

Local 1500 Speaks Out on Wal-Mart 'Black Friday' Death

UFCW Local 1500 released a statement this past weekend after the tragic death of a temporary Wal-Mart worker. The employee, 34-year-old Jdimytai Damour, was crushed to death as he and his co-workers attempted to unlock the doors of a Wal-Mart store in Long Island, New York, at 5 a.m. on Friday, police said.

"This incident was avoidable," said UFCW Local 1500 President Bruce Both. "Where were the safety barriers? Where was security? How did store management not see dangerous numbers of customers barreling down on the store in such an unsafe manner? This is not just tragic; it rises to a level of blatant irresponsibility by Wal-Mart."

The union is calling for an investigation by all levels of government to ensure that the victim's family receives justice, and to make certain such an incident never again occurs at a Wal-Mart store.

Anti-Worker Groups Publicly Gearing up For Fight Against Employee Free Choice

Opponents of the Employee Free Choice Act have begun publicly announcing their intentions to pour an abundance of money and resources into their fight against the legislation. The latest announcement came last Tuesday, when the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said that it plans to spend about \$10 million in the coming months to fight the Employee Free Choice Act.

Randel Johnson, vice president for labor, immigration and employee benefits at the Chamber, said defeating the measure was the Chamber's top priority in the coming Congressional session. He described the coming fight in Congress over the issue as a "firestorm bordering on Armageddon."

In a *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece, Thomas Frank pointed out that majority sign up is "about power. Management has it, workers don't, and business doesn't want that to change."

That could explain Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott's statement at a recent analyst meeting, when asked about majority

sign up: "We like driving the car and we're not going to give the steering wheel to anybody but us."

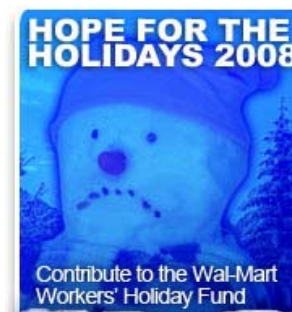
UFCW members and other labor supporters are fighting back. More than 250,000 UFCW members have signed the petition urging our elected leaders to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. Now, we have to let our representatives in the U.S. House and Senate know that America's workers are counting on them to do the right thing and support Employee Free Choice.



What UFCW members can do: call, write, or e-mail their members of Congress today urging them to expand the middle class and improve the lives of working families by passing this bill. For more information on Employee Free Choice and how to take action, go to: www.ufcwforfreechoice.org.

Help Wal-Mart Workers During the Holiday Season

This holiday season, *every employee* at Wal-Mart is projected to generate more than \$2,000 in pure profit for the company. The numbers are staggering: from the work of 1.4 million Americans, Wal-Mart will reap billions of dollars in sales. But Wal-Mart is not holding up its end of the bargain.



Wal-Mart is thriving in today's faltering economy, yet its employees struggle to keep their heads above water. Instead of giving back to working families, Wal-Mart is lobbying against overtime regulations aimed at helping

working Americans. Instead of giving business to America's struggling manufacturers, Wal-Mart continues to import over 70 percent of its goods from China. And, of course, Wal-Mart still pays poverty wages and offers unaffordable health care benefits.

The Wake Up Wal-Mart campaign is committed to giving back to Wal-Mart's hard-working employees, even if Wal-Mart won't. The campaign is on a mission to give financial support to struggling Wal-Mart employees this holiday season.

Please contribute to the new Wal-Mart Workers' Holiday Fund today and give struggling Wal-Mart workers a chance at the kind of holiday they deserve. And make sure to let your members and staff know how they can help Wal-Mart workers this holiday season.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/feature/holiday2008/>.

Local 711 Grows as Over 1,100 Workers at Hyrum JBS/Swift Plant Join UFCW



Workers at the Hyrum JBS/Swift plant voted overwhelmingly to join UFCW Local 711.

More than 1,100 workers at the JBS/Swift beef plant in Hyrum, Utah, have voted overwhelmingly to join the UFCW. Those workers will now become members of UFCW Local 711.

The Hyrum plant had been the only JBS/Swift plant in the United States that did not have union representation.

UFCW International Vice President Mark Lauritsen thinks the relationship between UFCW and JBS/Swift is a positive sign of things to come in the industry. In a recent interview with *Meat & Poultry*, he said the UFCW hopes "to go back to when a meatpacking job was one of the most prized jobs in industry and when a meat plant was a prized employer in the community."

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Hyrum workers," said Max Aldama, a member of UFCW Local 1149 and an employee at JBS/Swift's Marshalltown, Iowa plant who assisted workers in organizing their Hyrum plant. "JBS/Swift has always been willing to work honestly and openly with us in Marshalltown, and I know they'll live up to the high standards they have always set and kept for themselves."

Ontario Farm Workers Win Collective Bargaining Rights

Last week, the Ontario Court of Appeals issued a decision allowing farm workers to form unions and bargain collectively.

For years, labor unions have pushed to extend collective bargaining rights to farm workers. In 1994, after three years of talks between the agricultural lobby and the UFCW Canada, workers were briefly allowed to unionize in Ontario—but in 1995, the Conservative legislature repealed the legislation.

The UFCW Canada took the government of Ontario to court. In 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the workers' favor, instructing the province to table new legislation. However, that legislation only gave workers the right to associate, and not to form unions or bargain collectively. So the UFCW took the province back to court in 2004.

Last week, the UFCW and Ontario's farm workers finally prevailed. Farm workers in Ontario now have the right to unionize just like workers in other industries.