#### CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL

# SPWTLIGHT

Issue 3, 2014

News about members challenging abuse and protecting people

#### **CHALLENGE BIG TOBACCO**

## You shut out Big Tobacco from treaty talks

Groundbreaking measures make industry pay for health costs of its deadly product

The tobacco industry has long viewed the global tobacco treaty you helped secure as enemy number one. That's because this powerful international law curbs Big Tobacco's ability to addict billions of young people. So it's no surprise lobbyists once again descended in force on the global tobacco treaty meetings to undermine its progress.

In 2012 you helped rally government delegates to successfully remove tobacco lobbyists from the treaty talks. You did the same this year in Moscow, speeding up progress on advancing measures to save millions of lives.

Indeed, without Big Tobacco in the room, delegates adopted a resolution to prioritize public health in trade negotiations, with the Trans-Pacific

"Much to Big Tobacco's surprise, it was left out in the cold at this year's treaty talks. Public health won the day thanks to the dynamic and determined international team I'm proud to be part of."

IRENE PATRICIA REYES | HEALTHJUSTICE, PHILIPPINES

Partnership as a key example.
Additionally our international team advanced measures to hold the industry liable for the harms of its products. Much like the 1998 Master Settlement in the U.S., which held Big Tobacco liable for \$206 billion in health care costs, this global initiative will enable governments to pursue legal measures to make Big Tobacco

pay. It's going to have groundbreaking ramifications for Global South countries struggling under the staggering weight of the health care costs incurred by tobacco-related disease.



Latin America Director Yul Francisco Dorado speaks to government delegates at the global tobacco treaty negotiations. You helped ensure the treaty remains a strong, lifesaving tool for governments worldwide.



#### Global tobacco treaty: tool for securing bold climate policy

As it did with Big Tobacco during tobacco treaty talks, Corporate Accountability International is now mobilizing support for jettisoning Big Energy from climate talks. For more than 15 years, ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, and more have undermined global progress while climate change rapidly accelerated. We're partnering with allies like 350.org to say: enough! (See more inside.)

#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Kick-starting climate talks with lessons learned from the global tobacco treaty

Did you see this?

We lifted our voices in unison—hundreds of thousands of us—demanding bold action on climate change... and it was thrilling. If you were in New York City on September 21, I'm sure I hardly need to describe the deeply moving experience of being part of the largest climate march in history. Corporate Accountability International was out in force, marching down Sixth Avenue alongside indigenous communities, workers, students, and more. Our message was clear: The moment for change is now.

We were there because we know the only way the global community can move meaningful solutions to climate change is to protect the climate talks from Big Energy.

You might recall that at the 2013 climate talks in Warsaw, Big Energy's presence reached an unprecedented level. The talks were literally sponsored by fossil fuel corporations and heavily polluting industries, UN representatives attended a coal summit organized alongside the talk, and fossil-fuel financiers played key roles advising and making recommendations for policy governing climate finance.

Sound familiar? Big Energy's taking a page straight from Big Tobacco's playbook. And that means the global tobacco treaty you

helped secure, which prevents the industry from manipulating policy, is now a shining example for climate change activists.

That's one reason I was so proud we marched with members like you among the hundreds of thousands of people committed to creating solutions. We have the key to the most powerful solution in our hands. It's up to all of us in the coming months to do what is necessary to keep Big Energy out of the upcoming climate talks in Peru, Paris, and beyond.

Kelle Lonai Li

KELLE LOUAILLIER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY**

## You're getting Big Money out of government

Coalition moves Congress to vote to overturn Citizens United

Across the country, people like you are standing up to global corporations' corruption of our democracy. Thanks to actions by members like you, a majority of senators voted this fall to dam the flood of corporate spending in our elections.

The floodgates were opened in 2011 by the Supreme Court's 2011 Citizens United decision. Billions of dollars from corporate coffers poured into candidates' war chests, leaving those who won beholden to their corporate sponsors.

The result? Policies that are good for

Big Business, and bad for people like massive subsidies and tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

It's time to take back our democracy. That's why we supported the Senate bill to overturn Citizens United, in partnership with our friends at Public Citizen and People for the American Way. Thousands of members like you urged your Senators to support the bill, joining the three million people across the country who took action.

And our voices were heard. Fifty-four senators took a historic stand to vote

"Rooting out the corrupting influence of Big Business is an absolute imperative in safeguarding our democracy."

SARAH DELUCA | DIRECTOR OF MAJOR GIFTS

to amend the constitution. While not enough to move the bill forward, it demonstrates the impressive momentum we've gained as a movement. In partnership with you, we will continue our organizing to stem the tide of Big Money in politics.

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

## **Anne Powell Riley**

Anne Powell Riley is a retired teacher, community philanthropist, and world traveler. She has been a member of Corporate Accountability International since 2006.

## Why did you first get involved with Corporate Accountability International?

I liked the idea of finding out who's responsible for what's not being done right. When a corporation is doing something wrong, it's often the people at the top who are making decisions that take advantage of ordinary people. So that's why I decided this is an organization I wanted to support.

## Where does your dedication to this work come from?

I believe in giving back and paying it forward. That's part of what life is: making sure we can all live comfortably with each other. I was on the board of an organization which helps people around the world learn to work together as a group in their own community. When I was an elementary school teacher, I wanted to help the kids learn to work together and help each other. And in Columbus, where I live, I'm proud to take part in social and environmental initiatives that are all making this community better.

#### Why is this work important to you?

I first started caring about water rights when I was a teacher out in California in the 1960s. As I was traveling in northern California, I kept hearing about farmers and ranchers who could not use all of the water they needed: although enough



water coursed through their properties, the rights to that water had been limited for many years. Special interests controlled the water at its source. But we should all have the right to water, and it should be distributed fairly. Corporations should not be taking people's water; we must share our resources. I support Corporate Accountability International because the actions of many corporations today are negatively affecting people and the environment. A lot of us have to get out there to talk to others and raise money to make real change happen. It gives me hope that there are so many of us working for a better world, together.

#### CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

## You challenge threat to Baltimore's water

Residents demand transparency, prevent backroom deals



Baltimore residents, labor unions, and Corporate Accountability International acted quickly to ensure public officials keep the city's water in public hands.

When you learned the city of Baltimore was secretly considering contracting with water giant Veolia, you jumped into action.

From our success in keeping Veolia out of St. Louis, we know that decisions on our most essential public service are best made in the open, because backroom deals usually mean a raw deal for residents.

So when we got word Baltimore was considering a hush-hush contract for up to \$500,000 to have a corporation notorious for cost overruns tell the city how to save money, we moved quickly. With your support, we teamed up with AFSCME, the labor union representing

municipal employees, and rallied our Baltimore members and local activists. Together, we demanded the contract be subject to public review and its details be disclosed.

This rapid, collective mobilization garnered high-profile coverage in the Baltimore Sun as well as local ABC and FOX affiliates. It also provoked a response from the mayor and solidified community opposition to the contract.

In the coming months, we'll continue to keep close tabs on the process with our partners and members. Together, we'll prevent a contract with Veolia and ensure the city's most essential resource stays under public control.

10 Milk Street, Suite 610 Boston, MA 02108

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

#### CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

## You join Lagos residents to prevent privatization of water

Communities worldwide counter World Bank spin

You are preventing a disastrous World-Bank-backed water privatization project from taking place in Lagos, Nigeria. In coalition with Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, you are ensuring access to safe, clean drinking water is not threatened in the most populous city in Africa.

Not only is the World Bank pushing privatization in Nigeria, it is also packaging one of its biggest failures as a success to do so: Manila. As people in the Filipino capital protest 15 years of broken promises and taps full of dirty water, it's clear that Lagos can scarcely "In coalition with our strongest ally in Nigeria, we are exposing World Bank's Ponzi scheme to sell African countries on the privatization of water."

PATTI LYNN | MANAGING DIRECTOR

afford the toll a similar failure would exact on its 20 million residents.

Thousands of members like you called on the World Bank to end the privatization of water in Lagos while ERA garnered widespread media coverage in Nigeria. All this adds up to mounting



Press briefing in Lagos on the threat of World-Bank-backed water privatization. Pictured, left to right: prominent women's rights activist Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin. Women Arise; Akinbode Oluwafemi, ERA; and Francis Abayomi, Peace and **Development Project.** 

pressure on Lagos public officials to say "no" to the World Bank, and "yes" to protecting their public water systems.

#### **MAKE A BEQUEST**

### Sustain this work to protect human rights, public health, and the environment.

"Corporate Accountability International's stellar reputation (four stars on Charity Navigator!) and its track record of securing game-changing victories gives me the confidence they will steward my gift wisely to ensure future generations inherit a better world."

MARY PADOL | MEMBER SINCE 2012

Join Mary and a growing number of members who are including Corporate Accountability International in their will or other estate plans.

> For further information, contact Development Director Marcia Whitehead at 617.695.2525 or email Development@StopCorporateAbuse.org.

### Why make a bequest?

- You direct your estate to something you care deeply about.
- You have a personal way to meet your estate-planning goals.
- You guarantee deep and long-lasting change to build a more just and equitable world.

#### Thank you for your enduring support!





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