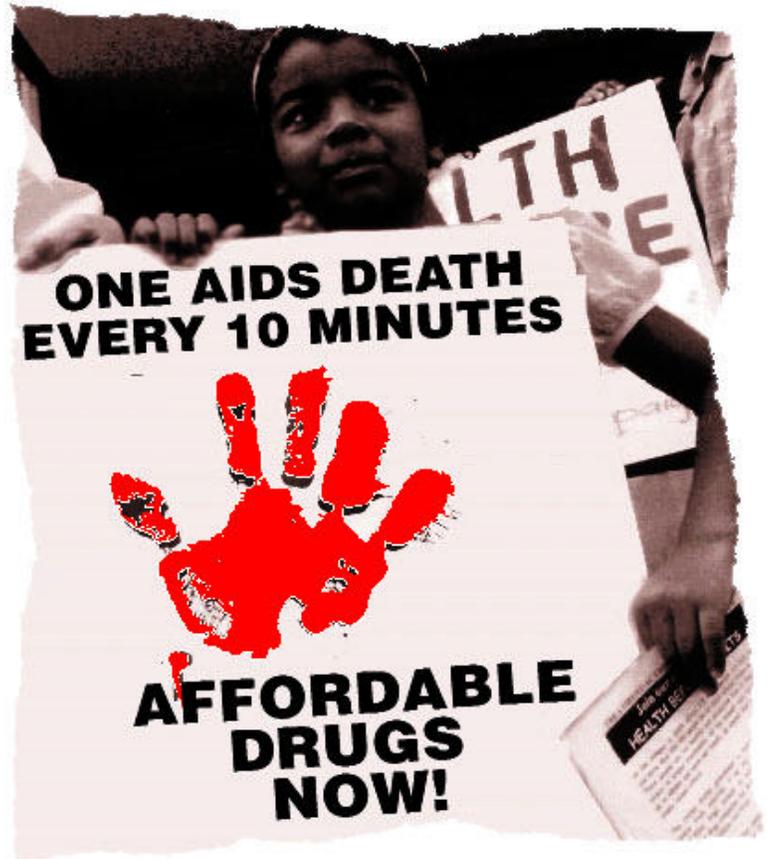


WORLD AIDS DAY, DEC. 1, PROTEST AGAINST AIDS PROFITEER - PFIZER

**DROP THE
PATENT!
DROP THE
PRICES!**



FLUCONAZOLE EASES AIDS!

PFIZER, INC.

- World's largest drug company
- \$ 1 billion per year from fluconazole, only treatment for cryptococcal meningitis, an AIDS-related disease
- Average wholesale price \$10, generic cost 24¢
 - \$4.9 billion profit in 1999

BGAN AFRICA AIDS PROJECT DEMANDS

- Drop fluconazole prices to generic level
 - Relinquish patent rights
- Drop South Africa anti-generic law suit
- Oppose prosecution of South African activists
 - Promote affordability of medicines

- **DECEMBER 1 RALLY & VIGIL, 4:00-5:00
AT PFIZER
620 Memorial Drive Cambridge
(Near BU Bridge)**

WORLD AIDS DAY, DEC. 1, PROTEST AGAINST AIDS PROFITEER - PFIZER

Join us to rally against Pfizer's patent and price embargo that condemns millions to suffering and death. Join our vigil for those who have died. Join activist breakouts after AIDS Forums at the Kennedy School Nov. 28, 4-6, Nov. 30, 6-8.

PFIZER FACT SHEET – PROFIT AMIDST DEATH

- Pfizer makes a life-saving drug called fluconazole, which treats two AIDS related opportunistic diseases – a painful and deadly brain infection called cryptococcal meningitis and another potentially fatal disease called esophageal candidiasis. Ten percent (10%) of 34.5 million HIV/AIDS sufferers worldwide, 3-4 million people, will succumb to these two diseases.
- Fluconazole costs \$12.20 wholesale in the U.S., and through local subsidiaries is sold for \$4.15 per pill to the South African government and \$7.00 per pill on the private market (retail price \$20.75). In Kenya, where Pfizer also has exclusive rights to make it, fluconazole costs \$18.00 per pill. Contrast that with Thailand, where generic versions are allowed and the drug costs 24 cents per pill.
- Because fluconazole is used quite successfully to treat women's yeast infections, toe fungus, and oral thrush in the First World, it produces more than \$1 billion in sales each year.
- Relying on blockbuster drugs like Lipitor (cholesterol), Zoloft (depression), and Viagra (impotence), and through a recent merger, Pfizer has become the biggest drug company in the world and the fifth largest company in the world. On sales of \$31 billion, it "earned" \$4.9 billion of profit in 1999.
- Pfizer has blocked African countries' efforts to get around prohibitively high prices by developing or importing generic versions of fluconazole. Through its local subsidiary and trade association, it has gone so far as to join a lawsuit to block South Africa's 1997 Medicines Act, which allowed the compulsory licensing/production of generic drugs or the cheaper importation.
- Pfizer justifies its actions by claiming that it has "intellectual property rights" to a drug it created – an unbreakable 20-year patent. It justifies its profits based on alleged research and development costs, most of which are in fact derived from government research, tax subsidized, and/or oriented towards "me-too" patents of previously developed products. Pfizer spends three times as much on marketing and administration as it does on research and development!
- Pfizer will tell you that it has recently offered to make fluconazole available for free in South Africa. This is partly true, but it is only available to low-income patients with cryptococcal meningitis, not others. The terms of the offer are so conditional that the South African government has not even accepted it. Pfizer's offer also does nothing for those in other countries. Moreover, Pfizer only made this move in response to extreme pressure from activists worldwide. So let's keep pushing!
- South African activists, the Treatment Action Campaign, have heroically launched a Defiance Campaign to import generic fluconazole from Thailand, threatening to make it available for free.

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