

May 2014 Contents:

- >> [CAN'T TAKE IT NO MORE! NEW WALMART FILM](#)
 - >> [LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER UNDER ATTACK: ANDY HALL](#)
 - >> [FREE THE 23: CAMBODIAN WORKERS RISE UP](#)
 - >> [ILRF WEIGHS IN ON TRAFFICKING REPORT](#)
 - >> [SHAREHOLDER MEETING SEASON](#)
 - >> [WHAT A NIGHT!](#)
 - >> [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)
-



Can't Take It No More!

Walmart - the world's largest retailer - is notorious for undermining local economies, repressing workers' rights, and depressing wages. *Can't Take It No More!* will be a feature-length documentary that tells the stories of four workers across Walmart's global empire who are standing up, mobilizing their co-workers and communities, and striving to build a better future for themselves and their families – all in the face of unrelenting employer opposition and intimidation.

[Please join ILRF in backing this independent documentary by pledging your support on kickstarter, where you can also watch a trailer of the film.](#)



Labor Rights Defender Under Attack

Andy Hall, a British citizen who has spent years exposing labor rights abuses among migrant workers in Thailand, was recently charged with a fourth allegation of defamation by Natural Fruit Company, a Thai producer of pineapple juice and dried fruit for the export market. Natural Fruit has used Thailand's criminal defamation and pernicious Computer Crimes Act against Hall for more than a year, after he [documented indications of human trafficking](#) and other rights abuses at the Natural Fruit factory. If found guilty on all charges, Hall faces 7 years in prison and about \$9.5 million in damages. His next hearing will be June 18. [Find out more about the case here.](#)



Free the 23: Cambodian Workers Rise Up

Workers in Cambodia who sew clothes for brands like H&M, Gap and Walmart are facing brutal violence and falsified charges for speaking out peacefully for a new minimum wage of \$160 per month. In January, nearly 50 protestors were shot during strikes for higher wages; five were killed and 23 were detained on falsified charges and jailed in harsh conditions. We call on major clothing buyers from Cambodia to start paying higher prices for higher wages now, and to send a strong message to the government of Cambodia to drop the charges, free the 23, end the ban on freedom of assembly, and immediately raise the minimum wage to \$160 per month.

Please watch this [video from Cambodia](#) and [click here to share it on Facebook](#). For more information, check out this [blog by Cambodia Legal Education Center](#).



ILRF Weighs in on Trafficking Report

In a few weeks, the U.S. Department of State will release its annual assessment of countries' efforts to combat human trafficking - the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The TIP report is a valuable source of information, and a diplomatic tool to push countries to do more. ILRF has urged the State Department to use that tool to hold two countries in particular accountable for the role they play in trafficking occurring within their borders:

- [Thailand](#), for its treatment of migrant workers; and
- [Uzbekistan](#), for its state-sponsored system of forced cotton harvesting.



Shareholder Meeting Season

Last week, we [delivered the Public Eye Award](#) to Gap at its shareholder meeting. Since Gap had refused to receive the "award of shame" in Davos, Switzerland, we figured it was time to bring it directly to Gap. An Asian American Pacific Islander activist group, [18 Million Rising](#), echoed the demands for full and fair compensation for Aswad factory fire victims and for Gap to sign the Bangladesh Accord through creative online activism which was covered widely in the media.

As we gear up for Children's Place and Walmart shareholder meetings next week, help Rana Plaza survivor Aklima Khanam reach 105,000 signers on [her petition](#) to the companies.



What a Night!

Our annual International Labor Rights Defenders Awards brought together a fantastic crowd of about 200 guests at the National Press Club on April 29th. Thanks to our sponsors, and to everyone who contributed so generously to the awards ceremony, we raised over \$108,000. These funds will enable us to be flexible and nimble in responding to the advocacy needs of our grassroots partners -- all stalwart labor rights defenders themselves -- and in driving campaigns to hold global corporations accountable for working conditions in their supply chains. Please take a moment to share the [video of Congressman George Miller's](#) acceptance of his award, and stay tuned for video clips from the other awardees - the Communications Workers of



America and the Maquila Worker Organizing Project (CGT Honduras) - in the coming weeks.

If you didn't yet have a chance to honor the work of the awardees with a contribution, you can [make a gift here](#).

The awards ceremony followed a day-long conference on [Women's Rights in the Apparel Industry](#), where we hosted an energetic exchange among women's rights and labor rights organizations and developed a series of recommendations based on presentations from Cambodian, Bangladeshi, and Honduran women union leaders. Stay tuned for our report on the conference and ways you can get involved.

Upcoming Events

June 14, 2014 | GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF BANGLADESH GARMENT INDUSTRY
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
[Learn more & register...](#)

July 16, 2014 | DRIVING CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY
World Fellowship Center, in the New Hampshire White Mountains
[Learn more & register...](#)
