



A selection OnLine interviews and articles published in september/october 2002 | No 2

Interview

Wellington Chibhebhe-Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

In a 'spotlight' interview a day before municipal elections, which took place in Zimbabwe on September 28-29, Wellington Chibhebhe, Secretary General of the ZCTU, talks about the challenges for trade unions and for democracy in Zimbabwe. Harassment and intimidation of opposition candidates were reported in the run-up to the polls.

● During the period of elections in Zimbabwe in March this year, the ICFTU called for solidarity over increasing violations of human and trade union rights in the country. How has the situation evolved since then and is the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) still facing harassment?

The intimidation we faced during the election has continued. Since the election, the ZCTU has been equated as the opposition, wherever we go we are tailed and even within the ZCTU it is not possible to speak freely.

In every one of the activities and workshops that we organise or take part in, the police will want to be there, I cannot remember one meeting where they have not wanted to interfere. We resist this as much as possible and fortunately in the end they usually give in.

The latest example happened on 16 August, which was the date of an ILO workshop on child labour. The ILO programme director was there with an ILO team from Geneva, but the police wanted to be part of discussions because they thought that this was actually an anti-government planning meeting. The ILO team had to phone Harare and talk to the police headquarters, the police finally agreed not to interrupt the meeting after the ILO explained that they had diplomatic immunity.

● How would you describe the general situation for workers in Zimbabwe?

The situation is desperate, very desperate. People are surviving on one meal per day, inflation is 823.3%, and companies are closing down. For the record, in 2001, about 400 companies had to close and about 120 000 jobs were lost. Unemployment is running at about 80% at the mo-



ment, and 75% of people are living in poverty.

The other thing is that there is no foreign currency to talk about. Officially the Zim dollar is 1:55 with the US dollar but on the black market it is anything up to 1:700.

● Robert Mugabe has long been making efforts to set up a rival government-friendly trade union in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions (ZFTU), how is this situation developing?

Soon after the elections, the government was making frantic efforts to recognise the Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions (ZFTU). In order to get members, the government went to such an extent as to allow the federation to visit companies and forcibly recruit employees.

What happens is that ZFTU are able to mobilise 'the youth' -they are government supporters that Mugabe is able to mobilise to support him- to visit companies, they give a membership form to the employees, and if any refuse to sign, they are seen as

being sympathetic to the ZCTU, and therefore sympathetic to the opposition. Workers are told that if they do not join the ZFTU, they are opposing government policy.

Since Mugabe's ZANU PF party is saying that you have to be a member of the ZFTU, this means that now you find that some workers now have double deductions, one going to the ZCTU affiliate because that is where they would want to belong, and the other going direct to the ZFTU due to the fear of victimisation.

We don't have any relationship with the ZFTU because it does not belong to the free trade union movement. At the moment it is a central trade union which has no affiliates; its members pay their dues directly to the central. This is directly in contravention of the laws of Zimbabwe, but because they enjoy special treatment from the govern-

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ment, nothing is happening. They can do as they want.

The government is not openly discouraging people from joining the ZCTU but they are effectively doing so through contacting the 'youth' and allowing the ZFTU to recruit in the way they do.

What links do the ZCFU have with Robert Mugabe?

Well, we have never had any direct links with Robert Mugabe. Ever since I came to the ZCTU in the general council in 1994, the ZCTU has been able to meet Robert Mugabe on only one occasion, in 1998. So the relationship has never been there, any contacts we do have are made with the Minister of Public Services, Labour and Social Work.

● Against this shocking background, what is the ZCTU doing to improve the lives of workers?

We are working to try to alleviate this situation. In particular, we are trying to put pressure on the government to reduce the level of tax, I think that currently we have the 4th highest level of taxation in the world, and this government must come to its senses.

If they go along the avenue of increasing wages, it may actually worsen the situation. What would the employer do if the cost of wages rose? They would also increase the price of basic commodities.

We are also concentrating on dealing with the AIDS pandemic. In the ZCTU we have one person dealing specifically with this issue. We are doing training programmes in the workplace and we are doing couples workshops, because we have realised that if we train one person, they may not actually

think about what they have learned when they get home. But we are not doing enough...

● What can the international trade union movement do to aid the situation?

We had a visit from the ICFTU President, Mr Jackson Shamenda, who was in Zimbabwe in the week starting 2 September. We asked him to implore upon the government not to interfere in the affairs of the trade union, and also, not to give the ZFTU leeway to operate outside the law. We are not against competition but it must be equal competition.

We also requested that they give greater attention to the plight of the farm workers and the teachers, because they are heavily targeted by the Mugabe regime; they are seen as the ones who are imparting opposition policies on the local communities

● Robert Mugabe is facing increasing criticism from western governments and the press over his land redistribution farm reform; how are these policies viewed within Zimbabwe?

At the initiative of the ICFTU Regional Organisation, a meeting in support of the ZCTU was convened in Nairobi on 30 September 2002. The main agenda of the meeting was to identify priority areas for support for the trade union movement in that country to ensure that the trade union movement is able to defend itself against attacks by the government.

No one is against the land distribution exercise. But what we are against is the use of this exercise as a way of winning political mileage. Mugabe is saying that this is an empowerment of black farmers, but the reality is that it is only the well-connected and government officials who are benefiting from the redistribution.

Just one example is the Leopardley farm near Bindura, which was acquired by Mugabe's brother-in-law, Reward Marufu. In an effort to get the farm workers off the farm, he torched 200 farm houses and put all of the workers out of their jobs and homes.

As much as we talking of taking away farms and giving them to the black farmers, we are not doing anything about the farm workers. Most of them are being forced to leave their land and are only receiving packages of around 20, 000 Zim dollars, when you divide this by 700, you get US\$200 or less. The programme is producing more problems than any other.

● Could the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council (SATUCC) have done more to influence member states to play a more active role in promoting respect of law and order in Zimbabwe?

SATUCC thinks the approach to Zimbabwe should be regionally based, and we believe that SATUCC should actually be able to link with the regional leaders. But at the moment, although to some extent they are fulfilling that role, we believe they should do more.

The problem is that countries are supportive of Mugabe, in so far as the regional context is concerned, he is a hero. ●

..... ICFTU Online... 162/260902/JL

Ivory Coast: re-establish dialogue and restore peace

The ICFTU was shocked to learn about the deterioration of the political situation in the Ivory Coast. In view of this crisis, the ICFTU is issuing an urgent call for the re-establishment of dialogue, the restoration of peace and an assuring respect of human rights.

Whilst firmly denouncing any attempt to seize power outside elections, the ICFTU is concerned at the impact this instability is having on the lives and safety of civilians and working people. The ICFTU has noted that over the last few days the crisis has assumed even more drastic proportions, affecting foreigners and migrant workers. Guy Ryder, the ICFTU General Secretary, stated that "the authorities and the rebels must get around the table and search for a peaceful solu-

tion to the conflict. This is a precondition for the security of the civilian population and for minorities, as well as for the re-establishment of economic activity in the country". Ryder went on to affirm that "the Ivory Coast's economy is a driving force for the whole region of Western Africa. This crisis must be resolved as quickly as possible, so as to enable a speedy economic recovery in both the Ivory Coast and the neighbouring countries".

In order to save lives and seek a posi-

tive outcome to the crisis facing Ivory Coast, the ICFTU is calling for the deployment of an inter-African peace force in the sensitive zones. That is what the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has suggested, but the Ivory Coast authorities have not yet agreed, fearing that such a move might serve to confirm divisions within the country (part of which is currently in rebel hands). ●

..... ICFTU OnLine... 167/011002/CL

Burma: evidence of increasing forced labour

Evidence submitted by the ICFTU to the United Nations' ILO in a 350-page report includes allegations of connections between oil giant, TOTALFINA-ELF, the Burmese military and the use of forced labour.

The release of political dissidents including the NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi combined with a purported opening of dialogue between the Burmese regime and opposition forces may seem to signify a softening stance from the notoriously brutal 15-year military dictatorship in Burma. The ICFTU has released stark new evidence which contradicts this impression.

Massive forced labour is actually on the increase. Its uses include opium production and forced conscription into the army. Trade union groups are becoming the focus of violent attacks and foreign multinational investment is helping keep the junta afloat as the world's governments look on.

The Brussels-based labour body has also provided the ILO with exclusive video footage which includes interviews with children and adults who have been forced to work for the army, as well as footage of an army unit on patrol near the Burma-Thai border with porters including images of violent assaults by soldiers on their own porters.

TRADE UNIONISTS INCREASINGLY TARGETED

On 4 August 2002, a Burmese union official, U Saw Mya Than, was slain in cold blood by soldiers, having been forced to work as a porter for the army's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) n° 588, led by one Major Myo Hlaing.

This is just one incident revealed in 350 pages of condemnatory evidence sent this week to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) by the ICFTU. The evidence - covering October 2001 to September 2002 - reveals that, far from keeping its promise to eradicate the practice of forced labour, the military junta continues to use it on a massive scale, and is actually stepping up brutal operations against underground trade union structures.

This is the first time the ICFTU has released details of underground trade union activities in Burma since it started investigating forced labour in the country over a decade ago. In its submission, the ICFTU denounces the military junta for attacking Federation of Trade Unions - Burma (FTUB) facilities, as well as looting food stocks of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and burning down elementary schools, a hospital, and a workshop for disabled workers.

The information reveals that in retribution for trade union activities, on 3 May, the military torched the Kawthoolei Education Workers' Union (KEWU)

office in Kho-Kay, North Pa-, as well as a local school, attended by 300 students. On 6th August, army troops burnt down a 20-bed hospital, a disabled persons' workshop, another school and several houses. Over 500 IDPs who had taken shelter in the village were forced to escape across the border into Thailand. On 7 and 8 May, another 169 IDPs lost their homes when an army column attacked their village in Kho-Kay and looted 30 paddy barns. Among the victims whose houses had been destroyed were several KEWU members, including its President, M. Saw Lah Say.

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The story concerning the murder of U Saw Mya Than is particularly damning. Having been elected as "headman" of his village, Kaleiktoat, in Ye Township (Mon State) he was forced to work as a porter for the army. When the army column came under attack from elements of the ethnic independence movement shortly before nightfall on 4th August 2002, Saw Mya Than was killed in cold blood as an act of retaliation by the very soldiers he was forced to work for.

It is common practice in the Burmese military to recruit forced labourers as porters and "human shields" who are often made to march at the front of battalions to "protect" soldiers against ambushes- the role U Saw Mya Than was playing immediately before he was murdered. It is also clear that there is a direct link between Than's trade union role and his murder. After having been trained as a human and trade union rights' specialist by the FTUB and FTUK in 2001, Than became well known in his area for his involvement with human rights and was thus elected as a headman. He was also widely known to be an official of the Kawthoolei Education Workers Union (KEWU).

The ICFTU charges that this was why he was forcibly recruited as porter for LIB 588, since headmen, whose responsibility it is to satisfy the army's endless demands for porters and other forced labourers, are normally not forcibly recruited themselves. The report also contains details of the training activities carried out deep inside Burmese territory by the FTUB and the Federation of Trade Unions Kawthoolei (FTUK) prior to the puni-

tive attacks carried out by the military. The two organisations, which co-operate closely inside Burma, also maintain structures in neighbouring countries.

MULTINATIONALS PROFITING FROM FORCED LABOUR

Culpability for forced labour is not simply limited to the regime itself. Despite a high-profile international campaign led by the ICFTU, foreign multinationals continue to financially support the junta. The role of the French oil giant TOTALFINA-ELF, long involved in Burma, comes particularly under the spotlight in the new evidence. The information supplied to the ICFTU alleges that forced labour is being used for road building and other infrastructure work connected to TOTALFINA-ELF's Yadana pipeline operation. According to the latest FTUB report on the subject, civilians in at least 16 villages in Burma's Southern Tenasserim Division were forced to construct a highway between Kanbauk and Maung Ma Gan.

Families were often forced to work for 20 days or more per month, each having to build a 20-meter long, 4-meter wide stretch of road in April 2002. They were told that this was not forced labour and that they would be duly paid. In May, villagers heard that TOTALFINA-ELF had paid the authorities for the road building and inquired with their village elders about the money. They were told that their complaint would be referred to "higher authorities", but are still waiting for the money months later. This issue is raised directly in the ICFTU report to the ILO.

In the light of this evidence, the ICFTU is calling on the EU Council of Ministers to strengthen its Common Position on Burma at their 21-22 October Luxembourg meeting to include a ban on all European investment in the country.

The ICFTU will shortly release new evidence of multinational investment in Burma, as union researchers uncover new examples of corporations profiting from one of the world's most oppressive regimes.

"Multinationals such as TOTALFINA-ELF have long maintained that there is no link between their investments in Burma and the growing use of forced labour. This new evidence poses real questions about the connections between multinational enterprises, the Burmese military and the use of forced labour. The EU must act now," said ICFTU Burma expert Janek Kuczakiewicz. ●

Union activists denounce McDonald's Union busting

An international seminar bringing together trade unionists from across the globe lays out an alarming picture of the personnel practices at McDonald's.

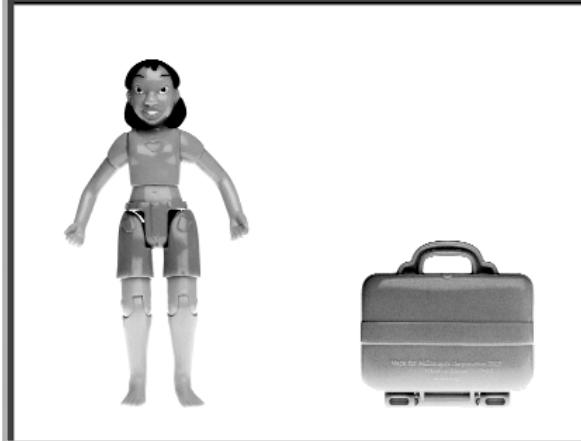
McDonald's tends to use minimum standards or minimum legal requirements in setting wages, health and safety practices, has a propensity to use anti-union measures including isolating, harassing and dismissing employees who are union members or supporters. It also often uses its franchise system as a way to avoid dealing with trade unions or works councils. These were the main conclusions of an international seminar on labour practices at McDonald's restaurants that was held from 7 October through 10 October.

The seminar's participants – for the most part union activists from Argentina, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, the Philippines, The Netherlands, the United States, and Russia – recognised that in some countries, the size of the company's operations and its influence is also having the effect of depressing wages and preventing other working conditions from improving in the restaurant sector.

The fast-food giant's extraordinary measures to avoid dealing with trade unions or works councils form part of the conclusions of the seminar, which are published today.

On the last day of the seminar, the participants staged a demonstration at a McDonald's restaurant in the European capital, before presenting their perspectives on the multinational at a specially convened hearing with Theo Bouwman, President of the European Parliament's

Not so Happy Meals



Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Bouwman responded by saying that the testimony he heard was of direct relevance to the European Parliament's work on corporate social responsibility. The group pointed out that the social responsibilities of business should include good industrial relations and recognising trade unions as social partners. It was also noted that in the very few countries where the multinational had been engaged in social dialogue with trade unions, such as the Netherlands, McDonald's was able to operate a successful business while behaving as a responsible social partner. It was likely,

should establish relations with the IUF, which is the international organisation of workers covering the restaurant sector.

The seminar, which took place in the Netherlands, and in Brussels, Belgium, was organised by the Dutch Trade Union Confederation (FNV) and the Dutch hotel and catering workers' union (FNV Horecabond) in co-operation with the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). ●

..... ICFTU Online... 178/160210/DP

USA: International union solidarity with locked out US dockworkers

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions today expressed support for US and international trade union action in solidarity with those involved in the bitter US West Coast port dispute.

After the strong-arm tactics of the employers, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), caused talks with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) to break down on 2 October, concerns are growing about the economic effects of a prolonged dispute.

"The escalating dispute in the docks on the US West Coast threatens to damage the economy inside and outside the United States", said Guy Ryder, ICFTU

General Secretary. "The management of the PMA should be aware of the consequences which may result from continued intransigence in the negotiations."

Echoing the concerns of its US affiliate, the AFL-CIO, and of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the ICFTU expressed concerns about the intentions of the PMA. All indications are that the trade union representing the dockworkers, the ILWU, has

been negotiating in good faith with the PMA. It seeks a fair settlement that will ensure that current dockworkers are treated fairly and that future workers have the protections of trade union representation.

PMA has reportedly refused to budge on several questions raised by the ILWU about national security, job safety and PMA's attempts to undermine long-standing agreements. ●

..... ICFTU Online... 170/041002/JB-COM

Dominican Republic: high-risk work in free trade zones and sugar cane plantations

In a new report* produced for the WTO's review of trade policies of the Dominican Republic (7 to 9 October), the ICFTU denounces the serious infringements of workers' human and trade union rights, particularly in the country's free trade zones and sugar plantations.

Despite the ratification by the Dominican Republic of ILO conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining, the ICFTU's report maintains that workers are finding it very difficult to enforce these rights. "Intimidation and violence are frequently used by employers and the police to silence those trade unionists who are fighting for workers' rights. Any trade union activities can also lead to dismissal", notes Collin Harker, an economist with the ICFTU and author of the document. Collective bargaining has also been significantly restricted. In order for a collective agreement to be implemented, for example, national law requires that an absolute majority of workers in the given company must support the text (these same provisions restrict the right to strike considerably). The report makes it clear that this measure is not in line with international legislation, as indeed the ILO has frequently pointed out to the government.

Whilst these practices occur throughout the country, the worst cases are found in the sugar plantations and the free trade zones (FTZs). For example in 2000, Tortony Manufacturing shut down its operations after the workers had called for collective bargaining. When the management reopened production shortly afterwards, under the new name of "Gramerci Dominicana", many former employees were refused

employment. Blacklists have been circulated amongst employers in free trade zones aimed at keeping out those considered too militant. At the end of 2001, just 3 collective agreements were in operation in the Dominican Republic's 40 FTZs (employing 200,000 workers, the majority of whom were women).

Many Dominican women workers do not receive the same wages as men, are kept out of leadership posts and suffer sexual harassment.

Other serious breaches of international law, such as forced labour and racial and sexual discrimination, are also highlighted in the report. Despite the ratification of conventions 100 (Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value) and 111 (banning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation), many Dominican women workers do not receive the same wages as men, are kept out of leadership posts and suffer sexual harassment. Again, such malpractice is particularly rife in FTZs and sugar plantations. Women workers in FTZs are required, for instance, to undergo pregnancy tests prior to employment and those with positive results are not taken on. Haitian workers (both legal and illegal) and Dominicans of Haitian descent

are discriminated against in their terms of employment. Most work in plantations. They live in unhealthy slums and do the jobs rejected by Dominicans. Harassed by the police and living in fear of expulsion from the country, they often agree to work for poverty wages. Some are even employed in conditions of virtual slavery, having their clothes and wages confiscated by their bosses to prevent them escaping. In all there are estimated to be one million Haitians in the country.

The sugar plantations are also the workplace of a growing number of children from Haiti. Although the statutory minimum working age in the Dominican Republic is 14, poverty and unemployment are driving many much younger children to leave school and look for a job. Children can also be found working "informally" in large urban centres. ●

* This report on the Dominican Republic's respect of internationally-recognised core labour standards is one of a series of reports produced by the ICFTU since the Declaration adopted by the first WTO Ministerial Conference (Singapore, December 1996), which was reaffirmed on 4 November 2001 in Doha. According to this Declaration, all the WTO member states have undertaken to respect fundamental labour standards. The report has been submitted to the WTO's trade policy committee.

ICFTU Online... 168/041002/CL

South Africa: ICFTU condemns killings of two mineworkers

In a letter to South African President Thabo Mbeki, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has vigorously condemned the killing on 7 October of two mineworkers at a prominent goldmine following shots fired by the Security guards of the East Rand Proprietary Mines (ERPM).

Information received by the ICFTU indicates that thousands of miners were on strike on October 7th when ERPM security guards opened fire, killing two miners and seriously injuring 14 others.

The company had earlier unilaterally terminated its contract with the subcontractor that supplied the labour, thus jeopardising the livelihood of

thousands of families.

In the letter, the Brussels-based labour body's General Secretary Guy Ryder, indicated that "those practices are criminal, barbaric and unacceptable, especially in a country which has ratified core ILO union rights conventions 87 and 98", Ryder said.

Ryder urged President Mbeki to heed the trade union call and order an inves-

tigation into the incident in order to identify the persons responsible for the acts and bring them to justice.

The mine is managed by mining firm Durban Roodepoort Deep (DRD).

The miners, some of whom said they received as little as 35 rand (US\$3.35) a day for dangerous work deep underground, are striking over pay. ●

ICFTU Online... 174/101002/LB

Trade Unions tell IMF/WB to change the model

21-23 October: High-level trade union delegation meeting with international financial institutions (IFIs) - ICFTU releases new briefing paper on privatization - 'Public Service or Private Profits.'

Between 21-23 October, over 90 trade unionists are taking part in consultative meetings with the IMF/World Bank. Yesterday, the delegation - including 29 national union leaders - met World Bank President James Wolfensohn, IMF Managing Director Horst Köhler and other officials to discuss issues including privatisation, poverty reduction and reforms of the international financial architecture. The scale and scope of the meetings is unprecedented, and the unionists confronted these institutions with evidence of the continuing damage wrought by their policies throughout the developing world.

The ICFTU is highly critical of the international financial institution's (IFIs) promotion of the "dysfunctional practices of US capitalism" in developing countries and particularly condemnatory of the dogmatic "fix it,

even if it isn't broken" approach to privatisation. As laid out in a new ICFTU briefing paper "Public Service or Private Profits", privatisation for most workers has come to mean increasing charges for public utilities and growing inequality, as well as unfair dismissals and non-respect of union rights. The ICFTU maintains that the IFIs bear much of the responsibility for these failures.

The paper further highlights the contradictions in the Bank's much-vaunted participatory approach to privatization. The Bank claims to involve workers in the process; yet in reality, trade unions and other civil society organizations are only consulted once the decision to privatize has already been taken. While consultation on other issues has improved, experience with privatization has shown that trade unions are only consulted when it comes to planning issues such as severance pro-

grammes and dismissals from downsizing. Meanwhile, the relentless ideological drive to privatise at any cost continues unabated.

During the Washington meetings, the trade union delegation is also insisting on the urgency for the IMF to put in place a fair and transparent mechanism which would allow for an orderly renegotiation of unsustainable external debt and reduce the catastrophic consequences of defaults, such as that of Argentina. In addition, members of the delegation have explained how World Bank-sponsored social security privatisation was one of the leading causes of the fiscal crisis in Argentina, as contributions that formerly covered the costs of public pensions (still the only source of income for most retirees), were diverted into highly cost-inefficient private funds. The same model of pension privatization, which is in part inspired by the largely discredited Bush plan for social security privatization in the US, is being applied by the World Bank in several other countries, particularly in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Trade unionists from those regions are demonstrating how these "reforms" will worsen the situation of most retired workers.

"The trade union delegation is calling for greater transparency in the IFI decision-making processes, especially concerning privatisation policies, and better consultation of workers and civil society," explained ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder. "But above all, the unions are calling on the IFIs to stop promoting economically and socially destructive structural adjustment, not just in their rhetoric, but also in their loan conditions and their country-level policy advice." ●

**List of other news OnLines from july/august 2002.
(Unabridged version are available on request by mail or telephone
from:ICFTU, Ivo De Cre, t l ++322 224 02 10)**

- Djibouti government dismisses trade union leader (ICFTU Online, 25/10/2002)
- ICFTU Report Denounces Massive Child Labour and Deteriorating Workers Rights in Zambia (ICFTU Online, 25/10/2002)
- Trade Union meetings with IMF and World Bank (ICFTU Online, 24/10/2002)
- ICFTU calls for UN members to redouble Iraq efforts (ICFTU Online, 18/10/2002)
- Zimbabwe: 627 teachers fired (ICFTU Online, 16/10/2002)
- Fatigue kills : international day of action for road transport workers (ICFTU Online, 15/10/2002)
- APEC leaders must take concrete measures for an APEC social dimension: Trade Union Conference in Mexico (ICFTU Online, 15/10/2002)
- ICFTU calls for strong global governance and fundamental reform of globalisation (ICFTU Online, 14/10/2002)
- ICFTU condemns barbaric terrorist attack in Bali (ICFTU Online, 14/10/2002)
- ICFTU Calls for Immediate Lifting of Siege of Arafat's Headquarters and an End to the Cycle of Violence (ICFTU Online, 27/9/2002)
- Annual IMF and World Bank meeting: Changing the Model: IFI Policies and the Failures of Corporate-Driven Globalisation (ICFTU Online, 26/9/2002)
- ICFTU cautiously welcomes moves toward free trade unionism in Bahrain (ICFTU Online, 26/9/2002)
- Discrimination and limited trade union rights on the menu for Australia's workers (ICFTU Online, 23/9/2002)
- Copenhagen 22-24 September, 2002. Asia-Europe Meetings: the social dimension must not be an optional extra (ICFTU Online, 20/9/2002)
- A victory for trade union solidarity in Thailand (ICFTU Online, 16/9/2002)
- Trade unions come out in force in Sydney (ICFTU Online, 16/9/2002)
- CFTU report: slavery slow to fade away in Mauritania (ICFTU Online, 10/9/2002)
- Conference in Argentina: trade unions act to get the country on track (ICFTU Online, 9/9/2002)
- Colombia: a new President, the same bloody story for trade unionists (ICFTU Online, 2/9/2002)

* A complete version of this report is available from the ICFTU.

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