



Organizing the Workers of Walmart: From Bentonville to Beijing

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SPEAKERS

HAN DONGFANG

Han Dongfang is Founder and Executive Director of China Labour Bulletin (CLB), a Hong Kong-based labor rights group. CLB sponsors and supports a diverse range of activities aimed at improving the lives of Chinese workers and fostering the development of independent labor organizations. Han also serves as a correspondent for Radio Free Asia, where he presents thrice-weekly radio program from Hong Kong, focusing on workers' struggles in mainland China. He has written numerous books and articles. Over the past 15 years, Han has been an advocate for workers' rights and trade unionism in China and a frequent speaker at international labor movement, NGO, and government-sponsored conferences around the world. In May 1989 he was co-founder and spokesperson of the Beijing Autonomous Workers Federation, China's first independent labor organization since 1949. He headed the Chinese government's "most wanted" list of worker activists, issued after the June 4 crackdown in Tiananmen Square, and was imprisoned without trial for 22 months. He was released in April 1991, suffering from tuberculosis contracted in prison. In September 1992 he received a year of medical treatment in the U.S., with support of the AFL-CIO and Human Rights Watch and had most of one lung removed. In August 1993 he returned to China to continue independent labor movement work and was detained in Guangzhou by the police and expelled to Hong Kong, where he continues to reside today. He has received numerous awards, including the AFL-CIO George Meany Human Rights Award and the Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy. Han sits on the board of Human Rights in China.

NELSON LICHENSTEIN

Nelson Lichtenstein is MacArthur Foundation Chair in History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he directs the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy. He is the author or editor of a dozen books. Among the most recent are *The Port Huron Statement: Origins and Legacies of the New Left's Founding Manifesto* (edited with Richard Flacks, 2015); *State of the Union: A Century of American Labor* ((revised and expanded edition, 2013); *A Contest of Ideas: Politics, Capital, and Labor* (2013); *The Right and American Labor: Politics, Ideology, and Imagination* (edited with Elizabeth Shermer, 2013); *The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business* (2010); and *American Capitalism: Social Thought and Political Economy in the 20th Century* (2006). Lichtenstein writes for *Dissent*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *New Labor Forum*.

EMILY STEWART

Emily Stewart is assistant director of organizing at the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. She has been organizing for over 20 years, starting with the Steelworkers in Minnesota in 1991. She cut her teeth on NLRB elections for years in manufacturing, then moved to SEIU and worked on a series of comprehensive programs including the first Student School Bus drivers. When she came to the UFCW eight years ago, she had the privilege of leading the Smithfield Campaign and being a part of the team the won the 16-year battle to organize the largest pork processing facility in the world. Her recent field focus has been on retail work ranging from the drug store campaign to a number of grocery store programs.

DUAN YI

Duan Yi founded the first cooperative law firm in China in 1988 and the pioneering Guangdong Lao Wei Law Firm in Shenzhen in 2005. Lao Wei – which means ‘uphold workers’ rights in Chinese – has a specific mission to safeguard workers’ rights. Its lawyers have handled more than 2,000 cases involving migrant workers from other parts of China. In recent years, Duan Yi has advised increasing numbers of workers involved in various forms of collective negotiations with employers and has emerged as a key advocate of collective bargaining in China. Still a practising lawyer, Duan Yi is also a Research Fellow with the Institute of Labour and Social Security at Wuhan University and an adjunct Professor of Lawyers' School at Renmin University of China.