

UMich United Students Against Sweatshops



1/16/2013

Mary Sue Coleman, President
University of Michigan
Office of the President
503 Thompson Street
2074 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1340

Dear President Coleman:

Happy 2013! We - United Students Against Sweatshops - believe that there is no better way for our university to 'ring in the new year' than to take a stand against sweatshops and worker abuse. As you know, Adidas continues its refusal to pay \$1.8 million in legally mandated severance to the 2,800 former workers at the P.T. Kizone factory in Indonesia. Each day marks yet another day of struggle for these workers, as they are fighting to provide for themselves and their loved ones.

However, we as students remain optimistic; given that the University of Michigan has the largest adidas contract in the entire country, we have tremendous power to improve the lives of each individual worker. As we have seen from past groundbreaking campaigns against Nike and Russell Athletic, apparel brands only respond to universities making credible threats of contract loss if they fail to remediate their code of conduct violations.

Universities across the country have already taken a stand against Adidas. Just two days ago, Georgetown University followed the actions of the University of Washington, Rutgers University, Cornell University, and Oberlin College, making it the fifth university to sever ties with Adidas due to worker rights violations! The University of Michigan can and should be the next university to take leadership on this issue by putting Adidas on notice.

This year, we believe it is our turn to stand up against labor abuse. As students, we want to be proud of our University. We call on you, President Coleman, to put Adidas on notice; and if the company fails to pay the legally mandated severance within the contractual remediation period, then the University should terminate its \$60 million contract with Adidas. This is the most credible and effective means at our disposal to ensure the PT Kizone workers are made whole. We *will* be proud when our University actively enforces its code of conduct and cuts its ties to sweatshop labor.

We ask that you will schedule a meeting with us on either February 13th or 14th, as workers from PT Kizone will be on campus and eager to discuss their dissatisfaction with Adidas. Please contact us by Friday, January 25th via e-mail at usasumichcore@umich.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
United Students Against Sweatshops Chapter at the University of Michigan