

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Georgetown Students Occupy President's Office after University Delays Cutting Ties with Nike**

### **Student Outrage Swells over Sweatshop Abuses behind Hoya Apparel**

#### **Georgetown Students demand university drops Nike over proven labor violations**

**What:** Rally outside Dahlgren Chapel - students occupy President's office inside Healy Hall

**Who:** Georgetown students, faculty, campus workers rally to support student occupation

**When:** Thursday, December 8th at 12:00 PM

**Where:** Outside Dahlgren Chapel at Georgetown University, 3700 O Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20057 ([Campus Map here](#))

Today, twenty student activists at Georgetown University began an occupation of University President John J. DeGioia's office demanding that the school's administration refuse to renew their licensing contract with Nike. The students, led by members of worker solidarity organization Georgetown Solidarity Committee (GSC), a United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) affiliate, are vowing to stay in the President's office until he takes action.

Georgetown, which holds Nike's largest Air Jordan contract in the country, was made aware in October 2015 of severe worker's rights abuses taking place at the Hansae factory in Vietnam, which is assumed to produce collegiate apparel for Georgetown. These violations, confirmed in a report by the Workers Rights Consortium released this Tuesday, include most notably, that workers are currently producing in over 90 degree temperatures causing severe fainting and over exhaustion, systematic firing of pregnant workers, wage theft, and unsafe working conditions.

Students escalated their protest in response to University delay in termination of the licensing contract with Nike, even after President DeGioia sent a letter to the Nike committing to sever ties if the licensee did not remediate violations and sign the University Labor Code of Conduct.. Students from the University's Licensing and Oversight Committee (LOC) and GSC members have been meeting with administrators since November 2015, pressuring them to take a stand against Nike, in light of these severe abuses.

According to Vincent DeLaurentis, a GSC member who has met with administrators about Nike on multiple occasions, stated, *“In private meetings, administrators, including Joe Ferrara, have continuously expressed sympathy for and agreement with our demands. It is incredibly hypocritical that they are unwilling to live out these beliefs in public. If the administrations are unwilling to put workers rights ahead of their own interests, we as students will force them to.”*

Students, professors, and community allies will stage a rally in Georgetown’s Dahlgren Quad at noon in support of occupying students. Students, campus workers, faculty and allies will march from the Quad to occupy the foyer outside of the President’s office in order to demonstrate solidarity with the students inside and to monitor their treatment by administration and campus police.

According to Angeles Solis, USAS National Organizer, *“Georgetown University has established itself as a leader among universities for its firm commitment to its Jesuit values. President DeGioia has great influence because of the size of Georgetown’s contract with Nike. Over 35 colleges and universities across the United States are waiting to see if he will uphold his legacy in this crucial moment, stand on his word, and refuse to renew the university license with human rights abuser, Nike.”*

More information at [www.nikesweatshops.org](http://www.nikesweatshops.org)