

TRANSFORMATION IN HONDURAS

How the 2007-2009 Russell
Case Opened the Door to
Sweeping Gains for Worker
Rights

HONDURAN GARMENT INDUSTRY

- 115,000 direct employees
- #1 exporter of t-shirts to US
- Workers often experience low wages, health and safety risks, abusive treatment.
- Violations of freedom of association
- Significant production by manufacturers, Fruit of the Loom, Gildan, and Hanesbrands.

JERZEES OF HONDURAS - 2007

- Owned by Russell Athletic / Fruit of the Loom
- 2008 anti-union closure
- WRC conducted investigation
- Universities intervened

2009 AGREEMENT BETWEEN CGT UNION AND FRUIT OF THE LOOM

- Opened factory - Jerzees Nuevo Dia – rehired workers from closed factory
- Compensation for workers
- Respect for freedom of association in all Russell / Fruit of the Loom factories in Honduras
- Oversight committee
- Legally binding

INITIAL IMPACT OF AGREEMENT

- Jerzees Nuevo Dia factory opens
- Collective bargaining agreement reached with improved conditions for workers
- Trainings on freedom of association at other Fruit of the Loom factories

OTHER FRUIT OF THE LOOM EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FROM AGREEMENT

- Five additional Fruit of the Loom factories form unions
- Successful conversion of a sewing plant to distribution center
- Successful consolidation of two sewing facilities

BENEFITS EXTEND TO WORKERS EMPLOYED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS

- Unions formed at Gildan and Hanesbrands factories
- Improved working conditions for workers

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS FOR WORKERS

- Wage increase
- School supplies
- Scholarships
- Savings and loan
- Medical care
- Free lunch
- Respect for workers

2018 – OUTCOME FOR WORKERS

- Respect for freedom of association
 - CGT represents 35,000 garment workers
 - CGT has bargaining agreements covering 25,000 workers
 - Stark contrast to other garment-producing countries
- Positive relationship between union and manufacturers
- Increased participation in national arena
 - Establishment of minimum wage
 - Housing project
 - Daycare project