



# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

from the

## **MAINTENANCE COOPERATION TRUST FUND**

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## **Dept. of Labor Orders Janitorial Firm To Pay \$1.9 Million in Back Wages**

### **Contractor Makes Unusual Commitment to Reform Business Practices**

LOS ANGELES—Retail giant Target Corp.'s primary janitorial subcontractor was ordered to pay \$1.9 million in back wages to nearly 800 janitors Tuesday.

“Finally we will be paid for the overtime hours we worked, but for me it is more important that the stores understand that we too are people, like their employees,” said Global janitor Arturo Gonzalez, who cleaned several Target stores. “When I worked at Target the managers demanded we do more work than we were supposed to and they wouldn’t let us leave even though they knew we weren’t getting paid for those hours.”

Global Building Services, which was contracted by Target to clean dozens of its California stores and some stores in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Texas, was ordered to pay back wages and overtime to 775 janitors by the U.S. Department of Labor and the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

This settlement comes just weeks after California supermarkets Albertsons, Ralphs, Safeway and their janitorial contractor agreed to pay janitors millions in back pay and overtime.

“Cash payments and off-the-books employment is a cancer in low-wage industries, but it can only be stopped if client companies follow the example set by Target and its janitorial company,” said MCTF Executive Director Lilia García.

Introducing a new direction for the industry, Global will partner with the MCTF, a janitorial watchdog group based in Los Angeles, in a monitoring program for its Target store contract to ensure it is in compliance with all relevant laws.

“This is a critical step for the janitorial industry, we have continuously battled with a revolving door of lawbreaking contractors”, said García. “In this unique case we have a contractor that didn’t run and appears to be committed to keeping its business clean.”

*It is the intention of the MCTF to abolish unfair and illegal business practices within the janitorial industry. The MCTF is committed to improving the stability of the janitorial industry in the interest of responsible employers, client companies, consumers and workers. Irresponsible contractors place all parties at risk. Protect yourself and your business; ensure that you are contracting a responsible employer.*

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