



Watch
INDONESIA!

ROBIN WOOD

Unilever PLC/ N.V.
CEO Paul Polman
via E-Mail

CC

Harry Brouwer, Unilever Chairman D-A-CH
Merlin Koene, Unilever Communications Director D-A-CH, Nordic and UK & Ireland
Jan-Kees Vis, Unilever Global Director Sustainable Sourcing Development
Marc Engel, Unilever Chief Procurement Officer
Jeremy Goon, Wilmar International, Head of CSR

19 January 2012

Dear Mr Polman

Unilever has repeatedly agreed to support actively the reconstruction of the villages in Sumatra which were destroyed by Unilever's palm oil supplier Wilmar in August of 2011. The final deadline for this reconstruction expired on 14 January 2012 without any result. We now demand that Unilever cease and desist from buying palm oil from the supplier Wilmar, with immediate effect.

1. **Unilever breaks its promise.** Initially, Harry Brouwer (presiding Chairman of Unilever in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland) stated on 7 November 2011 that he would immediately stand up for the victims of violence by Wilmar. At negotiations between Indonesian Wilmar victims, Robin Wood, *Rettet den Regenwald*, and Unilever in Hamburg on 14 December 2011, Unilever spokesperson Merlin Koene promised: "We will contact Wilmar and put pressure on the company to rebuild the destroyed houses, exactly in the location where the people want to live." After 30 days, Unilever would report to Robin Wood and *Rettet den Regenwald* on the progress of the settlements' reconstruction. This deadline has now passed without any results. For the people concerned, the situation has so far not improved. On the contrary, the families of the victims are being interrogated and tyrannized by the police.
2. **The tension in Indonesia escalates.** Wilmar, together with the provincial police of Jambi, has destroyed entire villages because the inhabitants have taken measures to defend themselves against the land theft by Wilmar. The victims, including many indigenous people, report that they have been shot at with live ammunition. These people are still homeless and have only bleak prospects for the future. They demand their homes and above all their land back from Wilmar. Currently thousands of people are defending themselves with direct actions and demonstrations (see our press release of 19 January 2012).

3. **Unilever deceives its customers.** Unilever is spreading ecological fairy tales about its palm oil purchasing on its web pages. Its customers learn nothing of the violence, human rights violations, and environmental destruction which Wilmar commits for palm oil.
4. **Unilever uses the World Bank's arbitration process as an excuse for their own inaction and buys time.** The victims now demand the return of their property from Wilmar before they will sit down to negotiate with the World Bank. The World Bank is not a neutral arbiter; it finances Wilmar through loans. Furthermore, the World Bank's arbitration process is not, as Unilever claims, accepted by all parties and stakeholders as a means to reaching a solution.

Act now and cancel your contracts with Wilmar.

Yours sincerely

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