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PSI affiliate leader elected to Paraguayan Parliament

Aida Robles, a candidate of the popular Tekojoja movement, MPT (Life in Equality – founded in December 2006) and leader of the nurses' union SIDEHC, a PSI affiliate, was elected to the Paraguayan Parliament on 20 April 2008. Campaigning for the universal right to quality health care, education and housing, Aida has dedicated the last 22 years defending nurses' interests through SIDEHC.

Aida Robles is the first ever woman trade unionist to be elected to the Paraguayan congress.

Read more [here](#).

Bulgarian health workers to receive double pay

Health workers in Bulgaria successfully negotiated a new collective agreement on 4 June that increases their salaries by 90 to 100 per cent. Bulgarian Health Minister Evgeni Zhelev signed the agreement with five health trade unions, including PSI affiliates the Federation of Trade Unions in Health Services and Podkrepa Medical Federation.

The increase will take effect on 1 July, and will cover hospitals in state and municipal ownership, as well as hospitals operating as joint stock-holdings. [Read more here](#).

Danish affiliate donates to Centennial fund

PSI General Secretary Peter Waldorff was special guest at the Congress of his former union HK/Stat on 19 June. The Danish affiliate made a donation of 3600€ to the PSI Centennial fund, established to celebrate PSI's 100th anniversary in 2007. HK/Stat president Thora Petersen handed over the donation to Peter Waldorff and assured him that the union will continue to engage in the international trade union movement. Waldorff thanked the union for the generous donation and explained to the 300 Congress delegates how important it is for PSI to be able to offer financial support to trade unions when they are faced with natural disasters, judicial disputes and similar challenges.



Indonesia: Public sector employees suspended

PSI has called on its affiliated organisations to send letters to the President of Indonesia to protest against the summary dismissal and suspension without pay of members of Serikat Pekerja PT. Angkasa Pura 1 trade union, a PSI affiliate. The workers in question have been victimised as a result of their participation in strike action on 7-8 May 2008.

Angkasa Pura 1 is the airport traffic service and airport company which controls 11 airports in Eastern Indonesia. [Read more here.](#)

Let's Take Back the Economy

PSI affiliate SEIU in the US has launched a global campaign demanding accountability for private equity firms and the billionaires who run them. Millions of workers around the world are employed by companies controlled by private equity buyout funds, whose primary aim is to make the maximum profit in the shortest possible time, so they have little interest in the long term development of the company concerned. This often means slashing the work force, cutting wages, and most characteristic of all, loading the company with enormous debt to finance the purchase as well as the fees and dividends to the private equity fund. The global campaign to Take Back the Economy includes a Global Day of Action on 17th July. For more details, go to www.july17action.org. You can also sign the petition on <http://seiuaction.org/campaign/BuyoutBarons>. [Read more here.](#)

Lessons from the South African electricity crisis

South Africa is suffering an electricity crisis. Blackouts have been widespread and the impact disastrous. Electricity supply is predicted to constrain growth for at least the next five years. How could this have occurred when until recently South Africa had a surplus of cheap electricity? [This one pager](#) from the International Poverty Centre explores the causes. It is written by Kate Bayliss of the Centre for Development Policy and Research, SOAS. For a full list of IPC publications, [click here](#).

PSI affiliate wins UN Public Service Award



PSI affiliate from Singapore, the Housing & Development Board Staff Union, has informed us that the Housing & Development Board (HDB) has been awarded the UN Public Service Award under the category of Improving Transparency, Accountability, and Responsiveness in the Public Service. The Award is granted for the efforts and achievements of member countries in the areas of public administration and development management.

The HDB's "Home Ownership Programme" was chosen as a winner by the United Nations selectors, and the Board received the award at an official ceremony on 23 June, International Public Services Day. PSI and its affiliates congratulate our Singaporean affiliate for this great achievement. For more information, go to www.hdb.gov.sg.

PSI supports Korean trade union rights case

A delegation of union leaders from the Korean Federation of Public Services and Transportation Workers' Union (KPTU) and the Korean Federation of Public and Social Service Workers' Union (KPSU) visited the PSI Head Office in Ferney-Voltaire on 16 June to meet Peter Waldorff, and former General Secretary, Hans Engelberts, to discuss the critical situation of trade union rights in the public sector in Korea. The delegation explained how the current Korean labour law prohibits the exercise of trade union pluralism and the recently introduced essential services system restricts basic labour rights. [Read more here.](#)

New Confederation of University Workers in the Americas - CONTUA

The "3rd meeting of workers from Latin America and the Caribbean" took place on 21-23 May in Buenos Aires, Argentina and set down the foundations for the creation next year of a new organisation - the "Confederation of University Workers in the Americas (CONTUA)". The participants expressed their satisfaction at the high level of debate and the favourable prospects opening within the PSI to organise this group of workers in the short term. [Read more here.](#)

Trade union delegation gets corrupt manager sacked



A trade union delegation travelled to Huancayo, Peru, in May, in order to support the unions behind a public-public partnership in water utilities. The Peruvian water union FENTAP has an agreement with SOSBA, the water union in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Together, they blocked the privatisation of water in Peruvian city Huancayo, first by FENTAP's serious mobilisation of the workers and citizens groups, and then with a proposal of public-public partnership between Buenos Aires water utility – ABSA – and that in Huancayo – SEDAM. The two utilities signed a cooperation agreement in June 2007, but the Peruvians didn't follow it up. The reasons for the inaction appear to lie in corruption between the management of SEDAM and some local politicians. The unions put massive pressure, using the delegation to maximum effect with local media and politicians. Bowing to pressure, the politicians removed the SEDAM leadership. [Read more here.](#)

Dirty water kills



That's just one of the messages on the WASH (Water Sanitation Hygiene) e-card campaign for clean water for all. The campaign aims to draw attention to the water and sanitation crisis. You can help by sending an e-card to government officials responsible for water supply and sanitation, to other stakeholders, and to your colleagues and friends and let them know how important these issues are to you and your environment. Make a difference by creating the political will to end the tragedy of inadequate water supply and sanitation. Take a stand, send a card, save a life!

The other slogans are:

- Millions of women have to do it with an audience
- Diarrhoea kills babies every day
- 1.2 billion people drink dirty water every day
- Hurry up! 2.6 billion people want to use the toilet

To send an e-card in English, French, or Spanish, [click here.](#)



Core Labour Standards and International Organizations: What Inroads Has Labour Made?

A new 12-page Briefing Paper on "Core Labour Standards and International Organizations: What Inroads Has Labour Made?" has been published by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).

The paper summarizes recent examples of progress made in compliance with Core Labour Standards, notably in some trade treaties and at the International Finance Institutions (IFIs), pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the particular measures; the trade union campaigns that led to these; and the challenges for the trade union movement in building on the advances. The paper was prepared by Peter Bakvis and Molly McCoy of the ITUC/Global Unions Washington office. The paper is available [here in English](#) and [here in German](#).

Water Remunicipalisation Tracker - check it out!



Water privatisation has spread rapidly throughout the world over the last decade, particularly in the South. But more and more communities insist on returning water and wastewater services to public management through remunicipalisation, [and](#) water multinationals are forced to pull out of services in Latin America, the United States, Africa and Europe.

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë announced on 2 June that the municipal administration would regain control of all water services for the city, ending a private monopoly that has lasted more than 100 years. The contracts with the world's two biggest water service companies, Suez and Veolia, will not be extended after Dec. 31, 2009.

Further examples of how communities in different parts of the world are moving from failed privatised water management to successful publicly managed water and wastewater services are presented on the Water Remunicipalisation Tracker (www.remunicipalisation.org). [Read more here](#).

Contesting Neoliberal Education

Public Resistance and Collective Advance

This book, written by international scholars and activists, explores the mechanisms and ideologies behind neoliberal education, while evaluating and promoting resistance on a local, national and

global level. Neoliberal education policies have privatised, marketised, decentralized, controlled and surveilled, and at the same time attacked the rights and conditions of education workers, resulting in a loss of democracy, critique and equality of access and outcome.

Chapters examine the activities and impacts of the arguably socialist revolution in Venezuela, the Porto Alegre democratic community experimental model in Brazil, the activities of the Rouge Forum of democratic socialist teachers and educators in the USA, Public Services International (written by Mike Waghorne, who was PSI Assistant General Secretary until he retired in October 2007), resistance movements against the GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services), and trade union and social movement and community/parental opposition to neoliberal education policies in Britain and in Latin America.

See <http://www.routledge.com/books/Contesting-Neoliberal-Education-isbn9780415957779>.

Publications for download

Several new publications are can be downloaded from the Social Group in the European Parliament's website (<http://www.socialistgroup.eu/gpes/publist.do?lg=en>). Recent titles include:

- Inclusive Europe, Europe for all. 5 building blocks for a Europe of social justice and decent work
- Promoting Intercultural Dialogue. At the heart of European democracy and diversity
- Inclusion of Social and Environmental Standards in Free Trade Agreements - New Thinking on Trade and Development

The publications are available in English, French, German and Spanish, with some also available in Italian and Dutch.

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