

Motion: What's disgusting? Union busting

Students Union Notes:

1. The Russell Corporation, a subsidiary of Fruit of the Loom is a supplier of uniforms to numerous universities.
2. The Russell Corporation announced the closure of the Jerzees de Honduras factory in October 2008.
3. The Workers Rights Consortium have conducted a lengthy report, concluding that the closure of the factory was at least in significant part due to workers' attempts to unionise.

<http://www.workersrights.org/freports/Jerzees%20de%20Honduras%2011-07-08.pdf>

4. Dr Adrian Goldin, a widely respected labour rights expert for the Fair Labour Association and consultant to the ILO also investigated the case and concluded that the closure of the factory was 'due to a significant extent' to the 'existence and activity of the union.'
5. Workers who join the union are continually harassed and intimidated.
6. The closure of the Jerzees de Honduras factory has resulted in the lost of the livelihoods of 1800 Honduran workers and their families.
7. The closure of the factory as a result of workers' attempts to unionise is in violation of the International Labour Organisation's standards.
8. The right to join a union is recognised as a human right in article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
9. Nearly 100 Universities in the United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada have already boycotted Russell Corporation and/or Fruit of the Loom products, resulting in an estimated loss of five million US dollars.
10. The boycott has been endorsed by members of the factory's trade union.

Students Union Believes:

1. Universities should work together with workers to ensure that workers' rights are protected.
 2. The union should show solidarity with workers in Honduras and recognise their right to unionise.
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3. Fruit of the Loom should implement the workers demands: 1) re-open Jerzees de Honduras at full capacity 2) re-hire all union and non-union workers 3) complete negotiations with SITRAJERZEESH (trade union) for a collective bargaining agreement
4. Fruit of the Loom should cease harassment of workers wishing to unionise.

Student Union Resolves:

1. To boycott (i.e. terminate any existing contracts and refuse to enter into any future contracts) Fruit of the Loom and its subsidiaries until such time as they take the action laid out in points 3 and 4 of union Believes.
2. To lobby the university to boycott Fruit of the Loom until such time as they take the action as laid out in points 3 and 4 of union Council Believes.
3. That the exec, on behalf of the union, writes to Fruit of the Loom, informing them of the decision and the reasons behind it.

Proposed: A Taylor (Publicity Officer)

Seconded: S Waterfield (Ethical Issues Officer)

PASSED 29 October 2009
