



News Release

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
AFL-CIO, CLC

Judge Rules Wackenhut Violated Multiple Federal Labor Laws

Wackenhut Unlawfully Threatened, Interrogated Security Officers at the IMF Building in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, DC – An Administrative Law Judge has ruled that the private security firm Wackenhut violated federal labor law when it unlawfully threatened and interrogated security officers at the International Monetary Fund building in Washington who were exercising their workplace rights.

The judge, Michael A. Rosas of Washington, wrote in his decision that, “the Respondent, The Wackenhut Corporation, violated Section 8(a)(1) of the National Labor Relations Act on several occasions from February 20 to March 19 by threatening employees with retaliation or the loss of the Respondent’s IMF contract if they formed a union, interrogating employees about union organizing activities, engaging in surveillance and/or creating the impression of surveillance of employee activities, and discouraging employees from accepting union literature on public property in front of their workplace.” Section 8(a)(1) guarantees workers’ right to engage in union activities on the job.

The claims originally filed by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in May 2004 pertain to Wackenhut’s treatment of security officers who worked at International Monetary Fund offices in Washington, DC who were leading an effort among their co-workers to form a union with SEIU. SEIU was informed in May 2004 that Wackenhut lost the contract to guard the IMF offices. The security services contract there is estimated to be worth approximately \$4.4 million a year.

The decision came on April 22 – nearly a year after the security officers filed a claim with the National Labor Relations Board, and six months after the company failed to reach a settlement with the NLRB and faced trial before the Administrative Law Judge with an NLRB attorney prosecuting the government’s case against Wackenhut.

SEIU Building Services Division Director, Stephen Lerner said, “This is confirmation of Wackenhut’s hostility toward workers who exercise their freedom to choose to form a union.” SEIU is the nation’s largest union of security officers. Last year, Wackenhut was added to the AFL-CIO’s national “Do Not Patronize” list of companies hostile to workers’ rights.

From 1991 to 2000, Wackenhut employees and their unions filed 95 claims of federal labor law violations against the company. Since 2000, nearly 100 claims have been filed. The claims include interfering with employee rights to organize and bargain and discriminating against employees based on their union activity or membership. *[Source: Unicare database, compiled from NLRB data by the Food and Allied Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO.]*