

“The Public Eye Awards 2006”

Nomination form B (Positive Award for an NGO)

You may nominate either your own organisation or another NGO.

Only NGOs may be nominated that are/were leading campaigns focusing on the policy or the behaviour of one or more multinational corporates.

The nominations will be made public before the Awards Ceremony. Handing in a precise, detailed and formulated nomination (please do not just send keywords, but full sentences) in the given form saves us a great deal of (editorial) work!

If you nominate your own organisation, please give detailed answers to the questions below. If you nominate another NGO, please answer the questions as detailed as possible. If needed, we will get back to the nominated NGO.

Enclosures such as your own studies or newspaper articles on the case as well as film material are most welcome.

Nominated NGO

Name: Clean Clothes Campaign

International Secretariat
Clean Clothes Campaign
Postbus 11584
1001 GN Amsterdam
The Netherlands
T: +31-20-412-2785
F: +31-20-412-2786
info@cleanclothes.org
<http://www.cleanclothes.org>

Website: www.cleanclothes.org

Field of action:

Campaign for labour rights – especially in the garment and textile industries.

Send your nomination(s) to: The Public Eye Awards, Berne Declaration, Quellenstrasse 25, PO Box, CH-8031 Zurich, Switzerland; email: publiceye@evb.ch; Fax: +41 (0)44 277 70 01.

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Motivation for Thai Labour Campaign to nominate the CCC:

What is unique about the CCC, especially, the international secretariat, is that -- we are friends. We have worked together at both ends to try to really understand the real exploitation and suppressing of workers' rights in the last chain of production of the brands' products selling in the EU and the US. It takes us few years before, we campaigners for labour rights both from the South and the North to be in the solid ground of common understanding that, the only way to solve the labour exploitation is to demand for political space for workers to be working under "Freedom of Association", and the right to collective bargaining and union rights. CCC is one of the north campaigners and consumers groups that understand this principle.

General aims of the NGO:

Presently the CCC is made up of:

- Autonomous coalitions with NGOs (consumer, research, women's, fair trade and youth organisations, solidarity groups, churches, etc) and trade unions as members in the following European countries, each with a secretariat, and each sending a representative to the European Coordination Meeting (Austria, Belgium - Flemish-speaking Belgium, Belgium - French and German-speaking Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
- CCC 'projects' or 'project groups' or 'task forces' in several garment producing countries (Bulgaria, India)
- A loose, informal international partner network of NGOs, unions, individuals and institutions in most countries where garments are produced.
- An international secretariat

In addition to this they are in close cooperation with

- organisations or coalitions that run similar campaigns in other consumer countries (ex. US groups, Fair Wear in Australia, Ethical Trade Action Group in Canada),
- several NGOs in European countries that do a lot of CCC-related work and may one day establish a complete campaign (Italy, Portugal) and
- the international trade union organisations.

Over 200 different organisations participate in the campaign.

The campaigns work autonomously at the national level, and come together to work jointly at the European level. This European campaign network is backed up by a broader, international network that includes trade unions, NGOs, and individuals in countries where garments are produced, i.e. Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central America. The international secretariat of the campaign is based in Amsterdam. The CCC also cooperates with similar campaigns in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

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Above all the Clean Clothes Campaign is a consumer campaign -- its strength comes from consumer power. The purchasing power of consumers is being mobilized on the issue of working conditions in the garment industry.

The Clean Clothes Campaign aims to improve working conditions and to empower workers in the global garment industry, in order to end the oppression, exploitation and abuse of workers in this industry, most of whom are women. It does this by:

- Putting pressure on companies to take responsibility to ensure that their garments are produced in decent working conditions.
- Supporting workers, trade unions and NGOs in producer countries.
- Raising awareness among consumers by providing accurate information about working conditions in the global garment and sportswear industry, in order to mobilise citizens to use their power as consumers.
- Exploring legal possibilities for improving working conditions, and lobbying for legislation to promote good working conditions and for laws that would compel governments and companies to become ethical consumers.

The other field that CCC is working on is putting pressure at global clothing brands and retailers to improving its labour rights practices through its codes of conduct that is really functional and tool for workers empowerment. For this they have to adopt a complete code according to CCC-model code and seriously implement it. Far from it. At the moment, codes of conducts of TNCs are not 'tools', but rather are more and more posing a 'threat' to workers all over the producing world.

Reasons for the nomination:

A very important and powerful mean is the CCC urgent appeal system. This is one way that the CCC works to support workers in their struggle to improve working conditions and to forge international solidarity links with labour rights organizations. The CCC frequently receives appeals from workers producing garments for multinationals. Generally, these requests come in through the CCC International Secretariat in Amsterdam (info@cleanclothes.org), but there is a CCC Urgent Appeals Working Group with members in each of the European Clean Clothes Campaigns. If appropriate, the CCC can send the requests for action to any of the CCCs and they will follow up. The Urgent Appeals Working Group also verifies cases and adds to the initial information. This work is based on the local contacts in the country where the rights violation has occurred. A wide appeal for action is then posted to the CCC international network (via email). Using this system, members of the Clean Clothes Campaigns are effectively mobilised to react to requests for action when workers rights are violated.

Urgent Appeal activities include letters of protest to companies or public authorities, launching large-scale public e-mail and fax campaigns to pressure companies or governments to take positive action, writing letters of solidarity to workers and their

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organizations, and carrying out a variety of awareness-raising events (speaker tours, press conferences, demonstrations) to draw attention to cases of rights violations, both among the general public and the media.

The CCC only takes action on cases of rights violations if it is clear that this is what the workers involved in the dispute want. The Clean Clothes Campaign believes that garment workers should be the ones to decide if they want international support in specific cases where their rights have been violated. For workers, drawing public attention to rights violations at the international level often involves taking significant risk. They might suffer discrimination for speaking out about the conditions in their workplace, they might be reassigned to other jobs, they might be suspended, or they might lose their jobs and be blacklisted from future employment. Workers must understand and consider these risks when deciding if they want to draw international attention to their dispute and what form that international support should take (a public campaign is just one option; in many cases workers do not want their complaints/negotiations to be made public but would still like support from international labour rights activists). Workers and their representatives know the local context of their cases best and therefore play a key role in determining if international action should be taken and in developing the international action strategies.

The CCC Urgent Appeal Impact Assessment Study was carried out in 2004 and 2005 in order to follow up on the need expressed throughout the CCC-network to give more attention to our urgent appeals system, and evaluate its structure, functioning, and impact. So the urgent appeal system-work has been evaluated by a internal study in the recent years and was followed by workshops in different continents. The Urgent Appeal Impact Assessment study had three main objectives: first to determine the impact of the CCC Urgent Appeals work on the lives of workers involved in specific cases, secondly to determine other impacts of CCC Urgent Appeals work beyond the workers directly involved in specific cases, and to map and evaluate the existing CCC urgent appeals structures, activities, and procedures for processing and follow up of urgent appeals cases in order to better understand how this work meets CCC objectives. The researcher made an inventory of all urgent appeals cases taken up by the CCC during the five-year period 1999 to 2003. Using the outcomes of the baseline study five key cases were selected for further study (one from Thailand, one from Sri Lanka, one from Bangladesh and two from Indonesia). Field work took place in Europe (June 2004) and Asia (September 2004). The Urgent Appeal study is finalized and CCC International Secretariat is in the process of sharing and discussing the findings with the CCC network and more broadly with partners. Part of the study design was to include two small workshops for in-depth discussion of the study report, in order to feed back the findings to those who participated in the study and to key members of the network who have worked on CCC urgent appeals in recent years. In February 2005 the first workshop was held in Europe, for the European CCC network. A second workshop took place in Asia (Indonesia) in May 2005 to share/discuss the study findings with those interviewed for the study and with key partners in the region working with the CCC on urgent appeals.

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Information for the organisers:

Nomination submitted by:

Name of organisation: Thai Labour Campaign

Name of contact person: Junya Yimprasert

Address: P.O. Box 219, Ladprao Post office, Bangkok

Email:lek@thailabour.org

Phone: + 66 2 933 0585

Award Ceremony in Davos

The NGO that wins the Positive Award will be given the opportunity to present itself and the successful campaign in Davos. Travel, accommodation and expenses will be covered by the organisers.

Option 1: You nominated your own organisation

- x If you win the Positive Award, would you be willing to send a person to Davos at the end of January 2006? (If yes, please tick)

Name of organisation: Thai Labour Campaign

Name of contact person: Junya Yimprasert

Address: P.O. Box 219, Ladprao Post office

Email:lek@thailabour.org

Phone:+ 66 2 933 0585

Option 2: If you nominated another NGO, could you please indicate a contact person at the organisation?

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Case Study on a successful CCC-Urgent Appeal: Dignity Return – Bed and Bath, Thailand

Many of the Thai workers campaign for labour right and trade union rights came to success with the solidarity support from many unions, NGOs, consumer movements at every level – local, regional and international. Among of these groups is the solidarity action support by CCC. One example of a CCC-Urgent appeal which ended successfully is the Bed and Bath Case, which is explained below.

The Bed and Bath Prestige Co. Ltd. is a garment company in Thailand. That factory had collapsed due to mismanagement and over 800 workers were thrown out into the streets without any notice or promise of compensation. Working conditions at the factory were in violation of a number of the labour standards included in the codes of companies they were producing for. They report working excessive forced overtime, and being given water laced with amphetamines to keep them going through working days that extended through the night. The workers also report wage cuts and violations by management of their right to maternity, personal and sick leave and a failure to make contributions to the Social Security Fund, which is a violation of Thai law.

Bed and Bath Prestige (Thailand) became a registered company in 1994 with only 400,000 baht in capital. By 2001 this company had accumulated capital of 35 million baht. The owners are a young couple, Chaiyaphat Phothikamjorn and Auayporn Songsermprasert. The 2001 property value of Bed and Bath Prestige (Thailand) is roughly 400 million baht. Bed and Bath subcontract to produce children's and sports wear for many corporations including Nike, Reebok, Adidas, Levi's, Fila, Umbro and nearly 40 brands that order through Haddad Apparel agent. Bed and Bath started out with 20 workers in 1994 and had increased to 900 employees by 2002. The company also subcontracts to more than 40 small and medium sized sweatshops including many along the Thailand/ Burma border which employ mainly vastly underpaid Burmese migrant workers. Bed and Bath lease the machines and vehicles from two big leasing companies; Bangkok Grand Pacific Public Company and City Corp (which is owned by City Bank). Hence, when the factories closed down all the machines and vehicles were taken back immediately by these two leasing companies. Haddad apparel, founded in 1940, is a family owned and operated children's apparel manufacturing company which markets sports brand and character licensed apparel and accessories for boys and girls in sizes 0-20. Nike, Team Sports, Avirex, Harley-Davidson, the National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), Blues Cules, and Bob the Builder are all clients.

[<http://www.licensingworld.com/news/html/011802.html>]. The NFL is the favourite sports league of youngsters aged 7-11. More than 40 percent of American children aged 7-11 own NFL branded clothing according to the poll. In addition to all of these sports leagues Haddad also represents brands such as Harley-Davidson, Avirex as well as others and is aligned with entertainment properties such as Nickelodeon, Warner Bros., and Mattel. Haddad produces all apparels, accessories, and hosiery for children's wear. [www.nfl.com/news/haddad_082901.html]

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The workers at the factory, Company, located in Prapadaeng, had been demonstrating since October 21st when they showed up at work and found the factory locked. Husband-and-wife owners Chaiyapat Phothikamjorn and Uayporn Songpornprasert had vanished without giving their employees any warning, owing them a total of approximately US\$ 400,000 (16 million baht) in back wages and compensation. The workers camped out at the offices of the Thai Ministry of Labour to demand that the government take action in this case. An international solidarity campaign, involving the Clean Clothes Campaign in Europe and a number of organizations in the United States and Canada, put pressure on the brands sourcing at Bed & Bath to play a role in getting the workers the money they were owed.

After a three month struggle the workers received compensation from the government's Employee Support Fund. Due to the efforts of the Bed & Bath workers a landmark change was enacted in Thai compensation laws, so that workers employed for more than six years now receive 60 day compensation when laid off instead of the 30 day compensation they were previously entitled to. The owners of Bed & Bath have yet to be arrested for illegally laying off a total of 850 workers without notice or compensation. Subsequently the workers banded together to become factory owners, but not without having to depend on loans from a range of sources, including the ministry of labour, and their own friends. Some equipment, including a few sewing machines, had to be borrowed. Currently they produce garments on a subcontract basis and also produce campaign T-shirts under the "Dignity Returns" trademark for trade unions and other organizations working on social issues. The Solidarity Group "Dignity Return" now has a common monthly wage among its members -- 4,500 baht per month (110 U.S. dollars) - and an equal load of working six days per week.

For background information on this case please see [Appeal for action: Bed & Bath, Thailand](#) or <http://www.thailabour.org/campaigns/bnb/index.html>

The Solidarity Group cooperative can be found at:
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Bang-khuntien District, Bangkok 10150
Tel: +66 (0)2 899 0445
Fax: +66 (0)2 899 0446

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