

## Levi's: A Style for Every SWEATSHOP Story?

Mexican garment workers in Levi's supplier factory **Manufacturas Lajat** are fighting for better working conditions, but their right to freedom of association has not been respected. Levi's: please ensure workers have a right to organize!

### ***The Original:***

Made in Lajat's Gomez Palacio factory by workers who experienced the "same old" conditions:

- 12 hour work days with no overtime pay
- exposure to harsh chemicals for stonewashing jeans without any protection
- lack of access to drinking water and restrooms in the factory
- no lunchroom, forcing workers to eat on the production floor where stray dust and chemicals contaminate their food.



### ***The SuperLOW Cut:***

Cut and sewn in a workplace where management acted "superlow" when workers tried to form an independent union.

Workers see Lajat taking drastic measures to avoid a union drive including:

- visiting workers at their homes at midnight
- using the local police to beat and gas workers
- locking out workers
- blacklisting
- reducing workers' wages to starvation levels.

Worker organizing began when Lajat announced it would close down the factory in Gomez Palacio, and transfer workers to another factory miles away without paying for the transportation. Workers saw this as a move to avoid severance pay, which is mandated under Mexican law.

### ***The BOOTcut:***

Assembled in a factory where workers got the "boot" for organizing. Workers are demanding that Levi's enforce its business terms of engagement, which states "We expect our suppliers to respect the right to free association and the right to organize and bargain collectively without unlawful interference."

Workers demand that:

- Levi's and Lajat ensure that a union election takes place fairly.
- Levi's should make certain Lajat ends the blacklist & police harassment.
- If the Gomez Palacio plant is not reopened, then workers must be reinstated at another Lajat factory, with transportation fully paid.

### ***We want a sweat-FREE story!***

This campaign is led by the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras ([www.coalitionforjustice.net](http://www.coalitionforjustice.net)). Brochure made by Sweatshop Watch ([www.sweatshopwatch.org](http://www.sweatshopwatch.org)), a California-based coalition working to hold retailers accountable and to support workers rights.

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