

Events for February/March

- 20 February** PSI/ILO/GUF discussion forum on pay equity, Geneva
- 20-22 February** PSI Arab countries Consultative Committee meeting, Amman, Jordan
- 26 February-9 March** UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York
- 28 February-2 March** PSI EASRAC, Macao
- 8 March** International Women's Day
- 8-9 March** Central European Constituency Meeting, Prague
- 8-10 March** PSI SEASRAC, Cebu, Philippines
- 8-22 March** PSI's campaign on Water, Women and Workers: Sources of Life
- 12-14 March** PSI Introductory Course

Philippines: PSI says Stop extrajudicial killings now!



PSI sent a delegation to the Philippines from 12-15 February to examine the state of trade union rights in the country. Extrajudicial killings in the country have left over 800 killed, including about 80 trade unionists in the last year alone.

Thousands more suffer from intimidation and harassment either due to their political affiliation, trade union activities or the exposure of graft and corruption cases. Hans Engelberts, PSI General Secretary, and the other mission members, were able to meet with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Killings, to voice PSI's concerns about the particular way trade unionists are affected by the spate of killings and intimidation. He welcomed the Philippine government's invitation to the UN Rapporteur, as a recognition of the seriousness of the situation. PSI will continue to monitor events in the Philippines. PSI produced a press release which is available [here](#).

The Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions made a Press statement on the situation in the Philippines on 21 February, it is available [here](#).

Trade union repression and violence in Guinea



PSI deplores the continued violence in Guinea where a state of emergency has been imposed by the Government and joins the ILO and ITUC in calling for guarantees for the safety of trade union leaders. The death toll for January and the first half of February has reached over 80, and hundreds of people have been injured. The lives of trade unionists and the regime's

opponents are under serious threat.

PSI's African regional office has had regular contact with affiliates in Guinea since the beginning of the crisis and has sent financial assistance. In their contacts with the regional office, affiliates have informed us of the degradation of situation in the country. Prices have risen to unsustainable levels, negotiations with the government have stagnated, signed agreements with the government are no longer valid. There have been arrests and violence towards trade unionists and attacks on union buildings and offices. The head of state has himself made threats to the unionists and ordered their repression. For more information, see www.ituc-csi.org.



PSI World Congress 2007

PSI's World Congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, 24-28 September. All PSI affiliates will by now have received Congress documentation. Please note that voting strengths and other entitlements depend on fees being paid **by 28 February 2007**, unless affiliates have applied for exemption or reduction by that date. Proposals for workshops should be made using the special form and sent back to the PSI head office **before 24 February**. More information and all documents and forms are available on www.world-psi.org/congress2007. PSI affiliates who cannot access the page are invited to contact communications@world-psi.org.

Welcome to PSI!

New Health and Municipal Services Officer



It is with great pleasure that we welcome Jorge Mancillas to PSI. Jorge is the new Health and Municipal Services Officer. Born in Baja California, Mexico, Jorge soon learned about the world of work. He has been a public employee or worked for public employee unions all of his adult life. After gaining a Ph.D. in neurobiology in the USA, he worked for several years as a biomedical researcher at the University of California. During that time he used his scientific expertise to advocate on various public health issues.

More recently, Jorge has worked for SEIU and AFSCME, PSI affiliated unions in the US. Jorge will support PSI affiliates in defending quality public services by increasing union density, building capacity and strengthening international coordination.

New Project Coordinator, Indonesia



PSI is pleased to welcome our new Project Coordinator for Indonesia. F.X. Supiarso replaces Indah Budiarti and will be responsible for the Indonesia Project funded by SASK/JHL (Finland) and KNS (Sweden). He will work with the Indonesian affiliate unions to strengthen and develop unions' capacities through planning, managing, evaluating and coordinating the implementation of the project activities. Supiarso has a Masters degree on occupational safety and health. He has worked with several non-government organisations in the area of labor issues. "I believe working with PSI makes my world broader than it was before and it changes the way I think about the world itself too", said Arso.



Public Services Advocacy Officer

PSI is seeking to recruit a **Public service advocacy officer**, to work at the headquarters at Ferney-Voltaire. This officer will lead PSI's action programmes on globalisation issues (working on World Bank, International Monetary Fund, OECD, World Trade Organisation and multinational enterprise matters) and Public Administration Services (meeting the needs of members of PSI affiliates working in public administration). She/He will report to the General Secretary and will form part of a sectoral activities team where emphasis is placed on pooling expertise and mutual support. The successful candidate will have tertiary education or equivalent practical work experience in the area of international economic/trade policy, industrial relations, social sciences or, a sound understanding of globalisation issues, complemented by extensive experience in advocacy and capacity building, preferably in a trade union or in a membership-based organisation. Excellent

command of English is required and other languages skills will be an advantage. The deadline for applications has been fixed for **5 March**. For further details, including the job announcement and job description, see www.world-psi.org/jobs.

Welcome to Yvette de la Cruz



PSI offers a warm welcome to Yvette de la Cruz from the AFSCME Women's Rights department, who will be working as an intern at the PSI head office from 19 February to 30 March. Yvette is currently doing a Masters at the Global Labour University. She will be assisting in the Equality and Rights Department, particularly with the PSI Migration and Women's Health Workers Project.

Water, Women and Workers Website



The website for the 8-22 March campaign: Water, Women and Workers: Sources of Life will shortly be available on www.world-psi.org/water2007. You will find links to campaign resources and extra information. The website will be available in English, French and Spanish, but many of the campaign resources have been translated into other languages (Thai, Bahasa Indonesian, Arabic...) For further information, contact the campaign organiser Catherine.Laflamme@world-psi.org.



Global Labour University Conference

The Global Labour University conference and the GLU Annual Council Meeting will be held in Johannesburg, 1-4 April. The Conference is hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand, a GLU partner which started a Master course in January 2007 on "Labour and Development".

The overall topic of the conference is therefore focussing on "Labour and the challenges of development". Following the suggestion from Global Unions at last years council meeting a

special focus is given to the issue of "Trade, Labour and Development." The conference will be followed by the annual meeting of the GLU council on 4 April to assess the progress made and to discuss future activities. Bob Harris from Education International is representing the Global Unions in the GLU Steering Committee. Mike Waghorne from PSI will be a plenary speaker on "Labour, Trade and Development". Kristian Weise and Esther Busser from the ITUC will present research papers at the conference. A number of trade union researchers from national trade unions will also participate. Find below the documents for the conference. The conference pre-registration form must be returned to the conference organisers **before 10 March**.

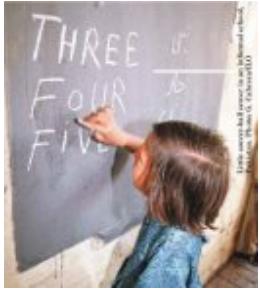
- [Conference programme](#)
- [Council meeting agenda](#)
- [Pre-registration form](#)

India Trade Union Rights Conference, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



The PSI South Asia Sub Regional Office held a two day conference on 26-27 January to highlight the lack of trade union rights for government employees in India and emphasise the ongoing violations of trade union activists. More than 250 representatives from 11 public service unions in Tamil Nadu attended the conference, the hall was filled with colourful banners and posters, many prepared by the unions. The collective message from the publicity, speakers, individual speakers and group work recommendations was that India must ratify the ILO Conventions 87 & 98 and recognise the right of government employees to join or form unions and engage in collective bargaining. The conference drew attention to the ongoing victimisation of union leaders and the low wages and poor conditions. Wages have dropped well below average in the last 60 years as there have only been 6 national pay commission reviews for government employees during this period. Women working in rural health and child care are the worst effected. The conference will be followed up with a Trade Union Rights Project for India funded by SASK.

UN Commission on the Status of Women



The fifty-first session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will take place from 26 February to 9 March. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2007-2009, the Commission will consider "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" as its priority theme. PSI will be sending a 10-woman delegation and ITUC, EI and PSI have produced a [joint written statement](#) and will host a panel on the girl child. If you need a higher-resolution copy of the statement, [contact PSI](#). WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organisation) will be hosting a strategising meeting on the pending UN Reform and the Gender Equality Recommendations. For further information and resources, see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm>.

Discussion Forum on Pay Equity



The ILO, PSI and the Global Union Federations are organising a Discussion Forum on Pay Equity on 20 February at the ILO in Geneva. The one-day meeting has a full agenda. After an opening and introduction by Manuela Tomei (ILO Declaration),

Nora Wintour (PSI) and Chidi King (PSI), speakers from various ILO departments will make presentations (Recent trends in the application of ILO Convention 100; Wages around the world: developments and challenges; Follow-up to the 2004 resolution on gender equality, pay equity and maternity protection). Chidi King, PSI Equality and Rights Officer, will give an update on the evaluation and activities of the PSI Pay Equity Campaign. The ILO will present its step-by-step guide to job evaluations free from gender bias. The global unions will present a proposal for a technical consultation on job evaluation. And finally, the ILO Turin centre will present its plans on training programmes on pay equity. For more information, contact equality@world-psi.org.

23 February: PCS day of action and work proper hours day



After the successful strike it organised on 31 January and a two-week overtime ban, UK affiliate PCS is organising an official day of action on Friday 23 February. This coincides with the TUC's 'Work Your Proper Hours Day' - an annual event organised by the TUC focusing on work/life balance and working time issues. PCS members are being urged to: Not work any overtime whether paid or unpaid; take their full rest and lunch breaks; leave work on time; and if they are on flexi time

rest and lunch breaks: leave work on time; and if they are on flexi-time, work the minimum hours required. This is part of the union's national campaign to secure agreements with the government on: Guarantees of no compulsory redundancies or relocations; pay increases which, at least, keep pace with the cost of living; a fair national pay system in the civil service; no more privatisation and outsourcing without agreements to protect the workforce; and adequate resources and decent working conditions.

For more details, see <http://www.pcs.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=907745> and <http://www.worksmart.org.uk/workyourproperhoursday/>.

Fijian trade unionists stand up for workers' rights

Since the Fijian government was taken over by the military in December 2006, the trade unions have been doing their utmost to maintain workers' rights in difficult circumstances. The major issue public sector trade unions in Fiji are facing is how to defend the existing collective agreement with the interim government. The former government, the SDL, signed a mutual partnership agreement with the trade union confederation, which includes an obligation by the government to pay its arrears to the workers. The interim government wishes to withdraw from this agreement, claiming that the public finance is in a precarious situation and that withdrawing would save the government 80 million Fijian dollars. Other areas of negotiation include a proposal by the interim government to reduce the retirement age from 60 to 55 and a pending Job Evaluation Exercise to review staff positions and salaries in the public sector. PSI continues to monitor the situation.



Don't be too polite, girls!

PSI's affiliate the Australian Services Union (ASU) has produced a range of materials that will be used across a number of different industries in 2007 to mobilise and strengthen the activism of women members in the community, political and industrial arenas. Under the slogan ***Don't be too polite girls!***, resources include stickers, a poster, a charter, and a list of 10 things women need to know. The broad goals of the campaign are: In workplaces/industries - Ensure ASU women build power to secure and improve rights at work in their workplaces and industries; In the community - Ensure ASU women build power to engage on and positively influence rights at work and other issues across their communities; and Political - Ensure ASU women are actively and strategically involved in campaigning for rights at work and other issues that impact women. See

[www.asu.asn.au/women.](http://www.asu.asn.au/women)



Mauritania Ratifies UN Migrant Workers Convention

On 22 January, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ratified the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, becoming the 35th State Party to the Convention. The Convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1990 and entered into force on 1 July 2003 is the most comprehensive international treaty that codifies basic human rights norms, principles and labour standards in the treatment of migrant workers and members of their families. The Convention is currently signed by 28 countries, which is a preliminary step to ratification.

ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement on Nursing Services

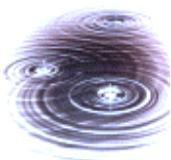


At its December meeting in the Philippines, economic Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a package of Economic Integration Agreements which include a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Nursing Services. The MRA will facilitate the mobility of nurses within the ASEAN region, strengthen the exchange of information and expertise on standards and qualifications, promote the adoption of best practices and provide opportunities for nurse training and capacity building. In order to practice in member countries, nurses must first be registered and/or licensed in their country of origin and have their registration or license recognised by the host country's laws and regulations. A Joint Coordinating Committee on Nursing Services will be established to manage the implementation of the MRA. The other contents of the Economic Integration Agreements include the integration of priority sectors for the ASEAN and a framework agreement on services, which include healthcare, tourism, information technology, communications, business services, construction and maritime transport. For more information, see <http://www.aseansec.org>.



United Nations grants consultative status to LGBT groups

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has granted consultative status to three lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) non-governmental organisations (NGOs) addressing human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The consultative status will allow these LGBT NGOs to work directly on human rights and other issues of importance to the LGBT community by allowing access to UN meetings, delivery of oral and written reports, contact with country representatives, and organising events to facilitate understanding of the abuse and discrimination that LGBT people face around the world. See <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ecosoc6242.doc.htm>.



Brazilian public water successes

"*Successful Experiences in Municipal Public Water and Sanitation Services from Brazil*" (first published in Portuguese in June 2006 by ASSEMAE), published by the Transnational Institute, presents twenty examples of successful public water delivery in large and small, wealthy and poor municipalities across Brazil. The city of Porto Alegre is already known around the world for its use of participatory budgeting and other democratic reforms to achieve universal access to clean water. The book shows that similar approaches are used in many other cities in Brazil and in many cases have led to rapid expansion of access to water and sanitation for the poorest communities. Key features of the successes presented in the book are a strong political will to improve public water delivery and, importantly, "social control": reforms that boost citizen's involvement and democratic control over public services. See <http://www.tni.org/books/brazilwater.htm>.

The book was first published in Portuguese (Experiências de Éxito em Serviços Públicos Municipais de Saneamento) in June 2006 by ASSEMAE, the federation of more than 1,700 public water and sanitation companies from municipalities from across Brazil.

<http://www.assemae.org.br/>



UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007

The United Nations has released its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007, which provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy. The WESP 2007 is a joint publication of the UN Department of Economic and Social

2007 is a joint publication of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and the five UN regional commissions. According to the report, the world economy is expected to decelerate in 2007 to 3.2% (down from 3.8% in 2006), mainly due to a slowdown in the United States. Growth in Europe and Japan will be insufficient to act as locomotives of global growth. The outlook for developing countries remains mostly positive with growth expected to average 5.9% in 2007, only a slight moderation from 6.5% in 2006. China, India and a few other major emerging economies have sustained high growth, but many developing countries remain highly vulnerable to the volatility in commodity prices and international financial markets. There is need for greater employment growth, which has not kept pace with output growth. The complete publication can be downloaded in English from <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>. The Executive summary is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Hard copies can be ordered from the same page at a cost of US\$30.00 (English only).

Privatising Basic Utilities in Sub-Saharan Africa: The MDG Impact



The UNDP has published a policy research brief which draws on the findings of a UNDP-supported book, *Privatization and Alternative Public Sector Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Bayliss and Fine, forthcoming). It analyses the effects of privatisation on the delivery of water and electricity. Its chief conclusion is that privatisation has been a widespread failure. This has hampered progress on the MDGs for both water and sanitation, and on many other MDGs dependent on energy. Privatisation has failed on several counts. Contrary to expectations, private investors have shied away from investing in such utilities in the region, so it has been costly for governments to motivate them to invest. A dramatic scaling up of both external and domestic resources will be needed to finance more extensive public investment in these sectors, an approach consistent with the current priority of adopting more ambitious MDG-based development strategies in the region. The research brief is available on <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCPolicyResearchBrief003.pdf>.

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