

ILRF

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CHAMPIONING THE UNDERDOG • WE ARE ALL IN IT TOGETHER • MORE
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• MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE • JUSTICE SEEKING • CAMPAIGNING FOR

2016 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS

*Celebrating 30 years fighting for dignity
and justice for workers worldwide!*



LETTER FROM JUDY GEARHART, ILRF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the 2016 Labor Rights Defenders Awards in a celebration to honor this year's awardees and to commemorate ILRF's 30-year history. From inserting human rights clauses into U.S. trade policies to campaigning for reforms in global supply chains, ILRF, along with supporters like you, transnational coalitions and allies, and our grassroots partners, has accomplished so much in the last thirty years.

Tonight, we are especially thrilled to honor labor rights advocates who have been so supportive of ILRF's thirty years and who are tireless champions fighting for worker rights both in the U.S. and abroad. A longtime ally to ILRF, **Congresswoman Kaptur** is a true leader advocating for trade policies that promote good jobs, at home, while raising labor and environmental standards abroad. We are also excited to honor another one of ILRF's earliest supporters: **The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**. From fighting alongside us to oppose NAFTA and now again to block the TPP, the Machinists have proven time and again to be a visionaries in policy advocacy and quick to stand up for workers beyond their membership ranks. Finally, ILRF's advocacy efforts would mean nothing without brave frontline organizers. We honor **human rights defenders from Uzbekistan**, including Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov, and Uktam Pardaev, for their leadership, bravery, and dedication to challenging the state-run regime of forced labor in Uzbekistan. The fact that Elena, Dmitry, and Uktam are unable to join us tonight illustrates the gravity of the conditions in which they continue to bravely fight for basic human rights.

ILRF is both humbled and enthused to spotlight each of the 2016 Awardees' work. I am truly inspired by their commitment and perseverance, and we are lucky to celebrate ILRF's 30th Anniversary with such a tremendous group of global labor rights advocates. Please join us, with allies here and worldwide, to celebrate and honor these visionaries in our global labor rights movement.

Many thanks for all that you do for worker justice.

In Solidarity,


Judy Gearhart
Executive Director



TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

5:30 GENERAL RECEPTION

7:00 OPENING SKIT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcome: Yvette Herrera, ILRF Board President, Communications Workers of America

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

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Accepted by: Owen Herrnstadt

Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan: Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov, and Uktam Pardaev

Accepted by: Umida Niyazova, Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Presented by: John Cavanagh, Institute for Policy Studies

Accepted by: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

8:00 CLOSING REMARKS

THANK YOU

HOST COMMITTEE

Chair: Claude Fontheim, Fontheim International
Rachel Bien, Outten & Golden LLP
Eric Dirnbach, LiUNA
Joe Eldridge, American University
Sam Fried, L Brands
Owen Herrnstadt, IAMAW
Aleyamma Mathew, Ms. Foundation
Congressman George Miller
Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan, LiUNA
Caroline Ramsay Merriam, Ramsay Merriam Fund

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Congressman George Miller
Kalpona Akter, Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity
Senator Tom Harkin
Pharis Harvey, Co-Founder of ILRF
Bama Athreya, USAID
Trina Tocco, Change to Win
Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO
Raphael Sandramu, Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi

SPECIAL THANKS

Vanessa Belsito, Haute Catering
Carole Berke, Consultant
Nikki Grizzle, Studio Theatre
Trina Tocco, Change to Win

30TH ANNIVERSARY SKIT PERFORMERS

Former ILRF Executive Directors:
Pharis Harvey
Terry Collingsworth
Bama Athreya

Nina Smith, Executive Director of GoodWeave International

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Organizations listed for identification purposes only

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Laborers' International Union of North America
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American Federation of Government Employees • American Postal Workers
Union • Eric Dirnbach • Divine Chocolate • Cameron and Susan Duncan
Equal Exchange • Fairtrade International • Fontheim International
Fruit of the Loom • Toni and Pete Gearhart • GlobalWorks Foundation
David Holiday | Open Society Foundations • International Union of
Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers • Jobs with Justice • National Postal Mail
Handlers Union • Rachel Neild | Open Society Foundations • Outten & Golden
Oxfam America • PVH • Markley Roberts • Rust Consulting • SEIU
Solidarity Center • Sorini Samet & Associates, LLC
Washington Office on Latin America

2016 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARD RECIPIENTS

CONGRESSWOMAN MARCY KAPTUR

For her advocacy to eliminate child labor in agriculture sectors

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, is currently serving her seventeenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the senior-most woman in the House and the longest-serving woman from Ohio in history. ILRF recognizes Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur for her strong advocacy for workers' rights protections in free trade agreements and her efforts to fight for children's rights in agricultural sectors, in the U.S. and abroad. She has traveled to North Carolina to witness firsthand the deplorable working and living conditions that thousands of tobacco farm workers endure, and has supported their fight for a fair day's pay, respect in the workplace, and union recognition. Congresswoman Kaptur was ILRF's keynote speaker during the 2015 tobacco-focused conference: *Hasta La Victoria! Farmworker Justice in Global Supply Chains*.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

For its deep commitment to labor justice for all

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (Machinists) is a large and diverse organization, representing nearly 600,000 members across North America. The mission of the Machinists is to professionally negotiate contracts that provide well-paying jobs and quality benefits for workers and their families. Furthering international labor rights at home and abroad, the Machinists are also quick to stand up for workers outside their membership ranks, in defense of workers around the world, against child labor, and advocating for reforms to the global apparel industry. The Machinists were one of ILRF's earliest supporters in the 1980s, as part of a long standing commitment to labor rights and fair trade. ILRF is honoring the Machinists for its visionary leadership in policy advocacy and for its deep commitment to justice for all workers, everywhere.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN UZBEKISTAN

For their leadership, bravery, and dedication to challenging the state-run regime of forced labor in Uzbekistan

Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov, and Uktam Pardaev are public human rights monitors in Uzbekistan and have documented the state's use of forced labor in the cotton sector. Despite arrests and brutal treatment by the Uzbek government, they have resolutely continued to monitor abuses and advocate for the rights of their fellow citizens. ILRF's advocacy efforts would mean nothing without brave frontline rights defenders, like Elena, Dmitry and Uktam, whose documentation of forced and child labor in Uzbekistan's cotton sector drives effective global advocacy. ILRF is both humbled and enthused to spotlight their work with this year's award.

Accepted by: Umida Niyazova, an Uzbek journalist exiled for her reporting on human rights abuses and founder of the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights.



HONORING A LEGACY OF LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Our 2016 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.

2015

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

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

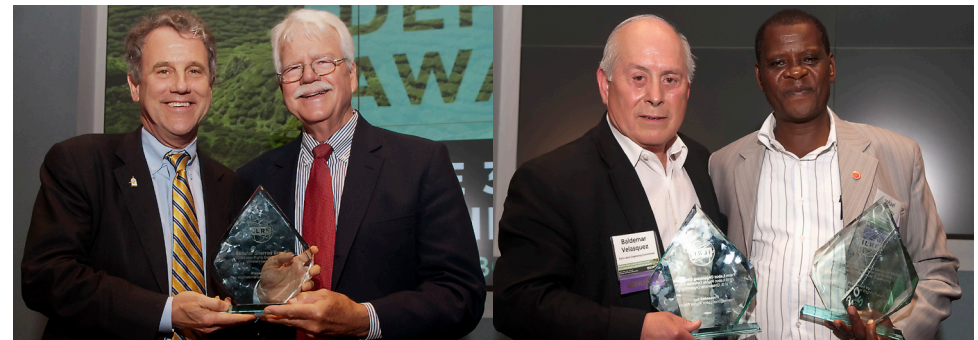


Photo on left: 2015 Recipient Senator Sherrod Brown (left) with 2014 Recipient Congressman George Miller (right)
Photo on right: 2015 Recipients Baldemar Valesquez of FLOC (left) and Raphael Sandramu of TOAWUM (right).

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

FIGHTING FOR DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR WORKERS WORLDWIDE

80 **1986:** ILRF founded by a coalition that secured the first labor rights clause in a preferential trade program, the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

1988: Published *Trade's Hidden Cost: Worker Rights in a Changing World Economy*, by John Cavanagh, Lance Compa, Allan Ebert, Bill Gould, Kathy Selvaggio, and Tim Shorrocks.

1990: Formed the Alliance for Responsible Trade with allies in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada to demand transparency and advocate for labor rights provisions in NAFTA.

1992:

- Published *The Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico Today*, by Dan LaBotz, exposing how established unions hindered worker organizing.
- Filed a successful GSP complaint against Chile's repression of labor rights.

1994:

- Advocated successfully for Sanders-Frank Amendment, requiring U.S. to demand labor rights considerations in World Bank and IMF Programs.
- Founded RugMark (now GoodWeave International), a nonprofit that has moved over 3,000 child laborers out of the carpet industry and secures their education.
- Published *Trading Away the Future*, exposing child labor in India's export processing.
- Exposed child labor in the Bangladesh apparel industry, resulting in a tripartite compact to move children into schools.

1996:

- Filed first human rights case under the Alien Tort Statute, *John Doe I v. Unocal Corp.* This launched a new major tool for corporate accountability in the global economy. Numerous other cases have since been filed based on this model.
- Launched Foul Ball campaign, leading to an ILO-Save the Children-UNICEF initiative to create stitching centers and end home-based soccer ball production in Pakistan.

1997:

- Spearheaded successful campaign to amend the U.S. Tariff Act to ban the import of goods made with forced labor.
- Campaigned against pregnancy testing in Mexico and Central America.

1998:

- Worked with Kailash Satyarthi (2014 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient) to organize the Global March Against Child Labor, engaging 7 million people in a march across 103 countries, pressing for ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.
- Joined White House initiative on transparency in the apparel industry, the Apparel Industry Partnership.
- Filed a successful GSP complaint against Thailand, leading to labor law reforms, including a significant reduction in the permissible number of overtime hours.

2001: Launched Rights for Working Women Campaign to end workplace sexual harassment and other oppressive labor conditions that disproportionately impact women.

2003: Formed the China Program to train and foster a new generation of skilled labor law practitioners and provide support for workers' legal claims.

2004: Reached a landmark settlement with Unocal for its role in forcing Burmese villagers to work on constructing a gas pipeline, the first successful Alien Tort Statute case against a U.S. corporation for complicity in human rights violations overseas.

2005:

- Released *Stolen Childhoods*, the first feature-length documentary on global child labor.
- Conducted 5 field studies on gender-based violence at work documented by ILRF grassroots partners in Kenya, Thailand, Mexico, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.
- Produced *Sexual Harassment, A Maquila Reality*, a documentary exploring women workers' experiences with workplace sexual violence in Mexico's maquila sector.

2007:

- Spun off ILRF's litigation practice as International Rights Advocates (IRAdvocates), which continues to seek reparations for workers.
- Co-founded the Cotton Campaign, a global coalition of human rights, labor, investor and business organizations dedicated to ending forced labor in the cotton sector, starting with the state-led forced labor system in Uzbekistan.

2008: Mobilized activists to support Liberian workers in winning their first democratically-negotiated collective bargaining agreement with Firestone.

2009: Co-founded the Food Chain Workers Alliance, a coalition of worker-based organizations advocating for improved wages and working conditions for all workers along the food chain.

2010:

- ILRF merged with SweatFree Communities and helped found the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium to incorporate labor rights into city and state procurement policies.
- Exposed backsliding in labor rights protections within Pakistan's soccer ball industry.

2011:

- Organized hundreds of screenings of the *Dark Side of Chocolate* as part of the "Raise the Bar, Hershey" campaign, eventually presenting Hershey's with 100,000 signatures.

2013:

- Supported trade union negotiations and became a witness signatory to the transparent and legally-binding Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which has since been signed by over 200 global brands.
- Partnered with Teamsters to expose Whole Foods support for union busting (at UNFI) and child labor cocoa, winning ILRF's Hershey's campaign and advancing the union drive.
- U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (USLEAP) became a program of ILRF.

2014:

- Launched the Seafood Working Group, a coalition dedicated to improving working conditions in Thailand's seafood industry that has grown to include more than 30 environmental, labor and human rights organizations from 10 countries.
- Led Cotton Campaign advocacy to pressure Uzbekistan to end the use of forced child labor, the first time that Uzbekistan stopped forcing all children to pick cotton.

2015:

- Facilitated collaboration between the Tobacco and Allied Workers Union of Malawi and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee on transnational tobacco campaigns, now part of a platform for multinational tobacco union engagement via the International Union of Food and Agriculture Workers Federation.
- Led a coalition of 26 NGOs in drafting the "Fair Labor Principles" in palm oil production, significantly raising the bar for labor standards in a growing global industry.
- Filed a Free Trade Agreement complaint with Peruvian unions against Peruvian laws permitting abusive, short-term contracts in export industries.
- Pressured apparel brands to fully fund a \$30 million dollar compensation fund for garment workers affected by the Rana Plaza building collapse.

2016:

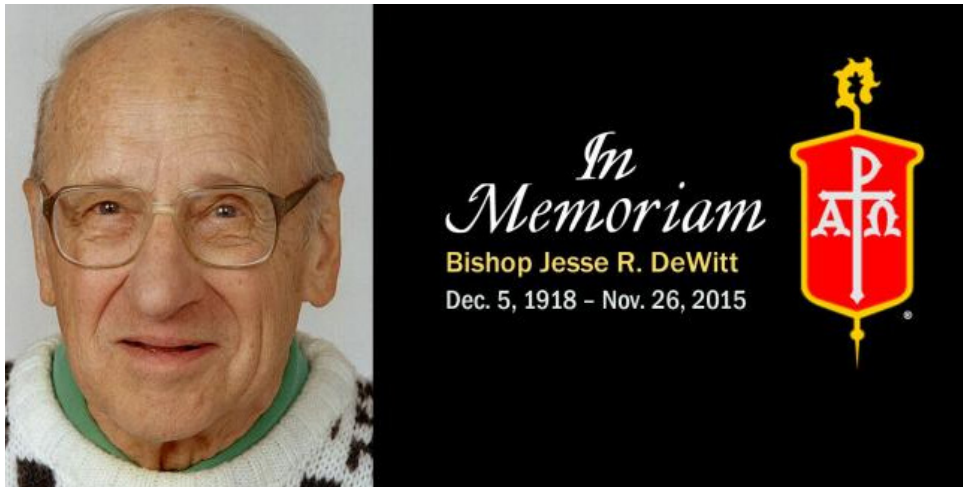
- Worked with Congressional allies to introduce identical House and Senate resolutions in support of the right of women workers in developing countries to be free from harassment, violence, and intimidation.
- Celebrated 30 years of fighting for dignity and justice for workers worldwide.

None of this would have been possible without our U.S. and international allies and grassroots partners. Together we are stronger!

REMEMBERING BISHOP JESSE DEWITT

Bishop Jesse DeWitt died last Thanksgiving on November 26, 2015. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Bishop DeWitt attended seminary at Garrett Theological Seminary and was ordained a United Methodist pastor. Intertwined with labor and justice, his ministry always focused on caring for both the spiritual and the physical components of people's lives. Throughout his life, he built and maintained strong personal ties with labor leaders and unions. He helped found the Interfaith Worker Justice, the Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, and the Detroit Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues. Bishop DeWitt was a long-standing ILRF Board Member and served as board chair.

Memorial contributions may be made to Food Gatherers or to Garrett Evangelical Seminary for the DeWitt Scholarship Fund.



THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



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THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 2016 LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS:

REP. MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

ELENA URLAEVA, UZBEKISTAN LABOR LEADER

James P. Hoffa

JAMES P. HOFFA General President



Ken Hall

KEN HALL General Secretary-Treasurer

Here's one little reason we care.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
salutes the International Labor Rights Forum.



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Rickey Wallace



A Strong Voice for Labor Rights

The Communications Workers of America
is proud to support the International Labor
Rights Forum and join in honoring the
following defenders of labor rights:

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
The International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers
Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan.

Together, we are building a movement for
workplace justice.

President Chris Shelton
Secretary-Treasurer Sara Steffens
and the CWA Executive Board

CWA

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM
FOR 30 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
GLOBAL WORKER ADVOCACY.**

WE APPLAUD THE ILRF 2016 LABOR HONOREES

CONGRESSWOMAN MARCY KAPTUR

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN UZBEKISTAN



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The men and women who build America
congratulate the 2016
International Labor Rights Defender Awardees.

LIUNA commends the ILRF
for fighting for labor rights across the globe.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

ARMAND E. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

To our IAM sisters and brothers, our good friend Rep. Marcy Kaptur and the brave and dedicated Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

**UNITE
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Jo Marie Agriesti
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Maria Elena Durazo
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Ken Neuman
National Director for Canada

Leo W. Gerard
International President

Fred Robinson
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Stan Johnson
International Secretary-Treasurer

www.usw.org

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 celebrate the 30th anniversary of the forum and those honored with the 2016 Labor Rights Defenders Awards:

- **Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur**, for her advocacy to eliminate child labor in agriculture and to protect workers' rights in global trade agreements;
- **The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**, for its deep commitment to justice for all workers; and
- **Human rights defenders in Uzbekistan**, including **Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov** and **Uktam Pardaev**, for their leadership, bravery and dedication to challenging the state-run regime of forced labor in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan.

aft.org/promise | #ReclaimIt

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United Association
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Annapolis, MD 21401
www.ua.org

The
IBEW



Honors the 2016 Labor Rights Defenders Awardees

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Elena Urlaeva

**Congratulations to the International Labor Rights Forum for
30 years of dedication to dignity and
justice for workers worldwide**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Lonnie R. Stephenson, *International President*
Sam J. Chilia, *International Secretary-Treasurer*
www.ibew.org



Global Works Foundation

applauds the **ILRF** for its continued leadership and congratulates the 2016 Labor Rights Awards Honorees

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan, including Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov, and Uktam Pardaev

www.globalworksfoundation.org

Fontheim

Fontheim International, LLC

Fontheim International, LLC is proud to support

International Labor Rights Forum
and congratulates

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
for working to end child labor and
to protect workers' rights in trade agreements,

the **International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers**
for its commitment to justice for all workers,

and the impactful efforts of the
Human Rights Defenders in Uzbekistan,
including **Elena Urlaeva, Dmitry Tihonov, and Uktam Pardaev**
for their dedication to eliminating forced labor in Uzbekistan's cotton sector.

www.fontheim.com

LABORPRESS

WWW.LABORPRESS.ORG

Congratulates

**The International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace Workers**



For their 2016 Labor Rights Defenders Award

*We have satellite offices at many unions; however,
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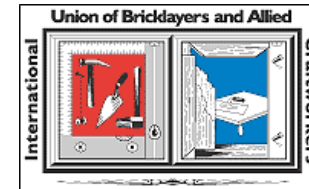
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ABOUT ILRF

INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM is a human rights organization that advocates for workers globally. We hold global corporations accountable for labor rights violations, advance policies and laws that protect workers, and strengthen workers' ability to advocate for their rights.

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Organizations listed for identification purposes only

THANK YOU!

ILRF Staff would like to thank you for your support in strengthening workers' organizations and labor rights advocacy around the world.



Congratulations to the

**2016 LABOR RIGHTS
DEFENDERS & ILRF**

for continuing the struggle
for global labor justice

A SPECIAL GIFT FROM PAST AND PRESENT ILRF STAFFERS
IN HONOR OF ILRF'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY:

Pharis Harvey, Terry Collingsworth, Bama Athreya, Trina Tocco,
Norma Fern, Eva Seidelman, Manfred Elfstrom, Adeline Lambert, Jackie Starr,
Diana Alonzo Watkins, Matt Fischer-Daly, Liana Foxvog, Judy Gearhart,
Eric Gottwald, Kevin Lin, Marian Manapsal, Abby McGill, and Andy Shen

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CHILD LABOR • CUTTING EDGE • GLOBAL SOLIDARITY • SOLIDARITY IN
• SMALL BUT MIGHTY; MAKING THE MIGHTY RESPECT THE SMALL • C
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• SUPPORTING UNIONS • FAIRNESS FOR WORKERS • BECAUSE IT MATTERS
• FORCE FOR GOOD • MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE • JUSTICE SEEKING •
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DECENT WAGE • CRUSADING, INNOVATIVE, INFORMATIVE • WORKPLAC
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