

## Meryem

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## Özsögüt has been released

After more than eight months in prison Meryem Özsögüt has finally been acquitted and released after her trial on Friday 5 September. Ms Özsögüt is in good health and will shortly be able to return to her duties. In a message to PSI on Ms Özsögüt's behalf, SES thanked the international community for its support and solidarity via the Labourstart campaign as well as PSI affiliates, the ILO, the EPSU and ETUC, and the European Union Commissioners. PSI especially thanks EU Parliamentarian Mr Joost Lagedijk, Chairman of the Turkey delegation to the European Parliament who had personally handed over the campaign signatures to the EU leaders. [Click here for more](#)

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## Ecuador: Union leaders' case to be heard on 26 September

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Back in November 2007, PSI launched an Urgent Action regarding arrest warrants which had been issued for Luís Muñoz Pasquel and Girard Vernaza Arroya, leaders of the National Federation of Judiciary Workers of Ecuador (FENAJE). They are accused of criminal damage to a public building and of unspecified acts of terrorism. The case against the two leaders will be heard on 26 September 2008 and PSI is asking affiliates to respond urgently by sending as many letters of protest as possible before this date. For further details, see <http://www.world-psi.org/urgentaction>.

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## Already 38 assassinations of trade unionists in Colombia this year

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The number of trade unionists killed in Colombia for this year has almost reached the total number of those killed in 2007. On 23 August, José Omar Galeano Martínez, President of the Colombian Lottery Workers' Federation (FECOLOC) was the 38th trade unionist assassinated this year. In 2007, the total number of murders was 39. [Click here for more](#)

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## Australia: Mothers losing out on promotions

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A workplace survey in Australia has shown that women who have taken maternity leave are less likely to receive promotions after their return to work. Sixty-five percent of female public servants who took maternity leave in 2000-01 had not been promoted as of June 2007. In the same period, just 42 per cent of women without children had not received a promotion.

[Click here for more](#)

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## Decent Work conference, Oslo, Norway

A Conference on Decent Work was organised in Oslo on 5 September by the Financial Times and the Norwegian Government, in cooperation with The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise. The conference addressed the complexities of a globalising labour market and aimed to contribute to the international debate on how coherent support for the ILO's Decent Work Agenda can help improve economic governance, and promote full employment and decent working conditions. [Click here for more](#)

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## Filipino nurses still underpaid

More than 100 nurses gathered for a demonstration outside one of Manila's government hospitals on 24 July in response to the delay in applying salary increases for nurses. The Nursing Act of 2002 stipulated the minimum monthly compensation for entry-level nurses, but six years later, many nurses are still grossly underpaid. Annie Enriquez-Geron, PSLINK General Secretary, confirmed that many nurses wouldn't have left the country had they been accorded a living wage at least. [Click here for more](#)

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## Gas workers in Ukraine gain review of tariffs

On 6 August, the Trade Union of Gas Facilities Workers of Ukraine held a protest action to demand a review of the tariffs for gas transportation and delivery. Over 3,000 trade union members, employees of gas distribution companies, picketed the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The follow-up to the rally was very positive, with the government satisfying all the workers' demands. [Click here for more](#)

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## The forgotten front in the fight against AIDS



<http://www...>

PSI officers Dr. Jorge Mancillas and Svend Robinson represented the organisation at the 17th International Conference on AIDS, held in Mexico City on 3-8 August. They drew attention to the need to protect health workers from occupational exposure to HIV and provide adequate treatment to medical personnel infected while carrying out their duties, particularly the promotion of safe injection devices, access to post-exposure prophylaxis, and application of guidelines developed by the WHO and ILO. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Indian contract workers' regularisation success**



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PSI affiliate the Delhi Transport Corporation Employees' Congress was on strike for 36 days in July/August, demanding the regularisation and promotion of 3,000 contract employees. In a similar case, contract workers represented by the All India Irrigation Employees Federation saw their employment regularised as well. It involved 7,000 workers from Uttarpradesh state and 12,000 from Madhyapradesh state. These successful cases were the fruit of PSI Indian affiliates' National Coordination Committee campaign for dealing with contractualisation and outsourcing in the public sector. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Council workers in Scotland strike over pay dispute**



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Up to 150,000 Scottish council workers staged a 24-hour strike on August 20. The workers, members of the GMB, Unite and Unison trade unions, all of which are PSI affiliates, are in dispute with local authority employers over pay. The staff recently voted to reject a 2.5 percent pay deal over three years. On the same day, 5,000 council workers, members of PSI affiliate the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) trade union, also held strike action in Scotland in a separate dispute. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Ghana: Health workers call for salary adjustments**



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The Health Services Workers Union (HSWU) of the Ghana TUC has urged government to pay health service workers the salary adjustments awarded to all public sector employees since 2006. The delegates also requested government and their employers to base retirement benefits on the current terminal salaries and not the 2005 levels. These demands were contained in several resolutions adopted at the ninth Quadrennial National Delegates Conference of the Union, held in Kumasi on 30-31 August. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Voluntary Code on Ethical Recruitment of Health Workers to the USA**

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A myriad of stakeholders including recruiters, academics, professional associations, hospitals and trade unions including PSI's affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), launched on 5 September the "Voluntary Code of Ethical Conduct for the Recruitment of Foreign Educated Nurses to the United States." The Code, though voluntary, is the first ever of such initiative in the USA. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Global Unions call on IFIs to respond to food and financial crises**

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Global Unions have prepared a statement for the ministerial-level annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, which will take place in Washington on 11-13 October 2008. Under the heading "Achieving effective responses to food and financial crises and increasing developing country representation", the statement calls upon the International Finance Institutions (IFIs) to take the necessary steps to counter the impact of higher food and fuel prices. [Click here for more](#)

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## **PSI organisational review takes off**

The PSI Executive Board meeting in April appointed a Steering Group to oversee the organisational review and to interview a short-list of consultants for the work. The Steering Group unanimously selected the INTRAC group, who are based in the UK. The INTRAC consultants are Brenda Lipson and Cornelius Murombedzi. [Click here for more](#)

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## **Water Operator Partnerships: an alternative to privatisation or business as usual**

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PSI has long advocated public-public partnerships between public water utilities and unions/NGOs. As a result, the concept of water operator partnerships (WOPs) has now entered into the language of the international water family. How can we ensure that unions continue to create the conditions for public-public partnerships, especially when faced with private water companies and their lobbying groups whose profit motive is extremely powerful? [Click here for more](#)

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