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INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM



JUNE 3, 2015
WASHINGTON, DC



LETTER FROM JUDY GEARHART, ILRF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards in a celebration to honor this year's awardees! These inspiring advocates work tirelessly to advance corporate accountability and dignity and justice for workers in supply chains around the world.

Senator Sherrod Brown is a long-time champion for workers' rights at home and abroad. In the House of Representatives, Senator Brown collaborated with ILRF on our Fairness in Flowers campaign to advance labor standards in trade agreements. In the Senate, he introduced legislation to strengthen the enforcement of our trade laws, and to highlight unfair ongoing trade practices and likely foreign currency manipulation. He is also advocating to close an outdated loophole in the US Tariff Act that allows certain goods made with forced and child labor to be imported and sold in the United States. Senator Brown leads our community's opposition to the fast track of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the Senate, and is demanding a trade policy that promotes good jobs, at home, while raising labor and environmental standards abroad.

Tonight we also celebrate two trade unions that have done incredible work in grassroots organizing. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and the Tobacco and Allied Workers of Malawi (TOAWUM) are on the front lines, fighting to end child labor and debt bondage in agriculture and to secure decent living standards and alternative livelihood options for tobacco workers.

FLOC has set international precedents in labor history, including being the first union to negotiate multi-party collective bargaining agreements, and the first to

represent H2A international guest workers under a labor agreement. FLOC's leadership and innovative organizing strategies on its long-time campaign against Reynolds American has highlighted the urgent need to increase Big Tobacco's accountability to the men and women harvesting its toxic crop.

TOAWUM has led the fight against the tobacco tenancy system prevalent in Malawi that locks tobacco farmers into systems of poverty and debt bondage. As a long-time ally of ILRF, TOAWUM has worked to push for key reforms that help tobacco farmers improve their working conditions and break dependence on the tobacco crop as a key component of Malawi's economy.

We are inspired by the work of this year's awardees who continue to strengthen the voices of workers worldwide and push the bar to keep big corporations accountable for worker rights in their supply chains. Tonight, please join us, with advocates here and worldwide, to honor those who are fighting on the front lines of our global labor rights movement.

Many thanks for all that you do for worker justice.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judy Gearhart'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

6:00 GENERAL RECEPTION

6:45 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcome: Princess Moss, Secretary-Treasurer, National Education Association

Remarks: Judy Gearhart, Executive Director, International Labor Rights Forum

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

Introduced and Presented by: Congressman George Miller

Accepted by: Senator Sherrod Brown

Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi (TOAWUM)

Introduced and Presented by: Emira Woods, Co-Director of Foreign Policy, ThoughtWorks

Accepted by: Raphael Sandramu, Secretary General, TOAWUM

Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)

Introduced by: Pat Keefer, Director of International Affairs Dept., American Federation of Teachers

Presented by: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Accepted by: Baldemar Velasquez, Founder and President, FLOC

CALL TO ACTION

Sarita Gupta, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice

7:30 CLOSING REMARKS AND POST-CEREMONY RECEPTION

Remarks: Cam Duncan, ILRF Board President

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

ILRF salutes the tremendous work and commitment of everyone who made the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards possible. We are proud to be working with such great allies, mentors, and supporters.

HOST COMMITTEE

Congressman George Miller, Chair
Cam Duncan, National Labor College
Joseph Eldridge, American University
Claude Fontheim, Fontheim International
Sam Fried, Limited Brands Foundation
Sally Greenberg, National Consumers League
Owen Herrnsstadt, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
Keith Mestrich, Amalgamated Bank
Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan, LiUNA

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA)

BOARD & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

President: Cam Duncan, National Labor College
Vice President: Eric Dirnbach, Green Jobs Campaign, LiUNA!
Secretary: Carol Rosenblatt, Coalition of Labor Union Women
Treasurer: Katherine Isaac, American Postal Workers Union
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May Chen, CUNY Murphy Institute
Lance Compa, Cornell University
Joe Eldridge, American University
Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO
Ken Grossinger, Democracy Partners
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Mark Harrison, United Methodist General Board of Church and Society
Owen Herrnsstadt, IAMAW
Yvette Herrera, Communications Workers of America
Lorretta Johnson, American Federation of Teachers
Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan, LiUNA!
Patricia Juan Pineda, Authentic Labor Front
Daniel Smith, Amalgamated Transit Union
Christopher Townsend, Amalgamated Transit Union

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Liana Foxvog, Director of Organizing and Communications
Eric Gottwald, Legal and Policy Director
Marian Manapsal, Fundraising and Operations Assistant
Abby McGill, Director of Campaigns

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

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MANY THANKS TO TONIGHT'S SPONSORS

HOSTING SPONSOR

National Education Association

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE | \$15,000+

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace
Workers

VISIONARIES | \$10,000+

L Brands Foundation

GUARDIANS | \$5,000+

American Federation of Teachers

Jules Bernstein

Elizabeth Colton

Communications Workers of America

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LiUNA

UNITE HERE

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners

United Mine Workers of America

ADVOCATES | \$2,500+

AFL-CIO

Amalgamated Transit Union

American Federation of Government Employees

Eileen Fisher

GlobalWorks Foundation

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DEFENDERS | \$1,000+

Amalgamated Bank

American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.

American Postal Workers Union

Eric Dirnbach

Joe Eldridge and Maria Otero

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Fontheim International, LLC

Fruit of the Loom

Peter and Toni Gearhart

GoodWeave International

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Solidarity Center

Sorini Samet & Associates LLC

BELIEVERS | \$500+

Bama Athreya

David and Judy Bonior

Anna Burger

May Chen

Brenna Dougan

Doyle Printing

Cam and Susan Duncan

Judy Gearhart and Rainer Braun

Cathy Hurwit

Martin Ma

National Consumers League

Oxfam America

Caroline Ramsay Merriam

Markley Roberts

Chris Townsend

WOLA: Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

SPECIAL THANKS*

Bama Athreya, USAID

Carole Berke

Jill Christianson, National Education Association

Divine Chocolate

Equal Exchange

Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO

GoodWeave International

Sally Greenberg, National Consumers League

Pharis Harvey, Founding ILRF Executive Director

Lorretta Johnson, American Federation of Teachers

Jennifer Kaye

Tim Ryan, Solidarity Center

Trina Tocco, Change to Win

Haley Wrinkle

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

SENATOR SHERROD BROWN

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARD FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

ILRF is honoring Senator Sherrod Brown for his visionary leadership and collaboration on leveraging trade policy to advance workers' rights.

Since January of 2007, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown – a champion of middle-class families in the Senate – has been described as “Congress’ leading proponent of American manufacturing.” Brown is working with the Obama Administration on the creation of a national manufacturing policy that would invest in manufacturing innovation, strengthen our component supply chain, connect workers with emerging industries, and align our trade policies to promote our national interests. He is also working with Ohio’s universities, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders to use Ohio’s resources to create new jobs in high-growth industries and make Ohio a national leader in clean energy manufacturing.

A long-time advocate for fair trade, Senator Brown has stood up to presidents of both parties on shortsighted trade agreements that ship U.S. jobs overseas. He led the bipartisan opposition to NAFTA in 1993 – as a freshman in the U.S. House of Representatives – and to CAFTA in 2005. Informed by his faith as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Sherrod Brown is committed to social and economic justice. He helped pass the historic health care law that makes health insurance more affordable and accessible for American families.

Brown serves on the Senate Committee on Finance. He also serves on the Senate Banking Committee, where he played an instrumental role in passing the historic Wall Street reform law, and is Chairman of its Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee. Brown is also the first Ohio Senator in 40 years to serve on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, where he has been instrumental in strengthening the farm safety net and addressing childhood hunger. He serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation.



FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARD FOR U.S. GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

ILRF is honoring FLOC for its innovative work organizing U.S. tobacco workers and holding tobacco companies responsible for poor working conditions.

FLOC, led by the charismatic Baldemar Velasquez, is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO organizing thousands of migrant workers across the Midwest and South. Under Velasquez's leadership, FLOC was founded in 1967 and won its first collective bargaining agreement among migrant farmworkers in Ohio picking tomatoes for Campbell's Soup in 1986. FLOC has set international precedents in labor history, including being the first union to negotiate multi-party collective bargaining agreements, and the first to represent H2A international guest workers under a labor agreement.

FLOC has led an eight-year campaign against Reynolds American, Inc., one of the largest tobacco corporations in the world, and its primary shareholder British American Tobacco. These entities use their power to set the terms and prices for the farmers who grow their tobacco, leading to pervasive problems of child labor, long hours of stoop labor in harsh conditions, physical and verbal harassment, abject poverty and debt, exposure to lethal nicotine and pesticides, and denial of basic labor and human rights protections. FLOC has arranged yearly demonstrations outside the annual Reynolds shareholder meeting, field visits for U.S. congressional representatives and British parliamentarians, convenience store campaigns and other innovative strategies in its battle with Reynolds American.



TOBACCO & ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF MALAWI

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

ILRF is recognizing TOAWUM for its advocacy and organizing to end child labor and improve the lives of tobacco tenant farmers, farm workers and their families.

Raphael Sandramu grew up in a farming family and co-founded TOAWUM to unionize the sector, and combat the tobacco tenancy system prevalent in Malawi that locks tobacco farmers into general systems of poverty and debt bondage. Labor recruiters for Malawian tobacco estates entice thousands of families to plantations with promises of plentiful harvests, food allowances and guaranteed access to materials needed to grow tobacco. Most of these promises, however, are reneged upon, leaving farmworkers and their families locked to their landlord by deceptive contracts and debt. This system denies an estimated 300,000 tobacco tenant families their basic rights to adequate food, clean water, proper housing, and fair payment for their crop. Most alarming is that this system forces around 78,000 children into tobacco fields each year.

In 2014, Sandramu participated in a meeting of the World Health Organization in Moscow, Russia to bring farmer voice into important language about farmer livelihoods in a major international tobacco control treaty. TOAWUM is trying to use treaty provisions to help Malawi break its dependence on tobacco, which accounted for up to 60 percent of the country's foreign earnings in 2014, the highest economic reliance on tobacco growing in the world. TOAWUM has been a long-time ally of ILRF, and has worked as part of the Child Labor Action Fund (CLAF) project to push for key reforms in Malawi and at the global level that help tobacco farmers improve their working conditions and achieve dignity in the tobacco fields.



HONORING A LEGACY OF LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Our 2015 Award Recipients join a prestigious group of advocates and organizations who have demonstrated their lifelong commitment to workers' rights in the U.S. and abroad.

2014

- + Congressman George Miller
- + Communications Workers of America
- + Maquila Worker Organizing Project (CGT, Honduras)

2013

- + Senator Tom Harkin
- + State Enterprises Workers' Relations Confederation (SERC) and the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN)
- + United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Warehouse Workers United, Warehouse Workers for Justice, and the National Guestworker Alliance

2011

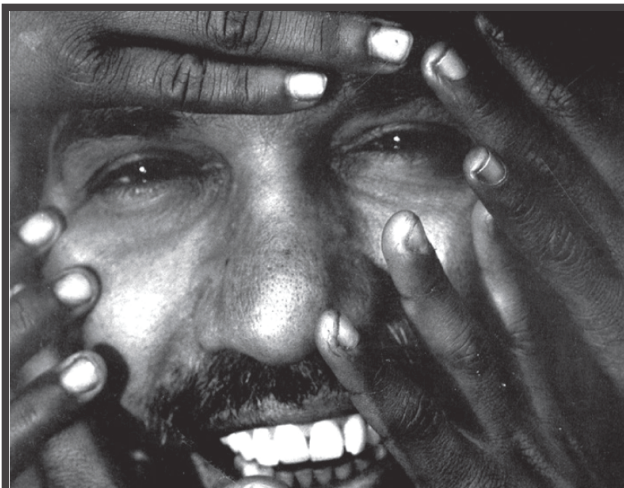
- + U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis
- + United Steelworkers
- + American Federation of Teachers
- + Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity

2009

- + U.S. Representative Jan. Schakowsky
- + Francisco Ramirez Cuellar, Colombian Mineworkers' Union (Sintraminercol)
- + International Brotherhood of Teamsters



2014 Labor Rights Defenders Awardees and Award Presenters
Front row from left: Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan, Yvette Herrera, Evangelina Argueta, and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
Back row from left: Tefere Gebre, Congressman George Miller, Judy Gearhart, and John Cavanagh



THIS JUNE 16TH

Please join Nobel Peace Prize recipient and ILRF's long-time ally, **Kailash Satyarthi**, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial from 4 - 6 p.m.

We will celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize recognition of Kailash's tireless advocacy to end child labor around the world.

Help us rally support to continue the fight!

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
TEAMSTERS



SALUTES

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 2015 LABOR
RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS:

SEN. SHERROD BROWN, OHIO

FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

TOBACCO AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF MALAWI

James P. Hoffa

JAMES P. HOFFA *General President*



Ken Hall

KEN HALL *General Secretary-Treasurer*

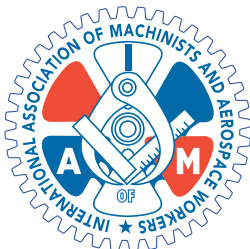
Special thanks to the
National Education Association
for hosting the
***Hasta La Victoria! Farm Worker
Justice in Global Supply Chains***
&
2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards!

**Members and Officers of the
International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers**

Congratulate and salute the

International Labor Rights Forum
and the
**2015 Labor Rights Defenders
Awards Honorees**

Senator Sherrod Brown
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

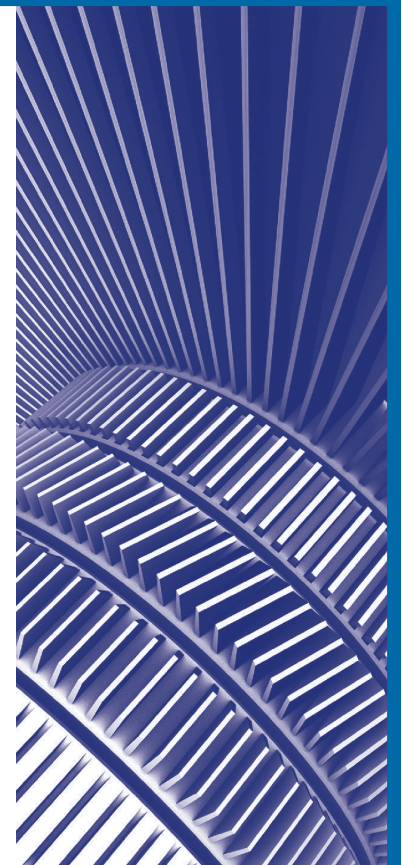
R. Thomas Buffenbarger

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Roach, Jr.

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS

*Dave Ritchie, Lynn D. Tucker, Jr., Robert Martinez, Jr.,
Philip J. Gruber, Gary R. Allen, Sito Pantoja, Mark Blondin,
Diane Babineaux and Dora Cervantes.*





INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

The Teamsters Union is North America's strongest and most diverse labor union. In 1903, the Teamsters started as a merger of the two leading team driver associations. These drivers were the backbone of America's robust economic growth, but they needed to organize to wrest their fair share from greedy corporations. Today, the Union's task is exactly the same.

The Teamsters are known as the champion of freight drivers and warehouse workers, but have organized workers in virtually every occupation imaginable, both professional and non-professional, private sector and public sector. Our 1.4 million members are public defenders in Minnesota; vegetable workers in California; sanitation workers in New York; brewers in St. Louis; newspaper workers in Seattle; construction workers in Las Vegas; zoo keepers in Pennsylvania; healthcare workers in Rhode Island; bakery workers in Maine; airline pilots, secretaries and police officers.

Teamsters stand ready to organize workers who want to bargain collectively. Once a contract is negotiated and signed, the Union works to enforce it—holding management's feet to the fire and invoking contract grievance procedures if management chooses not to. Wages and benefits under Teamster contracts are markedly better than those of non-union employees in similar jobs. Teamster contracts are the guarantors of decent wages, fair promotion, health coverage, job security, paid time-off and retirement income.

The Teamsters Union also performs vital tasks in such areas as pension management, safety & health, community outreach, governmental affairs and communications. For more than a century, the Teamsters have been a public voice for the rights and aspirations of working men and women and a key player in securing them.

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Fontheim International, LLC is proud to support

International Labor Rights Forum
and congratulates

Senator Sherrod Brown
for being a champion of workers' rights,


the **Farm Labor Organizing Committee**
for its innovative work in tackling poor working conditions,

and the impactful efforts of the
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi
to end child labor and improve the lives of workers.

www.fontheim.com

The men and women who
build America
congratulate the 2015 honorees
of the
Labor Rights Defenders Awards.

**LIUNA commends the ILRF
for all that you do to
achieve dignity and justice
for workers worldwide.**



LIUNA!
Feel the Power

aft Reclaiming the
Promise




The American Federation of Teachers is proud to stand with the **International Labor Rights Forum** to stop exploitative child labor and to improve the lives of workers around the world.


On behalf of the AFT's 1.6 million members, we salute those honored with the 2015 **Labor Rights Defenders Awards**:

- **Sen. Sherrod Brown**, for his visionary leadership on leveraging trade policy to advance workers' rights.
- **Farm Labor Organizing Committee**, for its innovative work organizing U.S. tobacco workers and holding tobacco companies responsible for poor working conditions.
- **Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi**, for its advocacy to end child labor and organizing to empower tenant farmers, farm workers and their families.

aft.org/promise | #ReclaimIt

Randi Weingarten Lorretta Johnson Mary Cathryn Ricker
PRESIDENT SECRETARY-TREASURER EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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communities.*

THE IBEW CONGRATULATES

Senator Sherrod Brown
The Farm Labor Organizing Committee
The Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARDEES

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Edwin D. Hill, International President
Salvatore J. Chilia, International Secretary-Treasurer

www.ibew.org

The Communications Workers of America is proud to support the International Labor Rights Forum and joins in honoring this year's recipients of the Labor Rights Defenders Awards, all dedicated advocates for workers' rights in the United States and throughout the world.

Senator Sherrod Brown
The Farm Labor Organizing Committee
The Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

*Larry Cohen, President
Yvette Herrera, Senior Director
and ILRF Board Member*

CWA
The union for the information age.



**Global Works
Foundation**

applauds the **ILRF** for its continued leadership and congratulates the 2015 Labor Rights Awards Honorees

**Senator Sherrod Brown
Farm Labor Organizing
Committee
Tobacco and Allied Workers
Union of Malawi**

www.globalworksfoundation.org

Congratulations to our brothers and sisters at the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi, and to our friend Senator Sherrod Brown



UNITEHERE!

D. Taylor
President
Sherri Chiesa
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PVH CORP. IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE

**INTERNATIONAL
LABOR RIGHTS FORUM**

AND ITS COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE JUST AND HUMANE TREATMENT FOR WORKERS WORLDWIDE.

WE CONGRATULATE TONIGHT'S HONOREES FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS INITIATIVES.

Calvin Klein TOMMY HILFIGER HERITAGE BRANDS



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE



**2015 INTERNATIONAL
LABOR RIGHTS
DEFENDERS AWARDS**

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION



Lawrence J. Hanley, International President
Javier M. Perez, Jr., International Exec. Vice President
Oscar Owens, International Secretary-Treasurer

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

**Sen. Sherrod Brown
Farm Labor Organizing Committee
and
Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi**

AFL-CIO

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
President

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
Secretary-Treasurer

TEFERE GEBRE
Executive Vice President

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LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS | JUNE 3, 2015



The Food Chain Workers Alliance congratulates all of the recipients of the 2015 Labor Rights Defenders Awards!

We're honored to have the International Labor Rights Forum as a founding member of the Food Chain Workers Alliance.

www.foodchainworkers.org



EILEEN FISHER

ULLICO INC. AND ITS FAMILY OF COMPANIES PROUDLY SUPPORT THE

2015 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS

At Ullico we are proud to support the hard working people who are part of the fabric of every community. For more than 85 years Ullico has provided insurance and investment products & services that support union members, their families, trustees and their employers.

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THE FIGHT FOR WORKER RIGHTS

NEVER

GOES OUT OF STYLE.

Congratulations to the 2015 International Labor Rights Defenders Award recipients


LEVI STRAUSS & CO.




AFGE is Proud to support

The 2015 Labor Rights Defender Forum as they honor *Senator Sherrod Brown*, the *Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)* and *Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi (TOAWUM)*.


We salute them for their tireless service to working people around the world.



J. David Cox, Sr.
National President



Eugene Hudson, Jr.
National Secretary
Treasurer



Augusta Y. Thomas
National Vice President for
Women and Fair Practices

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO



is proud to support

INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

as they honor the important work of

Senator Sherrod Brown,
Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi



US LEAP

Promoting Workers' Rights in the Americas

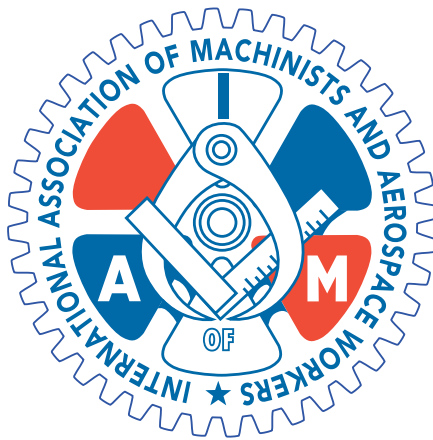
2015

LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS | JUNE 3, 2015

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

LABOR RIGHTS
DEFENDERS AWARDS



JUNE 3, 2015
WASHINGTON, DC

