

PUBLIC EYE AWARDS 2009

All Nominations by Award Categories

Company	Reason for nomination	Nominating Organization
Public Eye GLOBAL Award (24)		
ALDI	<p>1. <i>China</i>: this German discounter buys clothes from five Chinese companies known for their massive violations of labor rights and for exploiting workers with mandatory overtime and below-average wages.</p> <p>2. <i>Germany</i>: ALDI is determinedly anti-union and tries to weaken independent unions whenever it gets a chance.</p>	Südwind Institut, Austria
Andritz AG	<p>1. <i>Turkey</i>: Andritz, the Austrian plant and systems builder, is lobbying for the controversial Ilisu hydropower-dam project without the slightest regard for its social and environmental consequences.</p> <p>2. <i>Australia</i>: in Tasmania Andritz wants to build the production facilities for Australia's largest paper and pulp mill.</p>	ECA Watch, Austria
Ascaña and sugar producers Incauca, Mayaguez, Manuelita, Risaralda and Central Castilla	<i>Colombia</i> : the association of sugar cane producers Ascaña and its members benefit from the state subsidized production of ethanol while their workers suffer under miserable working conditions. Over time, people have been hurt, threatened with murder, fired, and falsely accused.	Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz-Kolumbien (ask), Switzerland
Banco Santander	<i>Brazil</i> : Banco Santander, Spain's largest bank, participates in the Madeira Project by investing in the construction of the first of four dams along the Madeira River. It is feared that 5000 families will be displaced and eventually impoverished; also, 2400 fishermen in the region stand to lose their livelihood.	Setem Catalunya, Spain
BNP Paribas	<p>1. <i>Bulgaria</i>: since 2008 the large French bank BNP Paribas has been the sole organizer of financing for a nuclear power plant to be built near the town of Belene in a Bulgarian earthquake region.</p> <p>2. <i>Russia</i>: also in 2008 BNP Paribas financed the oil and gas project Sakhalin II despite considerable social and environmental risks (e.g. for the endangered grey whales and the region's fishing sector).</p>	Les Amis de la Terre France, France
Deutsche Bank	Deutsche Bank promotes agricultural funds and supports agricultural companies in South America without regard for human rights and the social and environmental impact of the production it supports (deforestation, loss of land).	Urgewald, Germany
European Petroleum Industry Association (Europia)	<i>EU</i> : Europia lobbies EU-politicians to oppose stricter laws against environmentally destructive oil production. Contrary to the assertions of Europia CO2-emissions could be greatly reduced if producers increased their energy efficiency and stopped the practice of flaring gas.	Friends of the Earth Europe, Belgium
Hima Cement Ltd.	<i>Uganda</i> : Hima Cement, a subsidiary of the French construction materials company Lafarge, is digging in the protected areas of the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda, raising concerns about loss of tourism and water pollution.	Nape Uganda, Uganda
Hindalco Industries Ltd.	<i>India</i> : this Indian aluminum producer is expropriating land without proper payment of compensation. Working conditions are bad and the pay is not enough for a living wage. Deserted mines, unless they are filled and restored, are a frequent cause of accidents.	Tribal Welfare Society, India

L-3 Communications	<p><i>Iraq:</i> L-3 Communications, a US-based military logistics contractor, provided translators for Abu Ghraib and is accused of complicity in torture.</p> <p><i>Georgia:</i> on behalf of the US government, Military Professionals Resources, a subsidiary of L-3 trained Georgian elite army units that were involved in the conflict in South Ossetia.</p>	New School University Chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, USA
Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)	<p><i>EU:</i> MPOC lobbies for palm oil, a commodity marked by controversy regarding its environmental and social sustainability. Problems associated with palm oil, such as deforestation and the release of greenhouse gases are treated much too lightly. The habitat of the increasingly impoverished local populations is also under threat.</p>	Friends of the Earth Europe, Belgium
Newmont Mining Corporation	<p><i>Ghana:</i> this US mining company wants to open a gigantic gold mine in eastern Ghana. Some 10,000 small farmers stand to lose their land if the project goes ahead. The drinking water will be polluted and toxic waste from the mine will pose a health risk and threaten the environment.</p>	The Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM), Ghana
Rio Blanco Copper S.A.	<p><i>Peru:</i> this copper producer is part of the British firm Monterrico Metals plc. and operates in an ecologically unique zone of Peru. The company routinely violates the rights of local farmers. It occupies land illegally. The conflict has claimed lives, many people have been injured and others denounced.</p>	Grupo de Apoyo de la Red Muqui en el Caso Majaz, Peru
Shell	<p><i>Argentina:</i> the British-Dutch oil company Shell has been operating the Capsa refinery in Buenos Aires since 1931. The refinery continues to pollute air, soil and water; it causes health problems, degrades the environment and generally poses a risk for the inhabitants of the neighboring slums. Lawsuits are pending.</p>	Centre of Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA), Argentina
Shell	<p><i>Ireland:</i> Shell wants to drill for gas off the coast of Northwestern Ireland and plans to pump the fuel to a refinery 9 km inland. The planned storage of large amounts of combustible materials represents a high safety risk for the local population.</p>	Shell to Sea, Ireland
Sinar Mas	<p><i>Indonesia:</i> the largest operator of palm oil plantations in the country destroys forests through deforestation and illegal clearcutting and causes enormous greenhouse gas emissions (ca. 1.8 billion tons of CO₂). The company is planning an expansion of its plantation holdings by at least 1.3 million ha in a densely forested area.</p>	Greenpeace International, Holland
Skanska	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Peru:</i> As a subcontractor in controversial oil exploitation projects, this Swedish construction company drills oil wells and builds inferior pipelines for oil companies. <i>Ecuador:</i> Skanska flares gas and falsely claims that this is legal. <i>Argentina:</i> Skanska is suspected of corrupt practices. The company violates labor laws and uses the intimidating presence of local paramilitary groups to promote its interests. 	The SKAMSKA Collective, Sweden
Skanska	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Argentina:</i> Skanska is charged with bribery and tax evasion but tries to slow down the trial. <i>Peru:</i> Skanska is also investigated for the abuse of public funds in connection with the Camisea gas project in an indigenous protected area. The project is detrimental to human health and degrades the environment.. 	Centro de Investigacion y Prevencion de la Criminalidad Economica (CIPCE), Argentina
Tata	<p><i>India:</i> this Indian industry conglomerate does not shy away from using force to seize land for factories in three Indian states. The displaced population received far too little compensation for the land that was taken from them.</p>	Tribal Welfare Society, India
Tata	<p><i>India:</i> during the construction of several new factories Tata repeatedly violated human rights and damaged the environment. Two people were killed in violent clashes.</p>	FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN) International, Germany
Telecom Italia	<p><i>Bolivia:</i> Euro Telecom International SV, a subsidiary of Telecom Italia files a complaint against Bolivia before the World Bank's mediation panel; the company claims that Bolivia's nationalization of Entel (Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones) in 2007 violated its economic interests.</p>	Observatori del Deute en la Globalitzacio (ODG), Spain
Tesco plc.	<p><i>Bangladesh:</i> Seamstresses in Bangladesh working long hours for practically nothing allow Tesco to sell clothes at ridiculously low prices in its stores around the world.</p> <p><i>Turkey:</i> Tesco does not recognize the local trade union and challenges its negotiating status in court.</p>	War on Want, England

Tesco plc.	<i>Bangladesh:</i> the high cost of Tesco's dumping-deals with suppliers is borne by textile workers in Bangladesh – mostly women and migrants – who work up to 80 hours a week under miserable conditions and for extremely low pay.	Clean Clothes Campaign, Holland
Vedanta Resources plc.	<i>India:</i> this British mining company wants to mine bauxite in the forest region of Niyamgiri; this threatens the existence of the indigenous Kondha. Pollution from by the mine is expected to degrade the environment (water pollution, endangered species) and the health of the population.	ActionAid, UK

Public Eye SWISS Award (10)

Bernische Kraftwerke BKW	<i>Germany:</i> BKW invests Sfr.1,6 billion in an environmentally destructive coal-fired power plant in Dörpen, Lower Saxony, that is expected to generate some 4.6 million tons of CO ₂ per year.	Greenpeace Germany
Danzer Group	<i>Congo:</i> this Swiss wood operates a subsidiary in Congo, Siforco, which is involved in the illegal timber trade and falsely declares its profits to avoid paying taxes. The company sued local citizens and human rights activists for libel.	Greenpeace Africa, South Africa
Holcim	<i>Brazil:</i> this construction materials company operates a cement factory in Barroso. Holcim incinerates toxic waste in densely populated areas and stores waste illegally. The toxic substances generated in this way may be harmful to human health.	Organization for Sustainable Development (ODESC), Brazil
Julius Baer Holding AG	<i>Cayman Islands:</i> a whistleblower revealed how the bank deliberately violated money laundering rules on the Cayman Islands. JB tried to shut him up with threats and hush money.	Rudolf Elmer, former deputy director of JB of Cayman Islands, Switzerland
Nestlé	<i>Colombia:</i> despite death threats, rigged vehicles and the surveillance of union members, Nestlé doesn't lift a finger for the safety of its employees	MultiWatch, Switzerland
Nestlé	<i>Japan:</i> this Swiss food company intimidates and bullies union members, hoping to drive them out of the union or cause them to leave the company on their own accord.	Nestlé Researcher's Online Office (NeRO), Japan
Nestlé	<i>Switzerland:</i> Nestlé hired two employees of a private security company to spy on a working group known for its critical attitude to globalization and collect confidential information. This constitutes a breach of privacy and violates the freedoms of speech and of assembly.	attac, Switzerland
Syngenta	<i>Brazil:</i> with the release of genetically engineered plants in a protected area agribusiness Syngenta broke the law; but people who openly protested against the company's genetic trials were threatened and shot at.	Terra de Direitos, Brazil
UBS	The largest Swiss bank tried to hide the extent of its involvement in high risk lending practices and generously rewarded employees for short-term profits while all but ignoring the potential for long-term damage. In spite of this, the bank continues to resist tighter regulation or reduced rates of return.	Aktion Finanzplatz Switzerland
Xstrata Copper	<i>Argentina:</i> the Argentinean gold mine of the Swiss commodities company Xstrata generates pathogenic pollutants that adversely affect the environment, too; the company also operates a 300 km-pipeline that leaks toxic waste. <i>Colombia:</i> inhabitants of the village of Tabaco seeking to negotiate terms of resettlement with Xstrata were forcefully removed from their land to allow the mining company to expand its operations . Many received no compensation whatsoever.	Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz-Kolumbien (ask), Switzerland

Public Eye POSITIVE Award (4)

Irene Fernandez, Director of Tenaganita (Women's Force)	<i>Malaysia:</i> because human rights activist Irene Fernandez published a report about migrants held under inhuman conditions in Malaysian detention camps in 1995, she was sentenced to one year in prison. She appealed and in November 2008, after a trial that lasted 13 years, she was finally acquitted.	Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia & the Pacific, Malaysia
Jacek Kotula, president of a Solidarnosc union local	<i>Poland:</i> Jacek Kotula fought hard for more workplace safety and against violations of labor law. After Alima Gerber was bought up by Nestlé he was fired despite the fact that union members in Poland enjoy special legal protections.	Solidarnosc, Poland

<p>Freddy Lozano and Jairo Quiroz Delgado, board members of the mine workers' union Sintracarbon</p>	<p><i>Colombia:</i> these two innovative union leaders negotiated successfully with the mining company Carbones del Cerrejon Ltd (among other things a collective labor contract). They also defended the interests of the local communities affected by the Cerrejon. In this work, the two union leaders often risk their personal safety.</p>	<p>Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz-Kolumbien (ask), Switzerland</p>
<p>Josef Zotter, founder of Zotter Schokoladenmanufaktur GmbH</p>	<p><i>Austria:</i> for his products chocolate maker Josef Zotter uses only organically grown and fairly traded cocoa beans. His company runs on renewable energy, roasts its own cocoa and pays its suppliers considerably more than the market price.</p>	<p>Greenpeace Aachen, Germany</p>

A project of the Berne Declaration (coordination) and Greenpeace Switzerland

The Public Eye Awards c/o Berne Declaration, PO Box, CH-8026 Zürich
 phone: + 41 (0)44 277 70 06, fax + 41 (0)44 277 70 01, publiceye@evb.ch, www.publiceye.ch