

Please accept PSI's wishes of peace and prosperity for 2007!

The PSI Secretariat will be closed from 22 December to 2 January 2007. You can still send messages to PSI via fax (33.450.40.71.20) or email (psi@world-psi.org).

10 December International Human Rights Day

Over the last year PSI has been actively engaged in defending and promoting trade union rights. It has sent 50 letters of protest to governments in 31 countries; participated in 3 days of action and carried out 10 urgent action appeals on the behalf of affiliates in situations of particularly grave and systematic repression. The PSI Executive Board at its recent meeting in November 2006 heard reports of the trade union rights situation in Korea, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Algeria and Colombia. PSI is currently associated with 25 cases before the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association and is active in pursuing these cases with the relevant government Ministers of Labour during the ILO June Conference. Public sector unions have the most cases before the ILO and face numerous restrictions on the right to bargain collectively.

18 December International Migrants Day

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, PSI calls for respect and dignity for migrant workers and their families. *“As we mark December 18, International Migrants Day, we call on the trade union movement to intensify efforts to defend migrant workers’ human rights,”* said Hans Engelberts, PSI General Secretary. *“We speak about the economic value of remittances, which currently amounts to US\$ 232 billion, but we do not give enough attention to the social costs of migration, particularly for women migrant workers,”* he said. It was on 18 December 1990 that the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Convention contains the most comprehensive set of human norms and labour standards in the treatment of migrant workers. So far, 34 States have ratified the Convention but none of them are receiving countries. *“Receiving countries must prove their commitment to human rights by ratifying this Convention. Even before Governments start discussing migration and development, they should first ensure that the rights of migrant workers are at the core of the discussion. A sustainable approach to migration and development is impossible outside the framework of human rights,”* said Hans Engelberts. See www.world-psi.org/migration.

World Bank projects must respect labour standards

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz announced last week that the Bank has now taken a decision that all infrastructure projects funded by it in future would have fully to respect the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Wolfowitz conveyed the decision at a meeting with international trade union officials in Washington DC. Some US\$8 billion worth of projects funded each year will come under the new requirements, which are aimed at ensuring workers' rights to trade union organisation and collective bargaining, freedom from discrimination in the workplace and the elimination of child labour and forced labour.

ETUC launches a petition on public services

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has launched a Europe-wide petition calling on the European Commission to take action to protect and strengthen public services that are vital to the wellbeing of all European citizens. PSI has signed onto this petition. *“Services in the EU need a strong regulatory framework to ensure continuity of supply and fair access for everyone,”* said ETUC General Secretary John Monks. *“They must be of the highest standard, and therefore accountable to both consumers and workers in these crucial sectors.”* Sign on at the dedicated campaign website here: <http://www.petitionpublicservice.eu/>.

Project coordinator Indonesia

PSI is recruiting a national project coordinator for Indonesia, based in Jakarta, to take responsibility for the implementation of a public sector trade union training and capacity building project. Closing date for applications is January 12th 2007. For more information and the job description, see www.world-psi.org/jobs.

Members only

The first series of documents for the 2007 Congress will be mailed out this week. They are also available on the PSI website www.world-psi.org/Congress2007.

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