

Cambodian garment workers want a living wage

The garment industry in Cambodia employs hundreds of thousands of workers, many of whom are women. Cambodian garment workers have campaigned over many years for the right to form independent unions, safe workplaces and a living wage.

They have been met with sackings, beatings and arrests from companies and the government. A number of workers have also been murdered during these campaigns.

This 10th of December is the day when all Cambodian garment workers will take industrial action to demand the legal right to organise and for an increase of the minimum wage from the current US \$128/month to US \$177/month.

The garment industry globally is dominated by large companies such as H&M, ZARA, Walmart, Levi's, GAP, PUMA, and Adidas. They use a web of sub-contracting chains to source the cheapest products while denying responsibility for workers conditions. These companies pit workers in different countries against each other in a Race to the Bottom so that they can source garments at the cheapest price possible. Garment workers in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia have also been organising against this Race to the Bottom.



The best way for workers to improve their pay and conditions is through the building of strong independent unions. Developing co-ordinated industrial campaigning across countries will then improve and establish global standards for all garment workers.

We also need to pressure companies like H&M, ZARA, Walmart, Levi's, GAP, PUMA, and Adidas, to stop using a chain of subcontracting firms to drive down wages and conditions of garment workers. Their profits are the direct result of this exploitation.

PAY GARMENT WORKERS A LIVING WAGE

A worker should be able to afford:

- 1 food
- 2 rent
- 3 healthcare
- 4 education
- 5 clothing
- 6 transportation
- 7 savings

A living wage is a human right, for all people, all over the world

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