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Good News in 2004

• Garment Workers Celebrate End of Year With A New Beginning, End of Campaign Against Forever 21 Announced

December 2004 - Forever 21, Inc., the Garment Worker Center, Sweatshop Watch, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, on behalf of several Los Angeles garment workers represented by it, have reached an agreement to resolve all litigation between them. In addition, the parties have agreed to take steps to promote greater worker protection in the local garment industry. The parties are pleased to announce the resolution of this matter as a positive and symbolic step forward in demonstrating respect and appreciation for garment workers. Under the parties' agreement, the national boycott of Forever 21 and related protests at the Company's retail stores, initiated by the Garment Worker Center in 2001, have ended. The parties share a belief that garment workers should labor in lawful conditions and should be treated fairly and with dignity. Forever 21, the Garment Worker Center and Sweatshop Watch all remain committed to ensuring that the clothing Forever 21 sells in its stores is made under lawful conditions.

• Ben Davis Workers Unanimously Ratify First Contract, Ben Davis Clothes are Proudly Union-Made in the USA!

December 2004 - In an exciting campaign victory, one hundred Ben Davis workers in San Francisco ratified their first contract with UNITE HERE. This agreement provides a substantial average wage increase, reinstates generous vacation provisions, and decreases employees' share of health care premiums. The workers, all 1st generation immigrants from China and Mexico, voted unanimously for the contract.

Contract negotiations broke down in March 2004 over wages and benefits. Community, labor and political leaders led a strong national campaign that brought the company back to the bargaining table in November, including thousands of messages through email activism, community visits to stores, a threatened boycott by the presidents of the Carpenters, Laborers and Firefighters, and strong public support in San Francisco.

In the end, Ben Davis negotiated a solid, fair contract with the workers. The next time you buy work clothes, look for the Ben Davis label: it keeps labor strong!

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS

• Support CINTAS workers around the country.

Cintas is the largest uniform rental provider and industrial launderer in North America. Some of Cintas' big name clients include Chevron, Starbucks, Delta, Firestone, Hershey, and UPS. Sales in 2002 were U.S. \$2.27 billion and profits were \$234 million. Over the years, Cintas has crushed attempts to organize unions and has committed numerous violations of labor, discrimination and wage laws. Workers at Cintas facilities across the US and Canada are fed up with abuse by Cintas and are fighting for Uniform Justice. They are fighting to organize a union with UNITE to win fair wages and benefits, decent working conditions and respect on the job. But Cintas has responded with unlawful anti-union tactics, including threats of plant closings, captive audience meetings and one-on-one interrogations and firing of pro-union workers. Support Uniform Justice by encouraging your colleagues not to buy uniforms from Cintas, and encouraging your employers or institutions to use their managerial discretion not to do business with Cintas until Cintas demonstrates that it will respect its employees' right to organize a union.

• Join the DKNY Girlcott and hold DONNA KARAN accountable for sweatshops.

Back in 1998, DKNY workers sewing the upscale Donna Karan label, spoke out against long work hours, lack of overtime pay and locked bathrooms. DKNY closed the factory, fired most of the workers and moved to another location a few blocks away. Then, the Chinese and Latina women workers organized a boycott campaign. They also filed a lawsuit against the company for wage violations and discrimination, citing that Latina workers faced lower wages and harassment. In 2001, more workers joined the campaign and filed a class action lawsuit for wage violations against DKNY and its factories. In 2003, DKNY entered a settlement with the workers in both the discrimination case against the Latinas and the class action lawsuit for wage violations. Under the settlement, workers in these two cases received almost \$1 million but no apology. Unfortunately, DKNY has also pulled its production out of New York and moved to where worker organizing is relatively weak. The workers urge people to continue to boycott DKNY garments until DKNY brings back the work to New York, corrects all of its wrongdoing and rehires the unjustly fired workers.

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