

Tesco - Every Little Hurts

Tesco makes £2.21 billion in profits.

Bosses demand more products at lower prices leading to job losses.

How can a multi-billion pound outfit attack the pay, terms and conditions of those people it relies on to get its goods to the stores?"

Supermarkets in the UK are getting bigger and hungrier with the big chains exchanging workers' rights for lower prices and increased profits.

These companies can exert huge amounts of pressure on supplier in the UK and abroad to provide goods in larger quantities and at lower costs. There is relentless pressure on wages and conditions.

In Chard, in the South West, in 2006, local GMB union activists organised a

demonstration outside Tesco when the company withdrew a contract from a local employer resulting in 850 job losses, including 500 in Chard alone.

Rob Webb from the T&G union comments: "Unbelievable thought it may be, Tesco is continuing to make job cuts while claiming to be the consumers' friend. We do not accept cuts, which are neither necessary nor ethical. How can a multi-billion pound outfit attack the pay, terms and conditions of those people it relies on to get its goods to the stores?"

And yet, right across the world Tesco is forcing workers to pay the price for its mega-profits.

"Tesco can say all good things, but the truth is the people are not being treated well here," - Gertruida Boysah, a seasonal worker on a farm in the Western Cape, South Africa, supplying to Tesco.

"I get 378 Rand [£32.50] pay every two weeks. I can't afford school fees for my daughter or go to school functions or buy school uniforms," - Tawana Fraser, who works as a 'permanent casual' labourer on a pear farm that supplies Tesco.

"War on Want reports that factory workers in Bangladesh, producing clothes for Tesco working 12-16 hours

per day, six days a week. Workers earn as little as the equivalent of £16 per month (or 5p an hour).

"Tesco uses cheap labour. Average hourly wages in 2000 were £0.46 in China, £0.38 in India and £0.13 in Sri Lanka. And so Tesco's sourcing in Sri Lanka has increased from \$19 million in 2001 to \$102 million in 2005. Tesco's buying in Sri Lanka is mainly for the Cherokee clothing brand.

"Banana Link estimates that Tesco makes roughly £800,000 profit every week from selling bananas. British trade union delegations have conducted research in Costa Rica, which supplies on in four bananas sold in the

UK. The research reveals repression of trade unions and many workers failing to receive a living wage on banana plantations supplying British supermarkets.

To take action against Tesco and the other supermarket giants, check out the Tescopoly website at www.tescopoly.org

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

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