

DON'T BUY PALM OIL PRODUCTS FROM THE BODY SHOP

90% of The Body Shop's palm oil comes from suppliers in Colombia, who forcefully evicted 123 families from their land on 14th July 2009.

As a company claiming to be at the forefront of ethical business, The Body Shop should ensure its suppliers act justly.



The people of Las Pavas want their land back

In recent years palm oil cultivation has been rapidly increasing. It is used in cosmetics, cooking, detergents, food production and as a biofuel. Unfortunately, massive destruction of habitat has been undertaken in countries around the world to plant palm oil trees. A great deal of campaigning has already drawn attention to this issue.

The people of Las Pavas, Colombia are a sustainable farming community, growing food to feed their families. Paramilitary violence forced the families to leave the land several times but each time they returned. In 2006 the community was in the process of claiming its land rights under Colombian law, when a consortium bought the land before the process was complete and the people have been forcefully removed by Colombian riot police.

Over 500 people were displaced, and their homes destroyed. Since

then work has continued to cut the forests, drain wetlands and level the land.

Half of the consortium responsible for this ongoing destruction is a subsidiary of Daabon, the company which supplies 90% of The Body Shop's palm oil. Christian Peacemaker Teams, active in the region and involved with the Las Pavas community, sent a letter on their behalf, urging The Body Shop to right this wrong. They have made no commitment to do so.

In the meantime, the destruction continues at Las Pavas.

We urge The Body Shop to:

- uphold their commitment to use only sustainably produced palm oil
- pressure its supplier Daabon to withdraw from Las Pavas and stop its activities there
- require Daabon to compensate the community for its losses

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) enter crisis situations around the world at the invitation of local peace and human rights workers. CPT embraces the vision of unarmed intervention waged by trained peacemakers to transform lethal conflict through the nonviolent power of God's truth and love.

For more information visit:
www.cpt.org

