

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

ITUC OnLine

Philippines: Trade unions face an environment of violence and intimidation

Brussels, 22 November 2011 (ITUC OnLine): The ITUC is releasing today a report on core labour standards in Philippines that finds an environment of violence and intimidation against trade unions – including intimidation, harassment, dismissals, false criminal charges, arrests, threats and even murder - and the use of many anti-union practices by employers and state authorities, including setting up yellow unions and refusing regularisation of workers. The replacement of long-term employment contracts with subcontracted labour further curtails union membership and bargaining strength. In Special Economic Zones (SEZs) union organising is prevented by security forces, and workers seeking to organise face dismissals and blacklisting.

The ITUC report, which coincides with the Trade Policy Review of the Philippines at the WTO, also finds poor compliance with other international labour standards, especially those prohibiting child labour and forced labour. There are between two and five million children at work and many children are exploited in the worst forms of child labour. Moreover, many women and girls are forced into domestic servitude and prostitution and men coerced into debt peonage in agriculture and fisheries. The government is making some efforts to eliminate child labour, human trafficking and forced labour but some police are complicit in these illegal activities.

To read the report: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/report-for-the-wto-general-council,10084.html>

The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 308 affiliated national organisations from 153 countries and territories.

Website: <http://www.ituc-csi.org> and <http://www.youtube.com/ITUCCSI>

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