

International Labor Rights Fund

November News from the ILRF

As we enter the holiday season and the new year comes closer, the [International Labor Rights Fund](#) would like to share our latest news with you. Keep reading to find out about our holiday gift tips, campaign updates, ILRF organizational news and MORE!

In this newsletter, you'll find:

[Holiday Gift Tips from the ILRF](#)

[Campaign Updates](#)

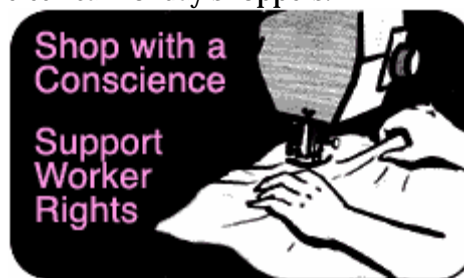
[ILRF News](#)

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Holiday Gift Tips from the ILRF

Below is a list of some of our favorite fair products for all the ethical holiday shoppers:

1. [Fair Trade Sports](#): This company sells premium quality balls for soccer, volleyball, rugby, football, and more which are fair trade and produced in Pakistan by members of the Talon Workers Welfare Union. They also make t-shirts for your favorite athlete.
2. [Nueva Vida Clothing](#): This company is a worker-owned women's sewing cooperative located just outside Managua in Nicaragua. In October of 2004, Nueva Vida became the first "fair trade zone" in the world.
3. [Justice Clothing](#): This company sells a wide range of clothing produced from unionized workers in the US and Canada who are protected by collective bargaining agreements.
4. [Odegard Carpets](#): Every carpet made by Odegard carries the Rugmark label which ensures that it was made without child labor. Stephanie Odegard, the company's founder and president, is even a member of Rugmark's Board of Directors.
5. [Equal Exchange](#): Equal Exchange is the oldest and largest for-profit Fair Trade company in the US. They offer organic, gourmet coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa and chocolate bars produced by democratically run farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia.
6. [Divine Chocolate](#): This delicious chocolate is made by a farmer's cooperative in Ghana called Kuapa Kokoo. You can order Divine products online and taste the sweetness of ethical chocolate!
7. [South End Press](#): South End Press is a nonprofit, collectively run book publisher with more than 250 titles in print. Since their founding in 1977, they have tried to meet the needs of readers who are exploring, or are already committed to, the politics of radical social change. Their goal is to publish books that encourage critical thinking and constructive action on the key political, cultural, social, economic and ecological issues shaping life in the US and in the world. All of their books are union printed.



Campaign Updates

Trade Union Violence:

November 16th has been chosen by activists in the Philippines as an International Day of Action Against Trade Union Repression and Political Killings in the Philippines. Since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took power, the Filipino government has engaged in the violent repression of people's movements. From January 20, 2001 until June 30, 2006, 64 union members were killed in the Philippines, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world for labor rights organizing.

If you live in DC, join us for a protest outside the Philippines Embassy (1600 Massachusetts Ave. NW) at 12:30pm on Thursday, November 16.



End Child Labor:

Firestone: After a very successful Day of Action in July, the Stop Firestone Campaign is making great strides in holding Firestone accountable for child labor and environmental abuses in Liberia. To keep up to date on the latest news and actions, check out the coalition website [here!](#)

Cocoa: The ILRF is highlighted in a great new book by journalist Carol Off titled *Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World's Most Seductive Sweet*. The book, which features quotations from Executive Director Bama Athreya and staff member Natacha Thys, is an eye-opening exposé of child labor in the chocolate industry. It is currently only being sold in Canadian bookstores, but you can order your copy online, just in time for the holidays!

Also, the ILRF has printed wonderful new posters to spread the truth about chocolate. Contact Tim at tim.newman@ilrf.org to order your materials!

Rights for Working Women:

In the latest attack on women workers in the cut flower industry, Dole announced in October that it is closing the Corzo farm in Colombia within 6-9 months. This decision is the latest development in a long anti-union campaign. To view the ILRF statement on Dole's actions click [here](#). This news is a reminder that we need your continued support and action to ensure that workers rights are protected in the flower industry.

Wal-mart:

ILRF very much thanks all of you that have continued to support the striking workers at Chong Won Fashion in the Philippines where Wal-Mart is the primary buyer. Just recently the workers, management, Wal-Mart and other parties met and have committed to continuing a dialogue. Our pressure for the moment has absolutely allowed workers the space to begin negotiations with management. ILRF together with Maquila Solidarity Network also brought together a group of 7 buyers including GAP, Wal-Mart and Jones Apparel to sign onto a letter to the Filipino government denouncing the recent violence against workers. You can view the letter

[here](#). ILRF continues to closely watch this situation and will continue to update you as information becomes available.

ILRF News

Big Changes at the ILRF:

At our 20th anniversary celebration on Halloween, we announced the formal launch of a new legal defense fund to be established and led by Terry Collingsworth. The International Labor Rights Defenders will be a separate organization from the original ILRF, but we will continue to work closely together to promote our mutual and shared vision of a world where workers can obtain justice for violations of their fundamental rights. The organizations will be fully separate by the end of 2006. Read more at Bama's blog entry [here](#).

Introducing the ILRF Blog!

The ILRF has launched a blog to spread the word about labor rights issues. Check it out [here!](#) We will be updating it frequently with our take on all the latest labor issues. If you have a blog, add us to your blogroll! PLUS: don't forget to add us to your list of friends on [MySpace!](#)

Thank you to our Board!

We would like to send a special thanks to our wonderful Board of Directors, including the new President, Bill Fletcher. Thank you all for your continued guidance!

New ILRF Staff

This Fall, the ILRF welcomed two new staff members: Rachel Lovis (Program Assistant) and Timothy Newman (Campaigns Assistant). To find out more about these additions, check out the Meet the Staff section of [our website](#).

Donate Now!

In order to keep doing our successful work to protect labor rights globally, we rely on your continued support. As the holiday season approaches, please consider donating to the ILRF. You can donate online [here](#), it's easy and secure!

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

 [Tell-a-friend!](#)

If you received this message from a friend, you can [sign up for International Labor Rights Fund](#).

**Working Families
e-Activist Network**