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PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | August 2010

South African public sector strike: Money for World Cup, not for workers On 18 August, more than one million public sector union members in South Africa began taking strike action, demanding a wage increase and changes to housing allowances and medical subsidies. Despite court injunctions prohibiting workers from continuing the strike, PSI affiliates have vowed to continue job action to back their demands. <i>Photo: National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union members take strike action in South Africa</i>	READ MORE
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	International Day of Action for Swaziland, 7 September Public Services International will be joining trade unionists and human rights activists around the world in showing solidarity for our brothers and sisters in Swaziland and supporting their call for democracy. PSI and affiliates continue to oppose the introduction of the Public Services Bill which could prevent public service workers from being active members of a trade union. READ MORE >
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	Campaigning for fairness at work in New Zealand On 16 August 2010, the New Zealand government introduced two new Bills to Parliament to drastically change employment law in New Zealand. If passed the changes will take away workers' rights, cut pay, reduce holidays and diminish access to sick leave. PSI's affiliate the New Zealand Public Service Association has joined with allies in the Fairness at Work campaign.
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Chilean tax union announces national strike

PSI Chilean affiliate Agrupación Nacional Empleados Fiscales (tax workers' union) announced it would hold a 24-hour national strike on 26 August to protest the dismissal of more than 2,500 public employees by the government of billionaire president Sebastián Piñera, who took office in March. ANEF aimed to mobilize 80,000 public employees throughout the country.

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Unions determined to protect UK's National Health Service

UNISON has announced that it will go to court to block government changes to the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. UNITE, another PSI affiliate in the UK, also supports the NHS Support Federation coalition campaign. Karen Jennings, UNISON's head of health (pictured), accused the health department of ignoring a legal duty to consulting stakeholders before making cuts.

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Egyptian trade unions receive prestigious award

In August 2010, the American Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) honoured the courageous women and men of the Egyptian workers' movement with the George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award. The award was accepted by Kamal Abu Eita, president of the Independent General Union of Real Estate Tax Authority Workers, the first independent trade union in Egypt in more than 50 years, and Kamal Abbas, general coordinator of the Centre for Trade Union and Worker Services. [READ MORE >](#)



Public Services International membership update

As of August 2010, PSI has 650 affiliated unions in 148 countries and territories, representing a total of 20 million women and men working in the public services around the world. Of these unions, 127 are in Africa and Arab countries, 117 in Asia and Pacific, 223 in Europe, and 179 in Inter-America, plus four international affiliates. An additional 22 applications are under consideration for affiliation.



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