

## The Auction

Welcome Ladies & Gentlemen to our auction. We have many fine items for sale here today and it's Soooo nice to see such discerning, wealthy Europeans here to buy our produce. I'm sure we can look forward to some ruthless bidding. And everyone please remember that the money you pay must go directly to those who produced the goods.

I'd like to start with this fine pair of fashionable trainers, hand crafted by experts in the Philippines. What are we opening the bidding at..... £50. We have £50 from the gentlemen from the sports-shop on the front row. £50, £50 I have £50. £16, a much better bid of £16 from the back row....we have £16 from the trademark owner on the back row. £16 ladies and gentleman just look at the quality of these goods. There must be at least £6.50 worth of materials in them. £16....going once, going twice.....

Oh thank you madam!! I now have 85p from the sub-contractor in the Philippines. 85p is an fantastic bid for these trainers but still a little high I feel. Please remember that 45 people had a hand in making these..... we want a realistic bid that reflects how hard they work.....85p....85p any decrease on 85p.....

Yes sir, there in the middle....you want to make a bid? £1.19.... we'll I'm sorry sir the bid is *already* at 85p. Oh I see, I'm sorry I misunderstood that wasn't £1.19 EACH that was £1.19 between the 45 workers? I see. So 2 1/2 pence each.....2 1/2 pence.....2 1/2 pence..... we have an almost unbeatable bid here ladies and gentlemen..... any decrease on 2 1/2 pence? Going once, going twice, sold to the workers representative in the middle for 2 1/2 pence per person. Done. (you have been mate!)

The next item ladies and gentlemen is this leather football. This is an especially good item as it was produced by small children who have much tinier hands enabling them to do much finer stitching. The same sports shop on the front row..... would you care to open the bidding for us? Yes? Thank you £11.... £11 I'm bid. Thank you sir. A new bidder in the middle.... And you are? The wholesaler. Your bid madam? £7.50 Thank you for that generous bid. But no another bid in already...the UK distributor has beaten you with a bid of £5. £5 £5 £5 £5 anyone going lower than £5. Please remember everyone these children also get out of

going to school and we all know how grateful they are to you for that. £2 we have £2 from the sweat-shop in India. £2.....£2..... £2..... I don't imagine we'll get much lower than that. No wait! 3p! 3p! Ladies and gentlemen an outstanding bid from the small child on the floor at my feet. 3p from this small, half-naked child. 3p from this small half-naked, malnourished child. This small, half-naked, malnourished, illiterate child. This small, half-naked, malnourished, illiterate exploited child with no future. No life, no hope and no justice.

Sold, down the river. Just like our souls.