

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR):  
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*yond Voluntarism: Human Rights and the Developing International Legal Obligations of*  
*Companies*, International Council on Human Rights Policy, 128, 145-48, *available at*  
[http://www.cleanclothes.org/ftp/beyond\\_voluntarism.pdf](http://www.cleanclothes.org/ftp/beyond_voluntarism.pdf) (last visited Oct. 26, 2003).

Multinational companies can make a killing on their investments—literally.<sup>6</sup> Often, as in the case of conflict diamonds,<sup>7</sup> the source of the commodity resulting from exploitation cannot be traced.<sup>8</sup>

Not only are labour exploitation patterns recurrent in several industries, human rights violations occur throughout the third world in places as diverse as Saipan,<sup>9</sup> Ecuador,<sup>10</sup> Papua New Guinea,<sup>11</sup> Indonesia,<sup>12</sup>

tions; however, even charges of murder or genocide are sometimes alleged.<sup>19</sup> Quite simply the fact is that consumers want cheap goods, and third-world labour, particularly child and slave labour, is cheap. Companies exploit third-world labour because exploitation is profitable.<sup>20</sup>

These facts, and the instability of local governments,<sup>21</sup> often put corporations doing business in the third world into questionable positions. Usually these ethical problems are resolved quickly by looking to whether profit is hindered or aided.<sup>22</sup> While we may expect a corporation to behave ethically when it costs nothing, we should realistically expect the corporation to maximise its profits when behaving ethically will reduce profits, even when that means exploiting sweatshop labour, for example.<sup>23</sup> Partially, this is because the company will become less competing

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