



#UNITEDAGAINSTTHEDRAGON

In Dhaka (Bangladesh) still hundreds of unionised former employees of the Dragon group are fighting for owed wages. The garment workers have been layed off months ago under the pretense of the Corona crisis. At the same time not just owed wages, but compensations and benefits are being held back.

In the last 2 years the factories of the Dragon Group supplied retailers like LIDL, NewYorker and Walmart.

The local workers are not giving up. Let's support them here as well by putting pressure on the retailers and fighting for our common interests.

#UNITEDAGAINSTTHEDRAGON



What can I do?

Express your solidarity with the workers on social networks and spread the hashtag to generate publicity for the cause:

#UNITEDAGAINSTTHEDRAGON

Take part in our e-mail campaign:
unitedagainstthedragon.info



With just 2 clicks you can send a precomposed e-mail to one of the responsible businesses - easy for you, annoying to them!



We welcome every amount you can spare!

Support our charity campaign:
gofundme.com/gwtucsolidarity

Current info on the topic can be found here: globalmayday.net

VS.



What happened so far..

1994 Dragon Sweater and Spinning Limited incorporated as a private limited company in Bangladesh.

February/March 2020 Dragon Group management illegally lays off a majority of workers, citing 'economic losses' from the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason. Management terminated the workers without compensating years of back pay and benefits on which many workers depend.

Sidenote: The vast majority of workers were organized in the fighting union Garment Workers' Trade Union Center (GWTUC) by then. One might assume that union busting was a driving force behind the owners decision to lay off almost everyone.

Firing unionised workers under false pretense is an example of a tactic called "Union Busting".

March 2020 The Dragon Sweater workers start regular protests.

June 2020 Dragon Sweater management notices the international attention and reaches out to the International Confederation of Labor (ICL) and Global May Day to justify their behaviour. ICL and GWTUC openly respond.

June/July 2020 European base unions start to organize actions. Among others, the Free Workers Union (FAU) in Hamburg and Freiburg as well as the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in Hamburg and Bristol hold solidarity rallies in support of the workers in front of textile retailers.

July 2020 New Yorker contacts the FAU Hamburg and the GWTUC saying that under these circumstances they will blacklist Dragon Group. However, we are still waiting for a public statement! There has been no meaningful response from Walmart nor Lidl, yet.

July 2020 The labor union FOB (Brazil) joins the movement.

The ICL working group Asia together with GWTUC and IWW Ireland decide to call for a *Global Month of Solidarity with Workers at Dragon Sweater* (Aug 15. - Sep 15. 2020)!

#UnitedAgainstTheDragon is born.

August 2020 The pressure is showing first results. Workers, owners, and the government sit for ongoing tripartite negotiations. However, the owners still refuse to pay up. They also threaten with moving the entire factory to a different city.

October 2020 The factory owners and garment workers sign an agreement. It proclaims that at certain dates a total of around 50 % of owed wages is going to be paid out.

November 2020 On Nov 07. the first due date passes without payments being made. Labour disputes are resumed.

On Nov 15. the factory owner is blocked by protesters from leaving the building for 3 hours after a visit to the labour department.

On Nov 16. a charity campaign launches. The GWTUC is providing around 300 workers with regular meals and rudimentary medical support. www.gofundme.com/gwtucsolidarity

Nov 27. marks the International Day of Action in Solidarity with Former Dragon Sweater Textile Workers, initiated by the FAU and IWW Hamburg as well as the group In/Progress Braunschweig, the GWTUC and ICL working group asia.

What do workers in Bangladesh have to do with us?

As consumers we are an important link in the value-chain. It begins with the harvest on the cotton fields, continues in spinning mills, sewing rooms and dyeing factories and ends after extensive logistic efforts in our wardrobes. The largest profits are made here - where all the things are being sold. Therefore we have the potential to put some pressure on this chain to support the textile workers at Dragon Sweater.

The capitalist system operates world wide and so there are exploitative conditions everywhere. Sure, the conditions under which we live vary widely, but we all need to sell ourselves to the labour market and offer up our time in exchange, just to fulfill the bare necessities. So in the end we are all in the same boat, no matter whether we are here or in Dhaka.

If we collectively refuse to play the game we can change the rules.
Let's not let ourselves be divided! One World - One Struggle!

With this event we are taking part in the International Day of Action in Solidarity with Former Dragon Sweater Textile Workers. You can find out more about what is happening elsewhere here:



This tower in Dhaka, Bangladesh, is not only home to the Dragon Group's corporate division, but also houses several factory floors on which the workers sew(ed) textiles for businesses like LIDL, New Yorker and Walmart.

www.globalmayday.net



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