

Vote online for the "Eyesore of the Year"

Utl: From now until february 18 on www.schandfleck.or.at

Vienna, 20.01.2014. For second time the Network Social Responsibility awards the "Eyesore of the Year" - price for socially irresponsible companies, organizations, institutions and individuals.

This year five cases are shortlisted:

1. The Andritz Hydro GmbH headquartered in Graz/Austria with regard to its involvement in the dam project Xayaburi in Laos. As a result people are displaced and extensive environmental destructions are expected. The conservation of natural resources of the Mekong is the basis for the lives of 60 million people in the catchment area of the river. The ANDRITZ Hydro GmbH is member of the Business Council for Sustainable Development respACT and declares itself as CSR enterprise in Austria.
2. Apple Inc., because the company relocated parts of its production to Pegatron in June 2013, after worldwide protests against the working conditions at Apple Inc. supplier Foxconn. Also Pegatron is known for its poor employment policy. Apple Inc. denies the responsibility as a market monopolist and explains when being addressed on this issue: "Speculative questions and rumors are not commented by Apple".
3. Bundestheater Holding (Austrian Federal Theatre Holding) as it has outsourced the employment of 400 ushers to the security firm G4S, which has a highly controversial human rights record. On October 12, the former employee of G4S, Christian Diaz, made public the working conditions at G4S in the Austrian Burgtheatre. After this he was fired.
4. Lebensministerium (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Life), because the Federal Minister Nikolaus Berlakovich opposed a ban of pesticides, co-responsible for the death of bees, promoted questionable bio fuels and did nothing to stop the decline of the reuse system of beverage containers.
5. MA 48 (City Administrative Office/Department 48) because its waste consultants have been precariously employed for periods up to 15 years. In August 2013, first landmark decisions confirmed the ostensible self-employment of the 2 waste consultants. The MA 48 had to hire them, but they did it squandering their skills. The MA 48 is deliberately postponing the decision and does not recognize the prejudicial effect of the adjudication.

"The nominated cases clearly show the need for more civil society pressure to move the policy makers for effective actions in the name of workers' rights and environmental protection. The eyesore is an instrument that puts pressure on." said Marieta Kaufmann, CEO of the Network..

Last year, the jury award was given to KIK with regard to the fire disaster in Karachi / Pakistan, where almost 300 people died. The public award was given to Mayr- Melnhof Packaging for violating the rights of the workers council in connection with the plant closure in Liverpool.

Until February 18, the civil society can vote online for the Eyesore of the Year 2013 (www.schandfleck.or.at).

The awards (public and jury) will be presented on February, 20th (World Day of Social Justice) on a public event hosted at the Off- Theatre in Vienna.

For more information :

www.schandfleck.or.at

www.nesove.at

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