

#31002



Sports & Exhibition Authority

When you have the time, Pittsburgh has the place.

Stephen G. Leeper
Executive Director

September 28, 2004

Mr. Dennis DaPra
Pittsburgh Pirates
PNC Park at North Shore
115 Federal Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212


Dear Dennis,

The Sports & Exhibition Authority (SEA) was approached by members of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance about alleged unfair labor practices and unfavorable working conditions at the Gildan Activewear El Progreso Factory in Honduras. The facility manufactures apparel for Major League Baseball. The individuals who spoke with us included Mr. Kenneth Miller of IWW (International Workers of the World), Father Jack O'Malley of AFL-CIO, and students of Duquesne University.

To verify their testimony the SEA contacted the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) in Washington, D.C., a non-profit organization that works with labor rights experts to investigate factory conditions. In July the WRC produced a report that outlines findings and recommendations with respect to alleged violations of workers' rights at Gildan Activewear El Progreso (report enclosed). According to the report, this particular factory has experienced labor complaints including wages and hours of work violations, freedom of association violations and harassment and abuse violations. Recently the CEO of Gildan announced that the Activewear El Progreso facility would close by September 30, 2004. According to the WRC's report, the closure of this facility is based on an anti-union animus. It claims that management at Gildan Activewear El Progreso facility fired large numbers of workers in order to prevent unionization. The WRC report cites other examples of fair labor violations that raise concerns over the ethical treatment of workers by Gildan.

We understand that the Pirates do not have a direct contractual relationship with Gildan and that the direct relationship resides under an agreement with MLB. We also understand that the closing date of the Gildan Activewear El Progreso facility is quickly approaching. However, given the serious nature of the allegations the SEA is asking the Pirates organization to address this matter with MLB in an effort to prevent similar situations from arising in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Mary K. Conturo

Sports & Exhibition Authority
Doc # 31002_1.DOC

Regional Enterprise Tower Suite 2750 425 Sixth Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 412.393.0200 tel 412.393.0204 fax

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