



Workers must have the freedom of association and the right to organize. It is essential to prevent the abuse of corporate power over the whole society, and the enslavement of workers.

It is essential for a just and peaceful society, as well as for sustained economic growth.

We demand from governments and companies operating in Asia:

Stop trade union repression in Asia!
No more union-busting!

We demand now – let workers exercise the right to organize!!!

ATNC Monitoring Network*
2010



*For more about trade union repression in Asia and how you can join the campaign, visit the website of ATNC Monitoring Network: www.atnc.org

STOP Trade Union Repression in Asia

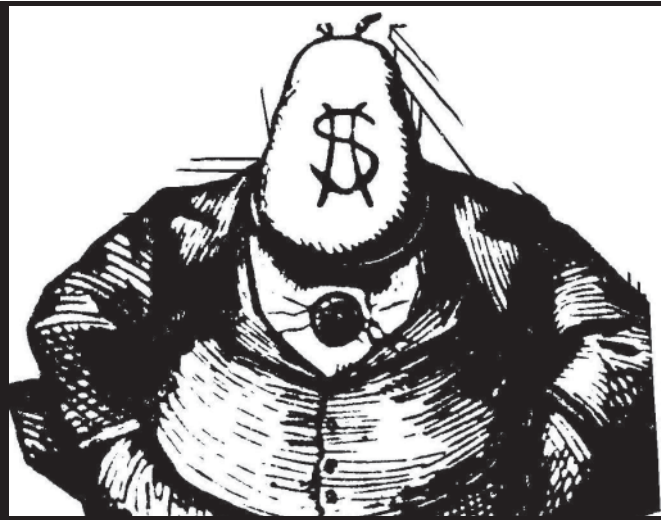
Since the Asian financial crisis in 1997-1998, workers throughout the Asian countries have faced a severe worsening of work and living conditions. Millions have lost their jobs, and 76% of workers in Asia do not receive any unemployment benefits; 80% receive no pensions. Real wages have gone or will go down in many countries, including Indonesia, Japan, India and Philippines. Those with jobs have no security that they can keep them; contractual labour has become a widespread abuse.

Governments and companies demand 'flexible labour' and push workers to their limits. In the face of constant pressure by companies to work harder, longer, and with less security, workers join together to use the main strength they have against employers – collective power through association, or a trade union.

Yet now in Asia, when workers organize, governments and companies have:

- BEATEN WORKERS
- WIRETAPPED AND SURVEILLED WORKERS
- ARRESTED AND JAILED WORKERS
- LEGISLATIVELY REDUCED THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS
- AND EVEN KILLED WORKERS

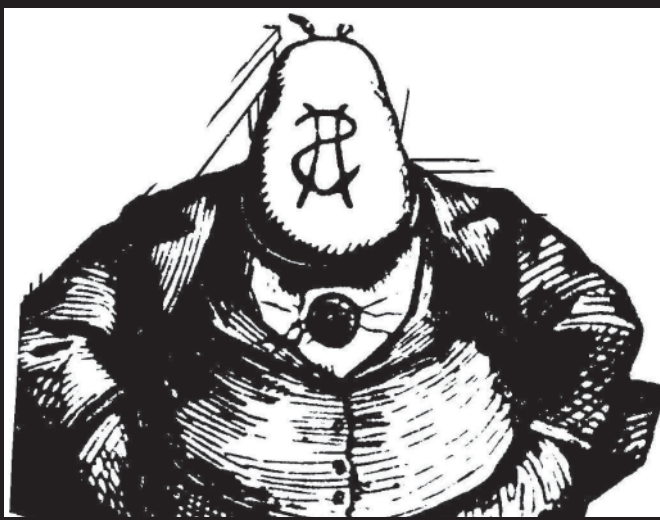




COMPANIES directly and indirectly try to destroy or undermine unions, and reject their democratic right to have a say in the company work conditions – through anti-union campaigns, threats of job loss or relocation, physical threats and bribery.

CORPORATE REPRESSION

GOVERNMENTS fail to defend workers and citizens' rights and space to unite and fight against the monopoly power of companies and bosses. Instead they bring the concentrated physical forces of the police and military to bear against workers, siding with company bosses in labour disputes.



STATE REPRESSION

Korea

SAMSUNG - 'No Union' Policy

Samsung Corporation has systematically implemented a 'no-union policy' in blatant violation of workers' right to organize.

Samsung has used libel laws countless times to silence activists and critics. Union leader Kim Seong-hwan was jailed for nearly three years for the crime of libel – normally not given a jail sentence.

Even in subcontracting companies of Samsung, like Dongwoo Fine Chem – the company has repressed worker organizing with dismissals, wiretapping of mobile phones, and violent dispersals of protests.

The Korean government has used heavily armed riot police to attack workers during labour disputes – Ssangyong Motors workers who occupied their factory to resist a 36% staff layoff, were attacked with teargas from helicopters, masses of heavily armed riot police and darts, and were deprived for days, of water, food and medicine.

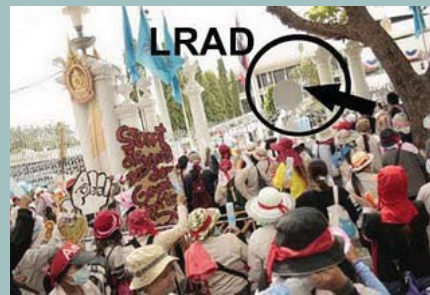


Thailand

STOPPING the right to PROTEST TRIUMPH – Long distance radar

On 27th August 2009, about 800 trade union workers from **Triumph International** and the Union of Electronic and Mechanical Workers, supported by other workers and members of the public held a protest march in front of Government House. Their march was to petition members of Parliament, after the Prime Minister ignored their complaint of dismissal without adequate compensation.

Without warning, police directed acoustic dispersal devices, LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Devices), against them. These devices emit disorienting noise up to a level of 155 decibels, which can permanently damage hearing in a short time. Among the Triumph protesters were elderly women, children, and pregnant women, sometimes only a few metres from the device. They have previously been used in battlegrounds in Iraq and against Somali pirates.



Philippines

Not recognizing unions Killing union leaders; failing to investigate and punish their murder

Toyota Motors, the Japanese company famous for its 'just in time' production of cars with lean management, has also flatly and illegally denied workers right to join a duly elected union in its Philippines plant. The workers who have been protesting for their rights since 2001 have been harassed, faced surveillance, and violently dispersed by guards and police.

The Department of Labor and Employment enforces a 'no union, no strike' policy in export processing zones in the Philippines, using the 'assumption of jurisdiction' to intervene in labour disputes, rule strikes illegal, and use violent police actions against protesting workers.

NESTLE, EMI-YAZAKI, The list of companies that have profited from workers while preventing them from organizing - with the collusion of the military and police - is a long one in the Philippines.

