

Trade Union rights for Disney's sweatshop workers

Don't take the Mickey!

Bob Iger, president and CEO of Walt Disney received \$22 million in "compensation" in 2006, not including share options. Disney state that quarterly profits were \$782m, more than double the year before (Nov 2006). And revenue was up 14% to \$8.8bn."

Of course Disney's bosses are used to massive pay-outs.

For example, in 1996, Disney's then CEO, Michael Eisner, paid himself \$200 million in salary and shares options! That's over 300,000 times what he paid the workers in Honduras who made the Pocahontas T-shirts.

Public pressure has forced Disney, like many other companies to adopt a code of conduct. Codes of conduct are sets of rules relating to working standards which companies decide they and their suppliers will comply with.

Disney is proud of its code of conduct and claims that all of its suppliers have to follow it. Yet recent research in South China factories has once again brought to light the appalling conditions for

Disney garment workers.

According to the Hong Kong Christian Information Centre, young Chinese women workers making Disney toys, clothes and accessories work up to 16 hours a day, for as little as 10p per hour. If they go to the toilet without getting permission, or talk to each other, they get fined.

If they try to organise a free trade union they get fired.

It is common for factories to ignore overtime laws and force workers to work excessively long hours.

Workers complain of unhealthy working conditions, such as exposure to harmful chemicals. Others reported delays in receiving pay, falsification of timecards and not receiving overtime premiums. Canteen food is described as 'pig feed'.

In Leicester, when a British trade union (KFAT) tried to organise a union in a Disney distribution depot, Disney slapped an injunction on the union, banning them from even entering the approach road.

Workers at the Shah Makdum factory in Bangladesh who sewed Winnie the Pooh garments for Disney, were forced to work 15 hours a day seven days a

week, enduring cramped conditions and physical and verbal abuse. When the women finally had enough and went on strike, Disney took its business elsewhere. Pressure from Bangladeshi workers and unions supported by an international campaign led several large factories – including Shah Makdum - to undergo significant reforms.

Yet Disney still won't go back to producing there – even though it won't cost them any more. The success of the international campaign and the fact that the factory is now monitored by a genuinely independent workers' organisation sets a precedent they don't want to encourage elsewhere.

What You Can Do:

*** Join No Sweat on our protests and demand decent pay and conditions and the right to organise a free trade union for ALL Disney's workers.**

*** You can write in protest to Bob Iger at Walt Disney Co. 500 South Buena Vista St. Burbank, CA 91521, USA, demanding an end to Disney's use of sweatshops.**

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.**

get in touch
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I would like more information on No Sweat to join No Sweat (£5/year)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Uni/college/union:



**NO
SWEAT!**

fighting sweatshop bosses worldwide!