INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

ICFTU OnLine…
020/040205

Burkina Faso: support for general strike

Brussels, 7 February 2005 (ICFTU OnLine): The ICFTU expressed its full
backing for calls made by its affiliated organisations in Burkina Faso -
CSB and ONSL - for a 24-hour stoppage on Friday 4 February to support
demands for a wage review.

Sixty thousand public sector employees across the country participated
in the "warning strike" and some 5000 workers brought the capital city
to a standstill when they marched through the streets of Ouagadougou to
protest against high living costs and the government's attitude.

The ICFTU warmly welcomed the united front of the six national trade
union organisations and 12 independent trade unions who called the
strike. The stoppage was the natural follow up to the marches and
protest meetings called by the same organisations on 18 December 2004 in
support of a claims package including a 25% rise in wages and pensions,
tax cuts - particularly on fuel products - and the prompt reconstruction
of Ouagadougou's central market, burnt down in 2003.

Following the trade union action on 18 December 2004, the government had
announced a series of wage increase measures on 29 December. The trade
unions, however, consider that the proposed measures (wage increases
ranging from 4.5 to 8%) fall very short of their demands, drawn up on
the basis on real living costs, which the workers in Burkina Faso are
finding increasingly difficult to endure.

The ICFTU represents 145 million workers in 233 affiliated organisations
in 154 countries and territories. The ICFTU is also a partner in Global
Unions: http://www.global-unions.org

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