

iExploitation - A new brand of sweatshops from Apple

Founder Steve Jobs has a personal fortune of \$3 billion while workers earn as little as £27 a month.

iPods made in factory "compounds" in China with populations larger than Newcastle!

Apple's iPhone is set to be the gadget of the year, and its predecessor, the iPod, has become iconic. More than two million people in Britain own one, and in 2005 22.5 million were brought across the globe. That is a staggering 61,644 every day.

Apple founder Steve Jobs has accumulated a fortune of \$3 billion.

In June 2006 newspapers in the UK exposed Apple's use of Chinese sweatshop labour in the production of iPods. Apple refuted the claims, saying "Apple is committed to ensuring that working conditions in our supply chain are safe,

workers are treated with respect and dignity", but agreed to investigate further.

When journalists from the Mail on Sunday visited some of the factories in China, they found huge compounds, housing up to 200,000 workers, a population larger than Newcastle's! One factory, Foxconn's Longhua plant, has workers living in dormitories within the compound, sleeping 100 to a room with a bucket of water in which to wash their clothes. Security on the compound is tight and visitors are forbidden; employees are searched on their way in and out of the factories in an attempt to thwart "industrial espionage".

Working for 15 hours and being made to perform military-style drills before their shifts, the workers are paid the equivalent of £27 a month - allowing for inflation, this is about half of what weavers earned in factories in the north of England in 1805.

Foxconn is a trade name of Hon Pai Precision Industry, a \$16 million giant and one of the largest electronics manufacturers in the world, which makes everything from Playstations for Sony to iPods for Apple. Foxconn employs 100,000 people in China; a fifth of its

workforce makes Apple products.

The UK papers claim another plant - the one that makes Apples iPod Shuffle in Shanghai - employer mostly women, "because they are more trustworthy". At another factory security is run by Chinese police officers.

Workers at these factories earn more - about £50 a month - but are not housed by the company. Rent and living costs eat up about half the workers' wages.

Apple's investigation into the British media's allegations was weak, claiming that Foxconn were compliant with their codes of conducts "in most areas". One of these violations was "excessive hours" which Foxconn say that have reduced to

a "normal" 60-hour week.

Trade unions have criticised the report for its bias and lack of independence, as it interviewed only 100 of the tens of thousands of workers.

Free trade unions continued to be illegal in China, and are heavily repressed by the Chinese state - one of the reasons giant transnational corporations are so happy to produce in China.

No Sweat demands an end to exploitation and the violation of workers' rights!

- **The right to join a union!**
- **A living wage for all workers!**
- **Safe working conditions and an end to inhuman hours!**

about no sweat

No Sweat is an activist, campaigning organisation, fighting sweatshop bosses, in solidarity with workers, worldwide. Sweatshop labour is modern, global capitalism stripped bare. From the small, backstreet sweatshop to some of the biggest corporations in the world - child labour, forced overtime, poverty wages, unsafe conditions, harassment of women workers and intimidation of trade unionists are commonplace. **No Sweat stands for workers' solidarity, a living wage, safe working conditions and independent trade unions**

We aim to:

- **Make solidarity with sweatshop workers and their organisations**
- **Help unionise sweatshops in Britain**
- **Publicise, expose and help stamp out sweatshop employment.**

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