



January 22, 2019

Paul Rice
Fair Trade USA
1500 Broadway, Suite 400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Paul and the Fair Trade USA Certification Team,

We were glad to see the [agreement signed on January 11, 2019](#), between the union STAS and Fyffes to rehire those union members who had not been hired for the current harvest season and to enter negotiations leading towards a collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

However, shortly after the signing of that agreement there are already very concerning indications that Fyffes' subsidiaries, which the agreement applies to, are not abiding by it. None of the 38 union members who were supposed to have been rehired by January 21 have been hired. Even more concerning, local management orchestrated an anti-union demonstration on January 19 against STAS in an attempt to threaten and intimidate union organizers and workers.

We strongly urge you to emphasize your concerns about these recent developments to Fyffes and to make clear that you expect Fyffes and its subsidiaries to abide by the January 11 agreement and that you will not recertify Fyffes' Suragroh plantation until the CBA with STAS has been bargained in good faith and signed.

We support the statements from our partners at the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) and STAS who outline clearly what they expect from a CBA:

ILRF welcomes this agreement as an initial step that Fyffes must take to remediate the labor rights abuses. We expect the CBA to cover workers in all of Fyffes' subsidiaries including plantations, packing plants, greenhouses, and security guard contractors. It should also cover both permanent and temporary workers, given that a majority of the 8,000 workforce is hired on temporary contracts from November to May.

Full text of ILRF's statement: <https://laborrights.org/fyffes>.

We also back STAS' position, spelled out in their press release: <http://festagro.org/?p=6665> (English) <http://festagro.org/?p=6661> (Spanish)) that any CBA should cover both current and future subsidiaries, in addition to the terms listed above.

We continue to stand by the assessment of many worker's rights groups, academics, and our own report *Justice in the Fields* that a democratic and independent worker organization is the best means to protect worker's rights in hired labor situations.



PO Box 86104
Portland, OR 97286
(800) 631-9980
www.FairWorldProject.org

Fair Trade for a Better World

We strongly urge Fair Trade USA not to recertify Fyffes' Suragroh plantation, or any other new Fyffes' subsidiaries, until the independent union STAS has formally signaled to Fair Trade USA a CBA has been signed according to the terms they outline and that the company has paid back wages it owed as determined by the Honduran government.

Sincerely,

Dana Geffner
Executive Director
Fair World Project