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# NEWSLETTER

## Contents

- + Korea update (1) *Migrant workers struggle : hunger strike, protests and more arrests*
- + Korea update (2) *Korean Hospital Workers Plan Desperate Appeal to the Pope*
- + Urgent appeal (1) *Case I : South Korea*
- + Urgent appeal (2) *Case II : Parkistan*
- + International Solidarity Campaign : *Nike Watch News - September 2002*
- + Introduction NGOs : *Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN)*
- + Peace Making : *Ten Things You Can Do To Stop The War On Iraq*

Number 3

NOVEMBER, 2002

【Korea update (1)】

## **Migrant workers struggle : hunger strike, protests and more arrests**

*30 October 2002, Kabir Uddin and Muhammad Bidduth, Equality Trade Union - Migrants Branch leaders who have been detained in Hwasong Immigration Processing Center for two months since a government crackdown on migrant workers, initiated a hunger strike to protest human rights violations inside the detention center.*



<Source : Base 21 >

Their demands are: release all migrant worker prisoners and stop the abuse of migrant workers, both inside and outside the center.

One day later two more migrant workers prisoners joined the hunger strike with the same demands. The two, a man from Nigeria named Paul, and man from Kazakhstan named Mansurog, have been in prison for four months. They were arrested after being beaten by a mob of drunk Koreans on the street. After calling the police for help, instead of arresting the perpetrators, they detained the two migrant workers.

Two more migrant worker prisoners, both Chinese, have also joined the hunger strike.

Last Saturday, about 15 Korean ETU-MB members and supporters tried to visit the director of the Seoul Immigration Office in Mokdong. The director refused to talk with the delegation. He did leave a message for the group, saying that he is not responsible for this situation and- - incidentally- - the delegates have to immediately leave the office.

After an argument with immigrant officers while a security guard protected the director's door, at least 50 riot cops marched in. At 1:20 p.m. they violently cleared the office building and arrested every delegate.

The rest of the delegation is still in prison. At this point ETU-MB has yet to respond. (2002 / 11 / 03. Base 21)

**Letter written by Kabir**

*Two days have past here. As you already knew, Korean government took a decision that all migrant workers are forced to go back to their own countries. But, the Korean government don't know that those who are struggling can't be prevented in a world history.*



Source : Kabir

Comrades, brothers and friends!

Two days have past here. As you already knew, Korean government took a decision that all migrant workers are forced to go back to their own countries. But, the Korean government don't know that those who are struggling can't be prevented in a world history. If the struggle could be prevented, then the struggle couldn't catch their victory flag. No nation could get freedom.

Anyway, now they threaten us to crack down and deport us to our country. There are 400,000 migrant workers working in Korea but they have no labor right. Why don't the government give us labor right? Do they ignore us who came from the poor country? So do they hurt us always? They don't know that migrant workers are now one. If they deport many migrant workers like us, then many migrant workers will fight against the government and we can get the great victory. The government don't know that we have also known their weakness. Like a group of robbers, they caught us in the early morning. What will happen when hundreds of thousand of migrant workers like us will demand their labor rights? Then Korean government will not prevent migrant workes, depending on hundreds of polices.

Dear friends.

Yesterday an officer said to us, "you have done wrong, so you have to apologize for your fault." I replied, "if we have done wrong, then all fighters have done wrong in the world." So dear comrades, we must struggle altogether strongly. We will get victory because we are one now. All migrants worker are now conscious. Nowadays some weak- minded people will fear, so you have to encourage them. There is no other way but doing this. Please don't misunderstand ETU- MB. Remember that we are now illegal, anyone anytime can be caught like us! Remember that we can be safe only when we fight! Many Korean students and workers are doing rally in front of Immigration Office, and they are trying to prevent the government from deporting us. Please deeply think that there are many differences between us and other migrant workers who have been caught on crackdown days and live in jail with us! If you misunderstand ETU- MB, and if you keep away from ETU- MB, then you make

the greatest mistake and failure. If you love us and our struggle, then you must remain in ETU- MB and struggle. We must and can get victory. Remember if you want to get something, then you have to sacrifice something. When you all unite, struggle and organize other migrant workers very hard, then we will always be with you. We get a lot of pain because we can't shout any slogan with you, with same voice. But we will get more pain if you don't struggle. You know that 90% labors in the world, if they have much weakness when they demand their rights, don't stop their struggle until they get labor rights.

Dear comrades. No struggle will be in vain. But your and our struggles will not be in vain. Someday we will get victory. And we must get victory. Tu- jeang!

Kabir, Ma- seok chapter chief  
from Hwa- sung migrant jail  
September 4, 2002

## 【 Korea update (2) 】

### Korean Hospital Workers Plan Desperate Appeal to the Pope

source : KCTU

#### *Fears for the Health and Life of Hunger-Strikers*



13 October, 2002, Korean Health and Medical Workers Union president, Ms. Cha Soo-ryun, brought her hunger strike to an end after 19 days following strident medical advice of doctors that her life would be threatened if she continues with the hunger strike, and appeal by the KCTU leadership. President Cha, having ended the hunger strike, has, however, refused to be taken to a hospital, as she was wanted for arrest by police.

\* Hospital Workers' Sit-in at the Myongdong Cathedral

\* Industrial Dispute at Catholic Hospitals: "rule of law" or respect for workers' rights (background information)

KHMWU president joined 8 other hospital workers who had ended their hunger strike due to the doctors' advice. On October 10, 8 nurses, who have been on hunger strike at the Myongdong Cathedral since September 25 were taken to hospital for emergency treatment.

They were part of the 30 nurses from three St. Mary's hospitals in Korea who have started a hunger strike in the course of the industrial dispute that began on May 23, 2002.

KHMWU president Cha's decision to end the strike was influenced also by the decision of the KCTU to step up its efforts to bring the dispute to an acceptable resolution, including the dispatch of an appeal mission to Vatican.

#### KCTU Delegation to the Vatican

KCTU will send a delegation, headed by one of its vice-presidents, to the Vatican to appeal for a special intercession by the Vatican and Pope. This decision is an extension of its efforts to persuade the leadership of the Catholic Church to intercede in the dispute involving the union of hospital workers and the management run by Catholic priests. KCTU will appeal to the spirit of respect for labour and

trade union rights Pope John Paul II has outlined in the 1981 Encyclical "Laborem Exercens"

KCTU has been in contact with its sister organisations in Italy to seek their support and assistance in presenting its appeal to Pope and the Vatican. KCTU delegation will head for Rome/Vatican on October 21. The delegation originally planned to set out on supplication mission on October 14, but, local factors in Italy and the consideration for the continuing efforts to bring the parties in the dispute to a dialogue prompted the postponement of the departure.

### The Desperate Struggle and Appeal

Hospital workers began protest sit-in on the hill of the Myongdong Cathedral downtown Seoul following a police raid at the Kangnam St. Mary's Hospital on September 11. The police raid, in which plain-clothed police chased striking workers all the way to the hospital's chapel, dragging them out under the main crucifix, ended with the arrest of over 200 nurses, and the imprisonment of 7 union leaders, including Ms Kim Young-sook, chairperson of the Yoido St. Mary's Hospital. The hospitals, cleared of striking workers, are now guarded by a permanent barricade of hundreds of fully uniformed riot police.

Following the police raid which swept out striking workers from the hospitals, the management of the Catholic Medical Centre, to which the St. Mary's Hospitals belong, have rejected all proposals by the union and the KCTU, and even independent facilitators, such as publicly renowned Catholic individuals, to resume dialogue to bring the dispute to a resolution.

The KCTU, having decided to take charge of the current dispute, began to organise KCTU-wide campaign.



As a part of the campaign to achieve a successful resolution of the dispute, the KCTU decided to send a delegation to Vatican to appeal to the Pope to intercede in the dispute.

As a step in the supplication pilgrimage to Vatican, a KCTU delegation, led by Acting President Yoo Deuk-sang, on October 10, met with Archbishop Giovanni B. Morandini, the Apostolic Nuncio at the Holy See Embassy in Korea, to appeal for his intercession for amicable resolution of the dispute.

Vatican's Ambassador to Korea gave a commitment to bring the Korean bishops or any persons in the Catholic Church in Korea or the management of the Catholic Medical Centre with authority to deal with

the current dispute to meet with the union to start a process to bring the dispute to a resolution.

On the other hand, the Korean Health and Medical Workers Union is set to launch a general strike of all its members on October 16 to press the Catholic management to return to dialogue with a sincere will to bring the dispute to a resolution.

\* Hospital Workers' Sit-in at the Myongdong Cathedral

\* Industrial Dispute at Catholic Hospitals: "rule of law" or respect for workers' rights (background information)

## 【URGENT APPEAL (1)】



### **Case 1: South Korea**

**Source:** Asia Human Rights Commission

### **SOUTH KOREA: Family members of victims of suspicious deaths stage sit-down strike for 27 days**

"Even though my son who was dead mysteriously, cannot come back to life, I never want these tragedies to happen again in which young people are unjustly accused of suicide."

"If we can reveal the truth about suspicious deaths, freezing weather will not be an obstacle to our struggle."

The above statements were made by the family members of the victims of suspicious deaths who have been staging a sit-down strike in Seoul for the last 27 days on the street in front of the office of the Grand National Party, the majority party in South Korea's National Assembly. Through their sit-in that began on Oct. 10, they hope to persuade the National Assembly to amend the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths.

According to the statute of limitations of this legislation, on Sept. 16, 2002, the mandate of the Presidential Truth Commission on Suspicious Deaths (PTCSD) ended. However, many cases of alleged suspicious deaths that have been brought before the PTCSD have not been investigated. During the two-year period in which the PTCSD has sought to reveal the truth about suspicious deaths that occurred during the country's previous authoritarian regimes, the PTCSD has received 83 petitions of alleged suspicious deaths. However, in only 19 cases has the PTCSD stated that the victims were killed by the State. In addition, the PTCSD has concluded that 30 cases are impossible to determine due to various limitations, and it has rejected 33 cases.

In fact, from the beginning, the victims' family members and human rights organisations have been concerned about the PTCSD's limited powers, short mandate to investigate cases and lack of ability to charge the perpetrators. Therefore, even though various progressive groups in South Korea and in the international community have urged the Korean government to amend the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths in order to extend the mandate of the PTCSD and to strengthen its power to investigate the accused national institutions, the Korean National Assembly has not indicated any willingness to do so. At the present time, South Korea's politicians are only interested in the presidential election that will be held at the end of this year.

Therefore, 134 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in South Korea held a press conference on Nov. 4 in front of the office of the Grand National Party to urge the National Assembly to amend this legislation so as to extend the mandate of the PTCSD and to strengthen the body's power to investigate these suspicious deaths through the appointment of special prosecutors. Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of South Korea and Korean Bar Association have also supported these demands.

In order to create international pressure to amend the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths, we are again urging you to send your appeal to the president and national assemblymen of South Korea. Presently, the amended legislation is now languishing in the Legislative and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly.

If you need more information on this issue, please read our previous urgent appeal at <http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2002/298/>

#### SUGGESTED ACTION

Please send your appeal to the president of South Korea, to representatives of the ruling and opposition parties and to members of the Legislative and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly to urge them to amend the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths as soon as possible.

SUGGESTED LETTER (You may use your own words or use the following letter as a sample.)

Dear

I am writing this letter to express my deep concern that the Presidential Truth Commission on Suspicious Deaths (PTCSD) has finished its work on Sep. 16, 2002, even though the truth of many alleged cases of suspicious deaths has remained uncovered.

My attention has been drawn to the work of the PTCSD, and I very much want the PTCSD to succeed as it will become a model for other countries in the world that have had or are still undergoing similar experiences. As you know, most Asian, Africa and South American countries have been under a military or developmental dictatorship; and as a result, millions of innocent people have been killed or have disappeared through state violence. However, because official investigations have not resulted in the filing of charges against the perpetrators, the perpetrators still continue to enjoy impunity.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to amend the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths so that the mandate of the PTCSD will be extended until the truth about the country's suspicious deaths have been determined. Moreover, I ask that the PTCSD have the power to investigate cases through

the appointment of special prosecutors. I also urge you to enact the new law as soon as possible to exclude the statute of limitations from applying to crimes against humanity as the United Nations has recommended.

I look forward to learning about your action on this important matter to the people of South Korea.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

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PLEASE YOUR LETTER BY FAX OR E- MAIL TO:

1. Mr. KIM Dae- jung  
President of the Republic of Korea  
1 Sejong- no, Jongno- ku  
Seoul 110- 820  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
Fax: +822 770- 0347 or 770- 0001  
Tel: +822 770- 0018  
E- mail: president@cwd.go.kr

2. Mr. SEO Cheong- won  
Representative of the Grand National Party  
17- 7 Yoido- dong, Youngdeungpo- gu  
Seoul, 150- 010  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
Fax: +822 3786- 3110  
Tel: +822 3786- 3101- 5  
E- mail: webmaster@hannara.or.kr

3. Mr. HAHN Hwa- gab  
Representative of the New Millennium Democratic Party  
Kisan Building, 15 Yoido- dong, Youngdeungpo- gu  
Seoul, 150- 010  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
Fax: +822 788- 3428  
E- mail: hahn@assembly.go.kr

4. Mr. HAM Suk- jae

Chairperson

Legislative and Judiciary Committee

17- 7 Yoido- dong, Youngdeungpo- gu

Seoul, 150- 010

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Tel: +822 784- 3863

E- mail: [hsj727@assembly.go.kr](mailto:hsj727@assembly.go.kr)

And send copies of your letter to the members of Legislative and Judiciary Committee of the Korean National Assembly;

1. The Grand National Party (GNP)

- Mr. KIM Young- kyun: [ykk01@assembly.go.kr](mailto:ykk01@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. KIM Ki- choon: [kckim@assembly.go.kr](mailto:kckim@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. KIM Young- iel: [http://01kim.pe.kr/board-list3.php?board\\_kind=A05](http://01kim.pe.kr/board-list3.php?board_kind=A05)
- Mr. SHIM Kyu- cheol: [shim114@assembly.go.kr](mailto:shim114@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. WON Hee- ryong: [heeryong@lycos.co.kr](mailto:heeryong@lycos.co.kr)
- Mr. CHOI Byung- gook: [bk2000@assembly.go.kr](mailto:bk2000@assembly.go.kr)
- Ms. CHOI Yeon- hee: [yhchoi@assembly.go.kr](mailto:yhchoi@assembly.go.kr)

2. The New Millennium Democratic Party (NMDP)

- Mr. HAM Seung- hee: [runjs21@assembly.go.kr](mailto:runjs21@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. SHIN Ki- nam: [skn@skn.or.kr](mailto:skn@skn.or.kr)
- Mr. LEE Sang- soo: [sslee@assembly.go.kr](mailto:sslee@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. CHUNG Kun- hwan: [ckh21@assembly.go.kr](mailto:ckh21@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. JOUGH Soon- hyung: [shjough@assembly.go.kr](mailto:shjough@assembly.go.kr)
- Mr. CHOI Young- kyu: [lawyk1@thrunet.com](mailto:lawyk1@thrunet.com)

3. Non- Negotiation Group

- Mr. KIM Hak- won: [hakwonk@assembly.go.kr](mailto:hakwonk@assembly.go.kr)

## **【URGENT APPEAL (2)】**

**Case 2 : Pakistan**

**Source :ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**



**Seven Christian human rights and peace activists were killed by militant group**

**PAKISTAN: Risk of life - Denial of right to life and religious freedom**

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is forwarding you the statement endorsed by several human rights organizations in Pakistan, regarding the killing of seven human rights, Justice and Peace activists on last Wednesday in Pakistan.

The signatories are, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Aurat Foundation, Amnesty International, Women's Action Forum, Forum for Peace and Development, Caritas, Church World Service, WAR, Irteqa Institute, PILER, Urban Resource Center, Muthidda Qaumi Movement, Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Tehreek- e- Insaf, Action aid, LAHRA, and a large number of concerned citizens.

AHRC calls for a full inquiry into these horrible killings. However, given the situation of complete collapse of the law and order situation in Pakistan particularly in Karachchi, it may not be realistic to expect a credible inquiry locally.

Therefore, we call upon the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to initiate an inquiry into this matter, and urge all international human rights community to send letters of concern to the President, Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs of Pakistan and UNHCHR.

### **THE STATEMENT**

The Joint Action Committee for Peace (JAC) strongly condemns the gruesome killing of seven staff members of Idara- e- Amn- o- Insaf and demands security to those who were injured in the gory incident that took place in the office of the organization. They are the eyewitnesses of the incident and their life is at great risk. We urge the government to fulfill its primary responsibility of providing security to its citizens.

We believe that what happened in the office of Idara- e- Amn- o- Insaf is an act of terrorism. It is condemnable in all possible and strongest way. We condemn this brutality and demand an immediate arrest of terrorists involved in it. We also demand a high level judicial inquiry into the incident so that the real motive of the killers can be unearthed.

In an urgently called meeting, the members of the JAC said that such brutal incidents clearly reflect the hollowness of government's claims with regard to providing security to its people. They said that the whole law and order machinery has failed to protect ordinary citizens of Pakistan. People are left with no other choice but to hire private security services. We urge the government and local authorities to arrest the killers and uncover those involved in the brutal slaughtering of human rights activists in broad day light.

The Joint Action Committee criticizes the failure of the government in putting a check on rogue elements who are inflicting terror on innocent civilians. The last few months have seen an unprecedented increase in violence against human rights and minority rights activists in Pakistan. This increase in violence shows the inability of the present government to provide security to its citizens particularly to the people of minority communities. It also proves that government has failed to control these acts of terror.

The JAC members are critical of a statement made by federal minister for law, Khalid Ranjha in which he said that NGOs are working against the national interest of the country. They said that Mr. Ranjha holds an extremely responsible government office and such 'loose talk' from him is highly irresponsible and condemnable. They demanded that law minister should stop giving generalized irresponsible statements against NGOs and should immediately apologize in public for his remarks against the civil society organizations. We urge that government should pay attention on apprehending the terrorist instead of using derogatory remarks against NGOs.

The members of the meeting urge the government to justify utility of the presence of thousands of law enforcement personnel in the city and the millions of rupees being spent on them every month. They are of no use as far as common people of the country are concerned, whose lives are at risk in the hands of insane terrorists.

We pray for the departed souls and show our deep sympathy with the aggrieved families. We pledge our commitment to continue the cause for which our colleagues got killed. This is not an act against few individuals but it's threat to all those who are working for human rights, equality and social justice.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION (BBC NEW REPORT ON THE INCIDENT)

Unidentified gunmen have shot dead seven people at a Christian charity in Karachi's central business district, Pakistani police say. They entered the third- floor offices of the Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) and shot their victims in the head. One other person is in a critical condition.

All those killed were Pakistani Christians.

Both gunmen escaped after the attack in the southern port city which has seen mounting attacks this

year on Western and Christian targets.

Police have cordoned off the 12- storey building housing the offices. Karachi police chief, Tariq Jamil said the victims had their hands tied and their mouths had been covered with tape.

The All Pakistan Minority Alliance - a grouping of minority political parties - says it is planning three days of mourning in protest against the latest attack against the Christian community.

## 【 International Solidarity Campaign 】

Nike/PT Doson

Source : Nike Campaign



*Dear Friends,*

*Please find below some background information and a sample e-mail that can be sent to Nike in relation to the situation at PT Doson in Indonesia, prepared by the Nike watch campaign. We urge you to take the time right now to send a message to Nike.*

**Nike Watch News - September 2002**

In recent weeks we have received urgent requests for support from the 7,000 workers at the PT Doson factory in Indonesia. They will shortly lose their jobs when Nike, the factory's only customer, moves its orders elsewhere. Union leaders at the factory suspect that the production is being moved to countries in which independent unions are illegal. Not only will workers at PT Doson join the 40 million other Indonesians looking for work, but at this stage it looks likely that they will miss out on the severance payments which they are supposed to receive under Indonesian law.

Please consider taking two minutes to copy the letter at the bottom of this email and email it to Nike. We need to strongly send the message that contracting out all production should not be a way for companies like Nike to wash their hands of the rights of workers who make their products. Of the 757 of us on the NikeWatch News list, only four responded to the last letter-writing request. It would be great if we could get a much more forceful response this time. Companies like Nike know that for every one person who contacts them about an issue, at least one hundred are concerned about it.

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**CONTENTS**

1. Thousands of Nike workers march on US embassy in Jakarta
2. Reebok cuts orders to the PT Primarindo factory
3. Two workers shot in Indonesia while protesting draft labour laws
4. Analysis
5. MakeTradeFair update: Disappointing outcome to World Summit on Social Development
6. Sample email to Nike



#### 4. Analysis

A lot of commentators are concerned that globalisation is leading to a "race for the bottom", with poor countries forced to suppress workers' rights in order to compete for investment. Nike is certainly an example of a company that has shifted production in search of lower wages and more reliable supply. Now it looks like its happening again. In 1996, when Indonesia was ruled by the dictator Suharto and the only legal union was run by the government, 38% of Nike's sneakers were Indonesian-made. Since then Suharto has fallen, Indonesia has started to become more democratic, workers have been able to form their own unions and, this year, minimum wages have risen significantly. In the process Indonesia's share of Nike's sportshoe production has fallen to 30%, and according to the Wall Street Journal it looks set to go as low as 26% next month, when Nike ceases ordering from the PT Doson. More than half of Nike's sportshoe production currently occurs in countries in which workers can be imprisoned or sent to forced labour camps if they try to form independent, democratic unions. Oxfam Community Aid Abroad recently wrote to Nike asking whether the decision to cease ordering from PT Doson will result in more of Nike's sportshoes being sourced in such countries. Nike's response avoided directly answering the question.

Unfortunately Nike is not alone. The Wall Street Journal reported on September 9 that the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Jakarta recently warned of a large-scale emigration of Korean businesses from Indonesia as a result of increases in the Indonesian minimum wage. Reebok also seems to be reducing its presence in Indonesia. The Indonesian government's draft new labour laws seem to be an attempt to prevent this investment flight.

The international Nike campaign has reached an interesting stage. Nike has been willing to support workers' rights in particular factories, such as the Mexmode factory in Mexico. The company is also involved in the Fair Labor Association (FLA) which, while still far from adequate, has taken a number of steps toward becoming a more credible system for monitoring factory conditions. Unfortunately Nike's stated willingness to respect workers' rights is contradicted by its decision to source so much of its production in countries where it is illegal to form independent unions. If we want the world to become more democratic and we want to buy goods made in decent conditions, then we need to build a much larger movement of consumers and citizens who care about these issues and are willing to act on their beliefs. By participating in this list and responding to workers' requests for letter-writing support, you are making yourself part of the solution.

#### 5. MakeTradeFair update: Disappointing outcome to World Summit on Social Development

After nine days of bluster, the world gets some gains on a few environmental issues, and on sanitation for the poor. But over all the outcome is feeble - a triumph for greed and self-interest, a tragedy for poor people and the environment.

Who's to blame? Oxfam International points the finger straight at the world's leaders. "Most of them

lacked the guts and will to achieve a brave and far-reaching agreement that might have effectively tackled the problems of poverty and the decaying environment. It was within their grasp," said Andrew Hewett of Oxfam International.

For more detail see:

[www.maketrade-fair.com/stylesheet.asp?file=19062002155044](http://www.maketrade-fair.com/stylesheet.asp?file=19062002155044)

#### 6. Sample letter to Nike:

Please copy the letter below, email it to [timc@sydney.caa.org.au](mailto:timc@sydney.caa.org.au). We will take care that these letters will reach Maria Eitel

Maria Eitel,  
Vice-President for Corporate Responsibility  
Nike Inc.

Dear Maria,

I am writing to bring your attention to the plight of workers at the PT Doson factory in Indonesia. I understand that in October this year all 7,000 workers from the factory will lose their jobs as a result of Nike cutting its orders to the factory. I understand that although Nike is willing to provide some support for those workers, your company is not willing to take responsibility for ensuring that they receive their full legal entitlements.

I also understand that Nike has so far not been willing to say whether this decision will result in more of Nike's production moving to countries where workers can be imprisoned or sent to forced labour camps for attempting to assert their right to form independent, democratic unions. In this context I am particularly disappointed that Nike is effectively shutting down a factory where most of the workers are union members.

I urge your company to change its mind, and to continue placing orders at PT Doson. If you do not do so, at the very least Nike should ensure that they receive all their legal entitlements. Nike's decision to contract out all its production should not be a means of escaping responsibility for making sure that workers' legal rights are met, particularly in factories where Nike is the only buyer.

Sincerely,

## 【Introduction NGOs】

### Burma Campaign Group in Thailand

#### *About Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN)*

The Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN- BURMA) is a network of activists, NGOs, academics and politicians who support human rights, democracy and peace in Burma. All the members are from Southeast Asia. They maintain a contact list of people from outside the region who have an interest on the relationship between the ASEAN and Burma 's military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

ALTSEAN- Burma was formed on October 30, 1996 at the conclusion of the Alternative ASEAN Meeting on Burma at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. ALTSEAN- Burma continues to be an expression of the desire of the peoples of Southeast Asia for human rights, democracy and peace in Burma and our communities.



ALTSEAN- Burma initiates and implements a range of activities to support human rights, democracy and peace in Burma, and ultimately, in the rest of Southeast Asia. Its activities are mainly oriented to campaign work, advocacy, networking and resource production. ALTSEAN- Burma is not a funding agency.

Campaign work. ALTSEAN- Burma, in consultation and cooperation with its members, initiated a regional campaign plan to pressure member states of the ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum to facilitate positive reforms in Burma. The campaign is aimed at achieving tripartite dialogue between the SLORC, the democracy movement led by Aung san Suu Kyi and ethnic nationality groups. Ultimately our campaign is aimed at the restoration of democracy to burma and a cessation of all human rights violations, including an end to the oppression of Burma 's ethnic and religious communities.

In addition to the broad regional campaign, ALTSEAN initiates and implements several "mini- campaigns " including Burma Women 's Day.

Advocacy. We are committed to increasing the capacity of our members to advocate the Burma cause at local, national, regional, and international levels through information dissemination, workshops and other means. This advocacy also extends to informal meetings and briefing sessions with key organizations and individuals.

Internship programme. ALTSEAN- Burma has been running an internship program since March 1997.

The internship programme is aimed at increasing interaction and understanding between activists from Burma and ASEAN member states.

Resource production. ALTSEAN- Burma has produced varied resources to help members in their activities. The media are diverse and range from posters, calendars , and t- shirts to books and documentary videos.

## **【 Peace Making 】**

### **Ten Things You Can Do To Stop The War On Iraq**



Source :Global Exchange, September 10, 2002

1. Call or Fax your US Senators and Representatives and express your opposition to an invasion of Iraq. You can find out the names of your Members of Congress and their contact information at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or call the Capitol Switchboard 800- 839- 5276 or 202- 224- 3121. Ask your representatives to sign the 'Peace Pledge' available at [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org).
2. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper saying why you oppose the war on Iraq. Your letter should be from one to three paragraphs long. Possible points to make include: the Administration has not presented an adequate justification for going to war; Iraq does not pose a clear and present danger to the US; and an invasion of Iraq would violate international law. You can find out where to send your letters by looking on the letters to the editor page of your local newspaper.
3. Email a friend and ask them to join you in opposing the war. Send this list of things you can do to stop the war to a friend along with a copy of Global Exchange's Top Ten Reasons Why the US Should Not Invade Iraq, available online at [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org).
4. Join the national mobilization to stop the war on Iraq by organizing an anti-war event (a rally, march, vigil, teach-in, or other action) in your community October 5- 7. Make sure to list your event on the website [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)! . We expect there will be more than 200 "No War on Iraq" protests during those three days.
5. Distribute flyers about why people should stop this war before it starts. Good, heavily trafficked locations include bus stops, subway stations, grocery stores, college campuses, libraries, and churches, among other sites. For a sample flyer, go to [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org), print a pre- made high quality window sign, or call us at 415- 255- 7296.
6. Organize a weekly vigil against the war at the US federal building in your city, at the office of a Congressperson who supports the war, or at another public place.

7. Call a press conference where local community leaders, religious leaders, veterans, politicians, and others can speak out against the war. Once you have some community leaders who are willing to speak out against the war, determine the time and location of the press conference, send a press release to local media outlets, and then follow up with a phone call to tell editors and reporters what you're doing.



8. Educate yourself about Iraq and the US accusations against Saddam Hussein so you can discuss the issue with friends, family, and even strangers. We won't be able to stop this war if we can't convince people who don't agree with us to come over to our position. Websites that have good information include [www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org), [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com), [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org), [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org), [www.pacificnews.org](http://www.pacificnews.org) and [www.endthewar.org](http://www.endthewar.org).

9. Place a "No War on Iraq" banner in a prominent public place. Even if the banner is taken down within a few hours, people will see it while it's up, and they will realize that the opposition to this war is growing. You can hang banners ! from freeway overpasses and out the windows of buildings in downtown areas. It's easy to make a banner: just use paint or markers on a white sheet.

10. Connect with the local peace group in your community. They will undoubtedly have other ideas for how you can work to stop the war. Some peace groups that have chapters in many cities and towns include Peace Action and the American Friends Service Committee. You can also look at the events section on the United for Peace website, and see what groups are sponsoring events in your community. Or join Global Exchange's moderated email listserve by sending a message to [nomoreinnocentvictims-on@globalexchange.org](mailto:nomoreinnocentvictims-on@globalexchange.org).

