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PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | February 2010

Trade union rights are women's rights

This year, in connection with March 8th, International Women's Day, Public Services International (PSI) is working to draw global attention to the case of Seher Tümer, branch secretary of our Turkish affiliate SES (trade union of public employees in health and social services). Tümer, who is Kurdish, was arrested and imprisoned in April 2009. "I make an urgent plea to union sisters and brothers around the world to raise their voices on Seher Tümer's behalf," says Ylva Thörn, president of the global union federation PSI.

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Raising our voices for working women!

Thirty women delegates from Public Services International will be attending the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, in early March. Our members will be part of an international trade union delegation including members of Education International, UNI Global Union, and the International Trade Union Confederation.

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Please help keep union offices open in Zimbabwe

PSI sends an urgent appeal to all affiliates requesting financial support for our members in Zimbabwe. The very existence of unions in the country is under threat. Under the compound pressures of loan conditions imposed by international financial institutions and civil unrest, wages and working conditions for public sector workers have been eroding in Zimbabwe.

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PSI Award: Nominate an affiliate for their inspiring work

PSI will present the first annual Public Service Trade Union award at the Quality Public Services Conference in Geneva this October. We're sure you know a PSI affiliate that deserves this special award.

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Cleaners are worth more than bankers

Hospital cleaners create more value for society than financial managers – it's all in how you calculate it, says a new report from the New Economics Foundation. The progressive think tank, based in London, stacks up low-paid public sector workers against high-paid workers.

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UK: Civil Service strike ballot underway

More than a quarter of a million public sector workers in the United Kingdom are voting on whether to strike over proposed cuts to pension plans. The members of PSI affiliate the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) face losing up to a third of their entitlements if they are forced out of their jobs.

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New Zealand prison workers protest over privatisation

On 9 February, members of PSI affiliate the Public Service Association (PSA) and the Corrections Association (CA) rallied outside the New Zealand parliament in protest against the National Party-led government's plan to privatise prisons.

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Optimism for pay equity in Australia

Australian trade unions are optimistic that pay equity legislation will, after the publication of a government report, become a reality for working women. The Federal Government is supporting an Equal Remuneration Test Case. The new report "Making it Fair" confirms the importance of using the industrial system in gaining a fair wage for working women.

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New Regional Secretary for Asia-Pacific region

We have the pleasure to welcome Anandalakshmi Vaidhiyanathan as new PSI Regional Secretary for Asia-Pacific region.

Anandalakshmi will officially start work on 1st March 2010 and be

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Labour's voice in trade policy

New research shows that unions can influence trade policy and negotiations, even where they have limited access and capacity. The latest of the Global Labour Union Working Papers, "Developing a Labour Voice in Trade Policy at the National Level," makes a series of recommendations on actions unions can take to mobilise members and shape public policy.

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RadioLabour

Tune into RadioLabour, the newest source of international union news on the internet. The weekly "Solidarity Report" audiocast focuses on union and workers' activities and issues with special emphasis on emerging market and developing countries. Trade unionists can also report on their own events or and activities.

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