

**PROGRESS IN SEVERAL ASPECTS AFTER
WORLD CONGRESS ON CHILD WORKERS**

As we explained in our previous issue, the World Congress on Child Workers organised its first edition last May in Florence, Italy. WCL attended the event accompanying three child workers related to their member organisations: 15-year-old Partheeban Loganathan, from Sri Lanka's NWC; 15-year-old Afi Goundo from Congo's



demonstrations that led to the death of the mayor of the city of Llave. However, Bro. Medina was only doing his job, namely, informing. Henry Medina is currently detained at the prison of Capilla, awaiting sentence, in what is clearly a flagrant violation of his right to work. Additionally, we must inform of the killing of Bro. Alberto Rivera Fernández, another journalist (*Radio Frecuencia Oriental*), who was shot near his home. It is also noteworthy that this journalist criticised harshly Peruvian authorities, denouncing arbitrary decisions by the mayor of Ucayali, Mr. Luis Valdez Villacorta. In a letter to Peruvian authorities, WCL requests urgently the investigation of the murder of Alberto Rivera Fernández, the prompt release of Henry Galo Medina and compliance with measures that guarantee respect for and protection of journalists who exercise their right to inform in their countries.

**INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST
TRADE UNIONISTS IN BELARUS**

The World Confederation of Labour expressed serious concerns regarding the intimidation campaign launched by the government of Belarus against the independent trade union movement in this country. We have been informed that several members of the Belarusian Free Trade Union were removed from their positions under dubious circumstances ... some of whom are Bros. Oleg Shaytor, President of the organisation *BFTU of Polack Heat Plant*, Yuriy Obunov and Yuiy Gajchenko, also members of this organisation, and Viktor Stukov, President of the organisation *BFTU of Polotsk-Steklovokno*. WCL deems this situation unacceptable, in frank contradiction with international and Belarusian legislation. It hopes the situation will be investigated and clarified, so the trade unionists can return to their work.

**MIGRATION AS THE FOCUS OF DEBATES
AT THE 92ND INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR CONFERENCE**

One important item of the 92nd International Labour Conference is the topic assigned to the Commission on Migrant Workers (general discussion based on an integrated approach). Countries around the world are increasingly affected by international migration: countries of origin, destination countries and transit countries. Although globalisation is associated to openness of world markets to goods and capital flows, these processes have had a relevant impact on international migration. Regarding this item on the agenda, the Conference will conduct a general

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CSTT, and 13-year-old Laura Rubio Rengifo, from Colombia's CGTD. The three children participated actively, in particular during a round table with representatives of the US State Department, the World Bank, among others. The final Declaration of the Congress highlights children's demands, including the abolition of child labour, alongside quality, free, mandatory, and egalitarian education, with no discrimination. The children also demand that their voices be heard and a special court be created, with legal service free of charge, to denounce those who exploit them. Another demand is the promotion of decent employment for adults, so children won't have to work. Finally, it is important to mention that ILO published early this year a report explaining that the elimination of child labour would generate, in the long term, seven times more benefits than current costs in developing countries.

For more information on this report, please consult: www.ilo.org

**REPRESSION AGAINST
TRADE UNIONS WORSENS IN PERU**

The work of a journalist is still risky in many regions of the world. One example is Peru, where we learned that Bro. Henry Galo Medina, a journalist and correspondent of *Radio Programas del Perú* and *Radio San Miguel*, was detained. According to the latest information, Bro. Medina was imprisoned for having participated in

discussion based on an integrated approach. International migration of labour in the context of globalisation; policies and structures that favour the organisation of labour migration; and the improvement of protection of migrant workers. Another relevant commission is undoubtedly the group discussing human resources development, second discussion, for the revision of Recommendation 150. As to the objectives, the World Confederation of Labour deems it important to highlight the need for education and training to have objectives that transcend economic expectations and strive to model free, responsible people, with a critical character and able to insert themselves in society and a labour market that increasingly demands flexibility and higher qualifications.

GLOBAL REPORT 2004: "ORGANISING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE"

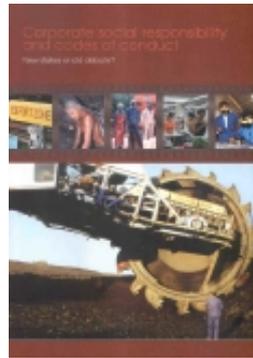
This year, the International Labour Conference will examine its global report on freedom to organise and the right to collective bargaining. The report, entitled "*Organising for Social Justice*", states the crucial role of independent organisations representing workers and employers in ensuring healthy labour relations and social progress in all countries of the world. On the occasion of the publication of this report, a round table was held in Brussels, by initiative of the contact office of ILO. Representatives of WCL, ICFTU, ETUC, and three Belgian trade union confederations (ACV-CSC, ABVV-FGTB and ACLVB-CGSLB). They seized the opportunity to express their opinion on the topic, insisting that these two rights are still threatened in developed and developing countries. In the words of Eduardo Estévez, Deputy Secretary General of WCL, "*the global report acknowledges that: the informal economy absorbs between 50% and 75% of non-agricultural employment in developing countries, a proportion that is even larger if we include the agricultural sector. For trade unions, the challenge is tremendous: turning these jobs into decent employment, and giving the workers of this sector a say and a feasible way to organise*". The global report proposes an Action Plan. For the World Confederation of Labour, it will be a fundamental task to do everything in its hands to fight against penalisation of social action in all its forms, and to support trade union actions in the informal economy.

CONSAWU: SUCCESS AT THE FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS!

On May 20 and 21, CONSAWU held its First National Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa. Secretary General of WCL, Bro. Willy Thys, accompanied by Toolsyraj Benyudin and Adrien Akouete, President and Secretary General of ODTA (our regional African organisation), showed enthusiasm with this new organisation. In his speech, the trade union leader insisted on the importance of trade union pluralism at the national level and congratulated CONSAWU on its work on the informal economy. We wish the best of luck to CONSAWU in its future endeavours.

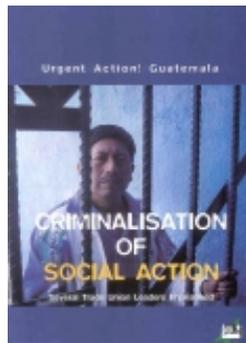
NEW PUBLICATIONS OF WCL Corporate Social Responsibility

For a long time now, the topic of responsibilities of



companies has been the focus of several international debates and publications. Public institutions (European Union, United Nations, and even the International Labour Office), employers' associations, civil society organisations (or at least some of them) seem to be convinced of corporate social responsibility as the main element of current and future social policies in all continents and all sectors. With this publication, WCL intends to analyse thoroughly this concept, often vague, through the study of entities promoting this strategy. The objective is to present a balance on this topic and to gauge its consequences on national and international instruments (among trade action federations) and standards instruments (labour and social rights), as well as on the future of legal and contract rights, and the content of social policies. After the two first chapters, dwelling on this topic and one of its forms (codes of conduct), the study presents the current state of affairs and finally, concludes with some guidelines for action and several recommendations.

Urgent action Guatemala: trade union action treated as criminal



In the framework of its campaign against trade union repression, and for the release of imprisoned trade union leaders in Guatemala, WCL has published a leaflet explaining the situation of the country, and two specific cases in perspective: Rigoberto Dueñas, Secretary General of CGTG, unfairly imprisoned for over a year, and Victoriano Zacarias, Executive Secretary of the organisation,

imprisoned on charges of terrorism for having organised a demonstration!

Request your leaflet in French, English or Spanish at the Information Department of WCL: info@cmt-wcl. Make sure you state clearly your name and address, as well as language and the number of issues you require.

Programme of activities

- 09-10 June: ETUC, Executive Committee, Brussels – Belgium;
- 10-12 June: WFAFW, European Seminar, Bucharest – Romania;
- 13-18 June: UNCTAD XI, Sao Paulo – Brazil;
- 16-20 June: WFAFW, Executive Board, Caracas – Venezuela;
- 22-25 June: COLACOT, Seminar-Congress, Bogotá – Colombia;
- 23-25 June: Meeting of the Americas, Washington – United States;
- 26-29 June: WFIW, World Board, Sofia – Bulgaria;
- 28-29 June: International Forum of Cultures, Barcelona – Spain.



SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN MADAGASCAR

A national seminar was organised in Antananarivo (capital of Madagascar), on agricultural cooperatives. The initiative was proposed by the Christian Federation of Agricultural Workers Magalasy (FEKRITAMA, affiliated to WFAFW), the Training Institute for Rural Workers (IFT), and the



Institute of Higher Training in Social Engineering (IFSIS), the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector (MICSP) and the Ministry of Agriculture, and Fishery. First, the 36 participants, trainers and officials dwelled on the legislation for cooperatives in Madagascar. They listed the regulations available in current legislation and analysed how these rules could adapt to the needs of the agricultural sector. Afterwards, the participants studied the history of the French cooperative model of savings and credits, to draw lessons from the past, which will help in the future. In the past, a handful of French wealthy agricultural workers started purchasing vast areas of land, and the rest of the farmers had to move to the industrial urban areas. The comments not only referred to the cooperative model of Madagascar, but also to the current model in African countries as Mali and Senegal. Finally, the participants dwelled on illiteracy as the main obstacle to the development of cooperatives on this African island. A new method of intensive literacy was developed and discussed by the participants.

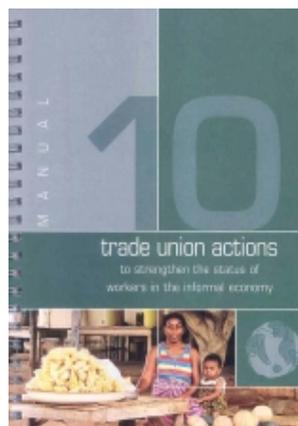
WCL ORGANISATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES STRENGTHENED IN ESTONIA

Our organisation for public service employees (Infedop/Eurofedop) was recently in Tallin (Estonia) to prepare a seminar that is scheduled for June. At the moment, the Christian Democratic workers' organisations are still participating insufficiently in the social structures of Estonia. The aim of the seminar is therefore to strengthen the social dialogue and the position of the workers in the country. A visit to the Estonian Minister of Social Affairs, Mr Marko Pomerants, made it clear already that he is most positive towards the initiative, which can contribute to the necessary social renovation. To be continued!

CAPACITY BUILDING: TOGOLESE TRAINERS ORGANISE A FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY IN BURKINA FASO

The two Togolese trainers, Bros. Gbadago Amaglo and Emmanuel Agebnou, who participated in the Capacity Building training in the framework of the VERBA Project, organised their first training event on 5 and 6 April last, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (Western Africa). This training dwelled on organisational aspects of the trade union, namely: recruiting new members. The seminar-workshop took place in the recently opened training facilities of the National Confederation of Workers of Burkina Faso (CNTB). The participants were 15 trade union representatives from PFCW (employees), PFIW (industry), PFTW (transport), PFT (teachers), PFAFW (agriculture, food and hotel) and PFBW (building and wood). During the event, the participants discussed strategies for attracting new members and different models (practices). The theory was implemented immediately through role-playing. They also gave special attention to "appointing recruiters". The group had an active participation and was committed to working to recruit new members in their organisations. The Action Plan was defined, and the expectations for recruiting new members have a good perspective.

NEW WCL MANUAL ON LEGAL POSITION OF WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY



In order to take concrete actions in the framework of the informal economy, workers need to have a sound legal position. WCL elaborated a handbook with the purpose of helping trade unions to improve this legal position. This practical guide aims at supporting those who wish to improve the position of the workers in the informal economy. The handbook will be officially presented at the 92nd Inter-

national Labour Conference (on 1 to 17 June in Geneva). With the elaboration of this manual, WCL intends to offer an effective response to inherent challenges of the informal economy discussed at the ILO Conference in 2002.

The document is in four languages (French, Dutch, English, and Spanish) and available on request through e-mail: Veerle.desmedt@cmt-wcl.org. By the end of this year, WCL will organise training events in three continents, with the end in view of training contact people on the use of this manual.

