability, employment and working conditions for the tens of millions of apparel and textile workers. Such a review should look at the assistance needed by emerging and fragile apparel and textile industries to cope with the challenges of unregulated competition.

Should the quotas be extended to protect the smaller developing countries? Should restrictions be placed on countries like China to prevent U.S. apparel firms from moving production from the smaller developing countries? What about protection for U.S. garment workers? There are no easy answers. At the moment, the decision as to which workers will lose out and which will benefit from the quota phase out is left entirely to American and European apparel firms whose only concern is the bottom line.

### Reforms for U.S. Immigrant Garment Workers

Despite continuing job loss due to free trade, the U.S. government has failed to adequately provide for displaced workers, particular immigrants. As the U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act, amendments must be passed to assist limited English proficient persons in accessing job

training and benefits. New workforce development programs must also be created to assist displaced garment workers in finding stable, living wage jobs, particularly programs with alternative sources of funding which do not exclude undocumented workers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. garment industry has been slow to make itself more competitive in the global environment. California, the nation's largest garment production center, has failed to take action to address job loss due to free trade, and New York is just beginning to discuss the survival of its declining garment industry.

A new report by the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI), titled "NYC's Garment Industry Today: A New Look," touts the importance of garment manufacturing jobs to the city's economy and promotes five competitive approaches for manufacturers and contractors. The report states that each \$1 million of apparel production represents 16.2 direct and support jobs. Each apparel job also creates another 1.5 jobs. FPI's ideas for revitalizing the New York City apparel industry may also benefit other garment production centers. The suggestions include: improving production capabilities, increasing the availability of short-cycle production, developing flexible retailing, integrating design and production and increasing export capacity.

California's apparel industry produces over \$13 billion in products each year, and exports more than \$1 billion in goods. The time has come for policy makers to address the devastating impacts of free trade on immigrant workers and the economy.

### A Fair Global Trading System

The current public debate on the future of the apparel and textile industries points an accusatory finger at China as the "big winner" in the global economy. This fails to address the root problems of economic globalization and growing corporate power; and it fails to address the widespread labor and human rights abuses of Chinese workers. Continued demonizing of China has the potential to recreate the racist dialogue preceding China's entry into the WTO, which led to the scapegoating of Chinese and other immigrant workers in the U.S. for the economic problems caused by globalization.

The elimination of apparel and textile quotas raises the question of 'What is a fair global trading system?' The imminent economic threats of the quota phase out, coupled with the recent failure of the WTO, provide an important opportunity for dialogue and debate about fair trade. In addition, the shift of millions of apparel and textile jobs to China creates an urgency to discussing trade and labor rights—among developing countries who will lose jobs to China, as well as among labor activists in developed countries.

For more information and a discussion paper on globalization and the apparel industry, visit [www.sweatshopwatch.org/global](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/global) or call 510-834-8990.

# Garment Workers Struggle for Independent Union Tarrant México – Ajalpan Campaign

The state of Puebla in central Mexico has been a hot-bed of independent union organizing since the workers of the Kukdong (now Mexmode) factory won the first collective bargaining agreement by an independent union in Mexico's maquiladoras. The latest organizing drive is led by more than 700 garment workers at the Tarrant México – Ajalpan factory. The workers are seeking recognition of their independent union, SUITTAR (Sindicato Único Independiente de Trabajadores de la Empresa Tarrant México), as well as reinstatement of over 150 workers illegally dismissed from the factory.

The Tarrant México - Ajalpan factory opened in 1999 and employs roughly 1,000 workers. The majority of the workforce is women, many of whom are single mothers. The average wage at the factory is 400 to 700 pesos a week (US\$40 – 70). Workers labor from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and endure verbal abuse and sexual harassment. The production goals are unreachable, and workers face salary reductions for failure to make these quotas. The factory has produced several big-name brands including Levi's, Tommy Hilfiger, Limited, Express, Mossimo, American Eagle, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Walmart, Wet Seal, Polo/Ralph Lauren, and Kmart.

The current labor dispute began on June 10 when more than 800 workers held a work stoppage to protest working conditions and to demand their profit sharing, which is mandatory under Mexican law for all profitable companies operating for more than one year. That same day, workers elected eight leaders to a Negotiating Coalition to negotiate their demands. On July 16, these eight leaders were illegally fired and two of them were pressured to sign dismissal papers. SUITTAR is demanding that the six other workers be reinstated and contend that numerous acts of harassment have been inflicted on the workers to suppress their organizing. To date, over 150 workers have been illegally fired.

SUITTAR is demanding that Tarrant obey Mexican law, stop illegally dismissing workers, reinstate all who have been dismissed, and recognize the workers' independent union. SUITTAR has affiliated over 700 workers, and on August 7 it filed for recognition as a union with the Local Conciliation and Arbitration Board (JLCA, or Junta Local de Conciliación y Arbitraje). The JLCA has until October 6 to recognize SUITTAR. Following a protest by SUITTAR at the offices of Puebla State Governor Melquíades Morales Flores and Tarrant México, the JLCA hearing on the workers' reinstatement was moved up from December 6 to October 15.

However, the workers cannot rely on the Mexican government for the recognition of their independent union or the timely reinstatement of dismissed workers.

International pressure is needed to push the factory to obey Mexican law and to press the brands, including Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger, to enforce their codes of conduct.

Tarrant Apparel Group (TAG) and its affiliates have failed to respect Mexican law, recognize the independent union or respond to the labor crisis. Instead, CEO Gerard Guez has transferred ownership of the factory to his brother Hubert Guez. This shifting of assets and titles is viewed by SUITTAR as an attempt to shield Tarrant and its affiliates from responsibility.

Levi-Strauss and Tommy Hilfiger are among the major brands whose clothing is being produced at the factory. Tommy Hilfiger has failed to provide any information concerning its response to the situation and may be "cutting and running" by ending its business with the factory and ignoring the labor violations. Levi's has contacted Tarrant to request that the factory cooperate with a Levi's investigation. The new management at the factory has refused, and Levi's has stated that they will end their production at the factory.

Anti-sweatshop groups around the world are concerned that Levi's is pulling out of the factory too hastily, and they are pressuring Levi's to take additional steps. These include working with other brands, such as Tommy Hilfiger and the Limited, to put collective pressure on the factory to comply with Mexican law and their codes of conduct, and contacting the Mexican government to press for enforcement of Mexican law, reinstatement of dismissed workers, and recognition of the independent union. The international anti-sweatshop movement is watching closely to see if Levi's and other brands will follow-up on their commitments and play a positive role in ending the labor abuses, or cut and run from the factory.

continued on bottom of page 5...



Tarrant workers protest in the streets. Photo courtesy of CAT, 2003.

# U.S. Bans Imports from Burma

On July 28, 2003, the U.S. sent a strong message in support for the democratic movement in Burma with the passage of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, which bans imports from Burma. Burma is ruled by one of the most brutal military regimes in the world with an extensive history of forced labor and gross human rights abuses. The regime relies heavily on its garment exports as a major source of income.

The legislation not only bans imports from Burma, but also freezes the foreign assets of high officials in the Burmese government, and prohibits loans from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to the regime. President Bush has also signed an executive order supporting the ban. "These sanctions are a powerful first step in the right direction. Other democratic nations should join with the United States in supporting the Burmese democratic struggle," says Dr. Zarni, founder of the Free Burma Coalition, a grassroots organization that works to raise awareness about the horrific human rights violations committed by Burma's illegitimate military dictatorship.

The garment industry in Burma is controlled by the government, which is a military regime. Garment sweatshops are a major source of revenue for the junta because the government jointly or directly owns the factories. From 1995-2001, Burmese apparel imports to the U.S. rose 272%. The regime gains revenue by charging taxes on the value of exports and also by the low wages in factories. Workers make as little as 4 cents an hour (in U.S. dollars).

Moreover, efforts to organize are suppressed as trade union activists are routinely persecuted, arrested, imprisoned, and tortured. The junta uses the profits from sweatshops to purchase weapons, manage troops who oversee forced labor projects, and build infrastructures for the regime.

Burma has been ruled by a military regime since 1961. In 1989, it changed the country's name to Myanmar without the people's consent. The current ruling party is called the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). It continues to commit major human rights abuses not only with forced labor, but also forced child labor, imprisonment of hundreds of political dissidents, use of child soldiers, and persecution of ethnic minorities. Democratic movements have risen only to be crushed by the military regime. In 1990, as a result of a people's movement, Aung San Suu Kyi was elected President. Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy and the 1991 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, won with 82% of the vote. However, the military junta has refused to acknowledge the free and fair elections and continues to monitor and prohibit Suu Kyi's actions. In the past, Suu Kyi has asked international corporations to stop investing in Burma until living conditions have improved. Support for the economic sanctions against Burma also increased after Suu Kyi's motorcade was attacked by the military regime in late May.

The sanctions are intended to pressure the SPDC to

stop its human rights abuses, free Suu Kyi, and restore democracy. The strong economic and political message is especially significant since the United States is one of Burma's top trading partners, with \$350 million worth of Burmese imports, composed mostly of apparel and textiles. A previous ban by the U.S. in 1997 prohibited new investments in Burma, however still allowed for garments produced in the country to be sold in the U.S.

While apparel companies search the world for the cheapest labor, some retailers have taken the rare measure to support a ban due to pressure from unions and human rights groups. In April 2003, the American Apparel and Footwear Association, a 600-member trade group, called the U.S. government to ban imports of apparel, textiles, and footwear from Burma, condemning the Burmese government's disdain for basic human rights.

Although the ban enacts powerful and sweeping trade restrictions, it may be difficult to enforce, as monitoring is often complicated and costly. Still the ban may encourage the international community to pressure countries who do business with Burma, such as China, to take measures that will support the movements for democracy, freedom, and human rights in Burma. For more information on the people's struggle in Burma, see [www.freeburmacoalition.org](http://www.freeburmacoalition.org) or call 202-547-5985.

Tarrant continued from page 4...

## Tarrant México - Ajalpan Campaign

### What you can do

With no safety net, the Tarrant workers are in dire need of **financial support**. You can make donations at [www.sweatshopwatch.org/Tarrant/tarrant.html](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/Tarrant/tarrant.html).

The Worker Support Center (CAT, or Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador) along with several U.S and international anti-sweatshop groups (Sweatshop Watch, Maquila Solidarity Network, US/LEAP, No Sweat, and USAS to name a few) have been supporting the union struggle and are putting pressure on the factory management, Mexican government and big labels to ensure they are responding to the labor crisis.

**Letters are urgently needed** to Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger to ensure they don't cut and run from their responsibilities. Find the latest action alerts at [www.sweatshopwatch.org/Tarrant/tarrant.html](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/Tarrant/tarrant.html).

Sources: Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador  
Workers Rights Consortium

# Challenges for Displaced Garment Workers

## Barriers to Workforce Development & Trade Assistance

Within the next two years, free trade policies will have a significant impact on the U.S. garment industry. Some analysts predict that up to half of nation's garment jobs will be lost due to the elimination of the global garment quota system under the World Trade Organization. That's 50,000 lost jobs in California alone. However, there is no industry or municipal strategy for addressing these economic consequences. And, the main legislative tools for displaced workers do not adequately address the unique needs of immigrants.

### Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 provides federal funds for workforce development, but it poses significant barriers, which deny displaced garment workers eligibility to many job training and job placement programs. WIA streamlines services to businesses and workers to increase employment and reduce welfare dependency. Under WIA, workforce investment activities are provided through statewide and local workforce investment systems supported by three block grants for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. One-stop centers are designed to be the single point of entry for individuals seeking services. California receives the most WIA funds (\$600 million this year) and has the most local workforce investment areas.

However, garment workers face significant barriers to re-employment generally. Most workers are recent immigrant women from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and elsewhere. They are either monolingual non-English speakers or Limited English Proficient (LEP). Many are undocumented immigrants or lack proper immigration documentation to qualify for federally funded job assistance programs. These are significant barriers to accessing WIA funded programs.

WIA is currently going through reauthorization in Congress. On May 8, the House of Representatives passed its own legislation reauthorizing WIA. The Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act (H.R. 1261) primarily reflects the Bush Administration's priorities for reauthorization, and fails to address the needs of job seekers in a meaningful way. However, the bill includes proposals that represent a step in the right direction for persons who are Limited English Proficient. H.R. 1261 improves access to training services and adjusts performance measures that take into consideration low levels of English proficiency. This legislation provides for incentives to serve "special populations" and improves access to Adult Basic Education funding for community-based or-

ganizations.

On the Senate side, Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Ensign (R-NV) introduced legislation on July 31 that will improve job training services and Adult Basic Education for immigrants and persons with limited English proficiency. The Access to Employment and English Acquisition Act (S. 1543) would amend WIA by providing incentives for states to help individuals who face language-related barriers to employment and by making programs that integrate job training and language acquisition more accessible. S. 1543 will require that states describe how they will serve LEP populations in their respective plans. It will adjust performance measures that take into consideration low levels of English proficiency, and it will provide resources to programs that serve LEP persons and improve access to training services.

### Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal program established under the Trade Act of 1974. The TAA program is set up to provide aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports. Recently, the 2002 Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act reauthorized the TAA program, and added and amended provisions to it. Among the major changes, the new provisions expand the scope of coverage, create less stringent eligibility requirements, and increase the time period during which an eligible applicant can receive benefits. In spite of these new changes, the TAA program contains major obstacles that make it inaccessible for the majority of garment workers who are immigrants with limited English proficiency, many undocumented. First, dislocated workers must show the same eligibility for unemployment benefits in order to qualify for the TAA program. Secondly, most of the forms and job training programs under TAA continue to be in English only.

Despite these challenges, Sweatshop Watch is collaborating with organizations that have developed innovative workforce development and job training programs. Some models exist which have helped immigrant workers transition from low paying jobs with no opportunity for self development or economic advancement to jobs that provide decent wages and benefits. Our next newsletter will highlight examples by the Metropolitan Alliance and Strategic Action for a Just Economy, both in Los Angeles.

For more information, contact:

- National Immigration Law Center: [www.nilc.org/immsemplymnt/wrkfrc\\_dev/index.htm](http://www.nilc.org/immsemplymnt/wrkfrc_dev/index.htm)
- Working for America: [www.workingforamerica.org](http://www.workingforamerica.org)

## Resources

❖ **NYC's Garment Industry Today: A New Look?** is an up-to-date analysis by the Fiscal Policy Institute of the New York apparel industry, which provides a timely look at the resiliency of the apparel manufacturing sector and describes strategies for ongoing competitiveness. Available from the Garment Industry Development Corporation, 212-333-6160.

❖ **Winning at Work: English for Workers' Rights** is a new curriculum guide for English as a Second Language instructors in both community college and union settings that combines language learning with a detailed discussion of legal protections at work and exercises on how to protect those rights. Available from the University of California, Berkeley Labor Center, 510-643-4312, labor\_center@uclink.berkeley.edu.

❖ **A Canadian Success Story? Gildan Activewear: T-shirts, Free Trade and Workers Rights** reveals how trade agreements are reshaping the business strategies and production network of this successful Canadian t-shirt manufacturer; and documents working conditions in the company's factories in Honduras, Mexico, and El Salvador, offering recommendations for improvement. Available from the Maquila Solidarity Network for US\$12, 606 Shaw Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6G 3L6, 416-532-8584, [www.maquilasolidarity.org](http://www.maquilasolidarity.org).

❖ **Monitoring and Verification Guide for the Garment and Sportswear Industries** was developed by Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), August 2003. Available at [www.somo.nl](http://www.somo.nl).

## SW Box

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Commentaries, articles, and letters are welcome and should be accompanied with your name, address, and telephone or email.

## Campaign News

❖ The **Matamoros Garment factory** in Puebla, Mexico—where workers went on strike in January to demand better working conditions and an independent union—closed in March and will likely remain closed. The operator of the factory, which produced for Puma and others, fled the country in the wake of counterfeiting charges. Some workers have been able to obtain jobs at the nearby Mexmode factory, which won a union contract in 2001.

❖ In July, workers at the two **Choi & Shin factories** signed the only collective bargaining agreement in Guatemala. The factories produce for Liz Claiborne and Talbots. The agreement marks a tremendous victory for the unions who struggled for two years. The agreement includes wage increases and improved access to health care services and day care facilities.

❖ Also in July, workers at the **Gina Form Bra factory** in Bangkok, Thailand won a settlement and new collective bargaining agreement, ending a two-year struggle marked with intense union-busting. The factory produces for the Gap, Victoria's Secret and Kmart. The workers' victory includes recognition of their union by the factory, reinstatement of 38 workers fired over a year ago, and an end to court actions seeking to fire 5 union leaders, as well as a new union contract providing monetary benefits.

❖ In June, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it should not have taken up the *Nike v. Kasky* case, throwing the case back to San Francisco for trial. The order leaves intact the California Supreme Court's ruling, rejecting Nike's allegations that its statements about the working conditions in factories that make its products are protected free speech. In September, both sides announced a settlement, under which Nike will pay \$1.5 million to the Fair Labor Association, a controversial monitoring group founded by Nike among others. Anti-sweatshop activists contend that Nike should have instead given the money to its poorly-paid workers.



# How To Give To Sweatshop Watch

Every gift to Sweatshop Watch goes a long way in protecting the rights of garment workers.

- ❖ Write a check and send it to our Oakland office.
- ❖ Make a donation with your credit card by visiting our web site [www.sweatshopwatch.org](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org).
- ❖ Ask your employer to match your gift.
- ❖ Give your time as a volunteer.
- ❖ Make a gift of goods or services.
- ❖ Designate Sweatshop Watch in a planned gift (will or trust).

If you are a federal government employee, you can make a gift through your workplace. Sweatshop Watch is a member of the Human & Civil Rights Organizations of America, Combined Federal Campaign - Member 2235. Sweatshop Watch is a nonprofit public charity, registered under IRS Code 501(c)3. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**[www.sweatshopwatch.org](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org)**



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## Join Sweatshop Watch!

Founded in 1995, Sweatshop Watch is a coalition of over 30 organizations, and many individuals, committed to eliminating the exploitation that occurs in sweatshops. Sweatshop Watch serves low-wage workers nationally and globally, with a focus on garment workers in California. We believe that workers should earn a living wage in a safe, decent work environment, and that those responsible for the exploitation of sweatshop workers must be held accountable. Please join us by becoming a member. Either send in this form with a check or make a contribution from our website [www.sweatshopwatch.org](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org) with your credit card.

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Make checks payable and send to: SWEATSHOP WATCH, 310 Eighth St., Suite 303, Oakland CA 94607