



No Sweatshops Bucco!
Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance
C/o Azania Heritage International
5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15224

nosweatshopsbucco@yahoo.com
FAX - (412)361-0540

El Progreso – Honduras Gildan Factory Workers
C/o Independent Federation of Honduran Workers

September 11, 2004

El Progreso Workers,

Solidarity Greetings from our STEVE BIKO DAY Celebration in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where we have gathered to remember STEVE BIKO and discuss Black Consciousness, a philosophy from the South African anti-apartheid struggle that can help communities like ours build foundations of solidarity and struggle together for global justice. STEVE BIKO was beaten to death by thugs of the apartheid regime in 1977 and he is with us here today as we discuss the struggle of working people here in Pittsburgh, your struggle at the El Progreso Gildan factory in Honduras and the struggle of the National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh.

Pittsburgh was forever changed by a wave of steel mill closings in the 70s and 80s. We continue to lose manufacturing jobs and we have done little over the years to fight plant closings successfully. One particular factory, a Nabisco bakery, threatened to close 4 years ago and we tried to save it by finding a new investor and providing the company with huge tax incentives. In spite of these efforts, the Nabisco Bakery in Pittsburgh closed this summer. These were some of the best manufacturing jobs in our community and the loss will be devastating.

We learned about your struggle through the Maquila Solidarity Network and SweatFree Communities. Amongst us today are students from many different Universities that belong to the Workers Rights Consortium. It is not acceptable to any of us that Gildan is going "cut and run," that you are going to be denied your right to work and organize a labor union. We urge you to remain steadfast in the struggle to keep your plant open. We have been inspired by your courage and your struggle is joined from Pittsburgh, PA.

Shirts from your factory were given out as promotional items at our baseball stadium this summer and are printed with the Pittsburgh Pirate logo by many different licensors. We have talked with thousands of baseball fans about conditions at your factory and we have written thousands of letters to the management of our baseball team, the Pittsburgh Pirates, asking them to address Gildan and take action to save the El Progreso factory in Honduras and protect your right to organize a labor union. We will continue in these efforts and we request regular updates and information.

Solidarity,

Annis Butts, Mongi Sepelia, Michelle Gaffey, Len Blomfeld, Celeste Taylor, Regina Birchard, Robert T. Augustus, Kenneth Alan Miller, Dr. Bridget Kelley, Robert J. Sale

2004 STEVE BIKO DAY Participants * No Sweatshops Bucco! * Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance

Cc: National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh
Allies in the No American anti-sweatshop movement
Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Club