



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

ANTI-SWEATSHOP ACTIVISTS DEMAND RESPONSIBILITY FROM LA-BASED COMPANIES PROFITING FROM DEADLY FACTORY

WHAT: Anti-sweatshop activists will stage a colorful demonstration in front of Vida Enterprise Corporation, a Los Angeles-based garment manufacturer that placed orders with KTS Textile Industries, Ltd., a garment factory in Bangladesh where a deadly fire recently killed at least 84 and injured up to 450 garment workers.

WHY: On February 23, 2006, a horrific fire raged through KTS Textile Industries in Bangladesh in what has been called the worst tragedy in the history of Bangladesh's garment industry. According to Bangladeshi workers, KTS workers could not escape because the main emergency gate was locked. Rescuers cited that the fire was likely caused by an electric short circuit, and that the fire spread quickly because of stacks of yarn piled on the factory floor. This recent incident is one in a string of tragedies highlighting reckless disregard for garment workers and workplace safety in Bangladesh's garment industry. Since 2000, over 580 garment workers have been killed as a result of factory fires or collapses.

The demonstration will take place outside of Vida Enterprise Corporation, one of four Los Angeles companies who bought apparel from KTS Textile Industries. The other companies, including Ambiance USA Inc., Uni Hosiery Company, and ATT Enterprise in Los Angeles, O'Rite International in Union City, and Leslee Scott, Inc in Ogden, Utah, have not responded to letters from labor and community organizations. Protestors are demanding that the companies that profited from the sweat and labor of these Bangladeshi workers take full responsibility for the tragedy by compensating the victims and their families and by promoting improved working conditions in Bangladesh's garment industry.

WHO: Workers' rights advocates, community organizations, religious organizations, and students will show their support for the KTS workers and demand just compensation and improved working conditions. Featured speakers include representatives from Sweatshop Watch, South Asian Network, Assemblymember Paul Koretz's office (42nd District), Progressive Jewish Alliance, Southern California Coalition for Occupational Health & Safety, and the Garment Worker Center. Protestors will be dressed in yellow and waving sticks of "fire." The protest is organized by Sweatshop Watch, a coalition of organizations and individuals working to end exploitation in the garment industry.

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 11:30am**

WHERE: **Vida Enterprise Corp.
249 S. Los Angeles Street (on Los Angeles Street between 2nd St. and 3rd St.)
Los Angeles, CA 90015**

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