

CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

World-Bank-backed water privatization stalled

Global network builds resistance to dangerous Lagos plan

“Privatization chronically forces a city’s lowest-income communities to pay or go without. Lagos officials cannot, in good conscience, bend to the World Bank’s pressure to privatize.”

PATTI LYNN | MANAGING DIRECTOR

You are helping to uphold the human right to water in Lagos, a city of 21 million people, in partnership with Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria (ERA) and a global network of allies.

After a month of media coverage and direct pressure from members like you, the World Bank publicly announced it would not advise Lagos on how to privatize its water.

But the private water industry and



Members like you helped release an exposé of the World Bank’s misleading marketing and PR schemes promoting water privatization in places like Lagos. Despite private water’s failures in Nagpur (pictured), the World Bank is advancing it as a model across India.

its allies inside the Lagos government are still pushing privatization of the city’s water, and the World Bank continues to drive water privatization throughout the African continent.

In response, ERA has mobilized a broad coalition of civil society groups in Nigeria and secured high-profile

media coverage generating public outrage. As the Lagos government launches a PR campaign touting the benefits of private sector involvement, we will continue to campaign side by side with ERA to protect Lagos’ water from corporate exploitation.

Meet Akinbode Oluwafemi | Director, Corporate Accountability, Environmental Rights Action



Oluwafemi’s visionary leadership helped build the global team that secured the global tobacco treaty in the early 2000s. Pictured here (left) with ERA colleague Philip Jakpor (right).

In his gentle voice, Akinbode (Bode) Oluwafemi warns if water privatization takes hold in Lagos, “each one of us will be counted not as humans, but as dollar signs for global corporations.” Oluwafemi’s commitment to economic equality and justice is fiercely evident from the moment you meet him.

Born in rural Nigeria, Oluwafemi put himself through college and went on to write for The Guardian Nigeria. After

several years reporting on the abuses of corporations, he went on to work for Environmental Rights Action (ERA). At the time, ERA was challenging Shell Oil’s abusive practices in Nigeria, including the persecution of activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. Oluwafemi has never backed away from taking on immensely powerful corporate forces including the oil industry, the tobacco industry, and now the private water industry.



We build each other up

Dear friend,

All you need to do is open up the newspaper each morning to see how mighty our adversaries are in economic and political power, and how the need to curb corporate abuse is more urgent than ever before. And I think you'll agree that to succeed, we must build power together across borders. We must breach barriers of geography, language, and cultural differences to grow strong relationships.

I'm proud of the strong alliances and partnerships we have nurtured over our history and those we are building today.

Just two examples:

- We're teaming up with author Naomi

Klein, 350.org, Corporate Europe Observatory, and other partners to raise the visibility of Big Energy's disastrous influence over international climate policy. We must expel Big Energy from the climate talks as we did with Big Tobacco and the tobacco treaty talks.

- As Participant Media releases the documentary "Merchants of Doubt," we're collaborating with them to expose how deadly industries are using Big Tobacco's playbook to obscure the truth and undermine progress.

I'm grateful to be partnering with so

many members like you who understand that achieving long-lasting change requires bold, strategic action. I'm inspired by the women donors I've met who are funding systemic change and by leaders like Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation, who urges philanthropists to "stand with courageous and creative visionaries on the front lines of social change."

Together, we can make a bigger difference than we can alone. Thank you!

KELLE LOUAILLIER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHALLENGE CORPORATE ABUSE OF OUR FOOD

McDonald's CEO steps down after only three years at helm

You helped drive another expensive exec shake-up

Members like you helped create a public climate at odds with McDonald's basic business practices, forcing it to contend with the consequences of its abuses.

While parents, millennials, and others are increasingly demanding an end to marketing to kids, more sustainable sourcing, and fair labor practices, Don Thompson unwisely stayed the course. He led the corporation to spend millions on marketing gimmicks to mask its lack of meaningful action.

Thompson's departure indicates

"McDonald's needs more than a change of leadership; it needs to stop exploiting our children once and for all."

HANNAH FREEDBERG | MAJOR GIFTS ORGANIZER

McDonald's can no longer operate with business as usual. As it faces its greatest profit losses in decades, terminated hospital contracts, and continual shake-ups at the top, it is becoming increasingly clear that it must make significant changes to address the growing public demand for change.



A group of 40 fourth-graders joined community leaders and parents to call on McDonald's to stop targeting kids during a week of action that garnered top-tier media, including a story in the Chicago Tribune.

The successes in these pages are made possible with your support. Thank you!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Judith Bell and Richard Goodwin

Judith and Richard are long-time activists and Corporate Accountability International members. Richard is the founder of a biomedical research instruments business and Judith is a former cartographer and editor for National Geographic.

Where does your passion for this kind of work come from?

RICHARD: One of my earliest memories was when the military dropped atomic bombs on Japan. I was four years old. I remember how disturbed my father was; he was a biologist and he knew the implications of radiation. But the nuclear industry and the military put out unbelievable misinformation.

JUDITH: I grew up in Nevada near the bomb testing sites. My family did not believe what the military was telling us, so I grew up with skepticism about institutions' information and motives. I feel privileged and grateful now that we

have the resources to help undercut that. That's one of the things I truly love about Corporate Accountability International—you do the research and dig out what's actually the case, which is crucial.

What stirs you up about our campaign protecting the human right to water?

JUDITH: The very idea of turning water into a commodity that people have to pay for, which they supposedly have no right to if they don't pay for it ... I can't describe how angry that makes me. And Corporate Accountability International doesn't



just generalize about water. You go to the actual city, like Baltimore or Lagos, see what is really happening, and stand with local activists to raise hell.

Why do you support Corporate Accountability International?

RICHARD: We quit making small contributions to numerous organizations and asked: Which one of these organizations really has a good bang for the buck? Corporate Accountability International is at the top of the list. You're fighting Goliaths and you're on the cutting edge.

CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

You block Veolia from Baltimore

Coalition of labor, social justice builds powerful opposition

Almost 600 Baltimore residents gathered outside City Hall to demand a more just Baltimore, holding signs that read "No Veolia" and "Keep our water public."

Just weeks later, the city denied a consulting contract to the world's largest private water corporation, Veolia.

The decision came after months of grassroots mobilization you helped make possible, in partnership with the One Baltimore Coalition, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Maryland Working Families; and many

"This victory delivers the private water industry a decisive setback. It can no longer engage in influence peddling at the public's expense, without facing dedicated grassroots opposition."

NICK GUROFF | DEPUTY DIRECTOR:
COMMUNICATIONS, FOUNDATION RELATIONS

other groups. Together, we organized rallies, made calls and visits to public officials, and generated media in outlets like the Baltimore Sun and the local NPR affiliate.



The public scrutiny you helped generate made Veolia a liability for Baltimore's mayor and moved city counselors to take a stand for public water. The One Baltimore Coalition continues to advocate for investment in the public water system, rather than forking over public funds to a private firm.

Learn more: "Troubled Waters: Misleading industry PR and the case for public water," a report made possible by you, finds that U.S. cities are increasingly rejecting water privatization in favor of public solutions. StopCorporateAbuse.org/blog/TroubledWaters

Corporate Accountability International stops life-threatening abuses of global corporations and increases their accountability to people around the world.

CHALLENGE BIG TOBACCO

A decade later, millions of lives saved from tobacco

Global tobacco treaty you helped secure sets corporate accountability precedent worldwide

Almost all countries (179, plus the EU) are official parties to the World Health Organization's global tobacco treaty, formally known as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Some treaty measures you have helped put in action in countries around the world include: prioritizing public health over trade, booting Big Tobacco from the policymaking arena, and banning advertising.



Photo credit: Framework Convention Alliance

“The global tobacco treaty’s lifesaving impact will only grow in the decades to come.”

GIGI KELLETT | DEPUTY DIRECTOR: OPERATIONS

From the early 2000s to today Corporate Accountability International, in partnership with global allies, has advanced the treaty and blocked Big Tobacco’s attempts to undermine it. (Left) Confronting the U.S. health attaché for blocking progress on the treaty, 2002. (Right) Strengthening treaty measures at the Sixth Conference of the Parties, 2014.

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Do even more to protect human rights, public health, and the environment

- **Contact Membership Director Christine Bryant at 617.695.2525**
- **Visit StopCorporateAbuse.org** ➤ **Send in the enclosed envelope**

Why monthly giving?

- Your gift works faster and more efficiently to make a bigger impact.
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Thank you for your partnership!



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