September 17, 2014

Dear store manager,

We have come to your store today to inform your customers and the general public about the situation of workers in Cambodia sewing garments for your company.

In Cambodia, the women and men who sew clothes for H&M, The Gap, and other major brands struggle to make ends meet. The legal minimum wage for garment workers is a miserable wage of $100 per month. Thousands of workers have fainted at their sewing machines owing to factors including malnutrition, overwork, heat, poor ventilation, and fumes from chemicals used in the manufacturing process. Earlier this year, when over 200,000 Cambodian workers stood up to demand a fairer wage, authorities shot four workers dead in the streets and threw 23 union activists in jail. Consumers don’t want clothes tainted with exploitation and repression.

Today in Cambodia, garments workers are demonstrating at their workplaces for a raise to $177 per month – the minimum needed to cover basic needs according to a government-appointed task force. Today in the United States and Canada, activists will be visiting your company’s stores to support the demand for a raise to $177 at your company’s supplier factories in Cambodia. Note that we are not asking any employees to stop work. The Cambodian garment workers have made the following demands of your company:

1. Negotiate directly with Cambodian unions over wages,
2. Mandate an increased base wage of $177 per month at their supplier factories,
3. Reflect this increase in prices paid to the suppliers, and
4. Make a long-term commitment to sourcing from Cambodia in factories where labor rights are respected.

We request that you pass this message along to whomever you report to, and encourage your company to meet with the Cambodian unions to reach a fair resolution.

Sincerely.