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## Thank you to all our supporters!

We are tremendously grateful for all you do as activists, advocates and supporters of our campaigns to secure workers' rights around the world! Thanks to your generosity, we raised more than \$57,000 from individuals like you during our year-end fundraising campaign. Our network of supporters is truly what makes our work -- like the exciting achievements below -- possible. We are constantly aware that our strength is grounded in collective action and we couldn't do it without you! We thank our donors for your confidence, and look forward to continuing our mission together in 2015. If you didn't contribute yet, [please donate here!](#)

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## Thai government backs off prison labor scheme

The Thai Government [has stated it will not go through](#) with a proposed project that would have recruited prisoners to work on Thai fishing vessels. The announcement comes after ILRF helped organize international opposition with a [letter](#) signed by 45 human rights and labor organizations that received wide attention in the global press. Human trafficking is a [well-documented problem](#) on Thai fishing boats, and such a program could have put prisoners in situations of forced labor aboard privately-owned and operated boats.



## Guatemalan trade unionists successfully negotiate with Coca-Cola

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers (IUF) [announced recently](#) that after long discussions with the Coca-Cola Company, all Coca-Cola workers in Guatemala will soon have union rights and be protected by a negotiated collective agreement! Of the three Coca-Cola plants in Guatemala, one was already represented by a union, one signed a collective-bargaining agreement on Jan. 12, and another is due to sign an agreement soon.



ILRF and USLEAP have supported the struggle of these workers for a decade. We continue our advocacy on behalf of Guatemalan workers through our USLEAP@ILRF program, and recently released a new policy brief on the effect of the Central American Free Trade Agreement on Guatemalan labor relations. [Check it out here!](#)

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## Your vote counts: Public Eye Lifetime Award

Voting ends tomorrow for the [Public Eye Awards](#). Walmart is one of six shortlisted companies. If you haven't voted yet, [click here to help shine a global spotlight on Walmart's irresponsible business practices](#).

Walmart is the largest private employer in the world and it's a perfect picture of everything that's wrong with our unequal economy. Far too many Walmart workers continue to live in poverty and rely on public programs like food stamps to survive, while Walmart rakes in \$16 billion a year in profits. After at least 1,138 Bangladeshi workers died in the collapse of a factory that made clothes for Walmart, the company refused to properly compensate their families, or to sign a binding agreement to prevent future tragedies. Moreover, Walmart is pushing competitors into the race to the bottom and is driving labor standards down across the globe, far beyond their own supply chains.

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## New report explores poverty in cocoa trade

ILRF released a new report analyzing the causes behind continuing poverty among cocoa farmers in West Africa, and how that poverty perpetuates child labor and other labor rights abuses. [The Fairness Gap: Farmer Incomes and Root Cause Solutions to Child Labor in the Cocoa Industry](#) is the product of nearly two years of research and dialogue with diverse actors in the industry that identifies strategies to lift up the perspectives of farmers. It comes at a strategic moment, as government and industry actors increasingly realize their significant investments in programs on the ground need to show impact on farmer incomes. We hope the report will foster a new phase of multi-stakeholder dialogue and advocacy for farmer-centered strategies that improve incomes among cocoa-growing families.

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## We're hiring!

[Senior Development Officer](#): Together ILRF and the Cotton Campaign seek a visionary storyteller, with stellar financial acumen, who will create meaningful, authentic and long-lasting connections between the complementary ILRF and Cotton Campaign missions on the one hand and those who seek to support worthy causes on the other.