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PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | July 2010

Justice for Colombia

PSI General Secretary Peter Waldorff visited Colombia 20-24 July 2010, as part of a mission arranged by "Justice for Colombia", an organisation set up by several British trade unions, NGOs and members of the European Parliament.

The purpose of the mission was to learn more about the current situation and to promote trade union rights, respect for the life and physical safety of trade unionists, and respect for human rights in Colombia.

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Help Colombian affiliates in their struggle against water privatisation!

One of PSI's affiliates in Colombia, SINTRACUAVALLE, is raising the alarm about the planned privatisation of the commercial sector of the public water company Acuavalle. Their concern is based on the splitting of Acuavalle's components into public and private entities, which will likely result in higher costs to consumers.

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Meryem has been released!

We are pleased to announce that Meryem Özsögüt has been released from prison in Turkey! In her message, Meryem thanks affiliates and PSI for the solidarity that gave her hope while she was in prison and that has surely contributed to her release at this point. PSI affiliates are asked to continue to demand the guarantee of justice and freedom for Meryem, and fellow trade unionists who are still being held in Turkish prisons.

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September 7th: Global day of action for Swaziland

September 7 will mark the first ever global day of action for Swaziland. PSI is calling on its affiliates around the world to support the call for action to achieve democracy and respect for human rights and trade unions in this country.

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No to austerity – Priority for jobs and growth

The European Trade Union Confederation is staging a European Day of Action on 29 September 2010 with the message "No to austerity – Priority for jobs and growth!" The Day of Action will include a Euro-demonstration in Brussels and trade union actions in other European countries, in reaction to the austerity measures adopted recently by many European governments.

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UNISON Conference re-elects general secretary Dave Prentis, elects new president

Dave Prentis, new PSI President, was re-elected as General Secretary of his union, UNISON, at the National delegate conference held in Bournemouth, UK, at the end of June. Dave inspired conference delegates with a rallying cry to defend public services. Angela Lynes was elected as UNISON's president for 2010-2011.

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Trade union rights continue to be violated in Ukraine

Trade unions in Ukraine are struggling against unlawful arrests of their members, and government decisions taken in violation of existing agreements.

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PSI affiliates attend AIDS Conference in Vienna

PSI was represented by its affiliates at the 18th International AIDS conference in Vienna, 18-23 July 2010. Jean-Marie Ndi, from the health and pharmacy trade union in Cameroon, attended the conference, together with Daley Hope (UNISON, UK), Adriana Bueno (FESPROSA, Argentina) and four participants from CUPE, Canada: Michael Butler, Sue Roth, Gloria Lepine and Trevor Gray.

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New federation: Global Unions Americas

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Japan: RENGO signs policy agreement with the Democratic Party

On 17 June, President Nobuaki Koga of RENGO (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) and Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed an agreement on policy pledges and strengthened cooperation.

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PSI meeting with Asian Development Bank

PSI joined in a communications policy review with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in early July. The PSI delegation raised issues such as the availability and transparency of information and the need for a consistent approach by the ADB concerning its engagement with civil society, trade unions and persons affected by ADB decisions.

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European agreement on prevention of medical sharps injuries

European social partners for the health service presented the Framework Agreement on prevention of medical sharps injuries in hospitals and the health care system, drawn up between the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) and the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM).

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Welcome to UN Women

In an historic move, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously on 2 July 2010 to create a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. PSI, EI and the ITUC have supported the campaign since its inception to ensure that the voices of working women are not ignored.

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Decent pensions for nurses

A new publication highlights the difficulties of ensuring adequate pension coverage and income replacement for nurses, particularly for those with 'atypical' or 'non-standard' employment status. It also suggests a list of issues or questions that a wage earner could ask before deciding if and how to affiliate to a pension scheme.

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Petition against maritime piracy

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the global union federation for transport workers, is sponsoring a global e-

organisations, shipowners and insurers. The aim is to persuade all governments to commit the resources necessary to end the increasing problem of Somalia-based piracy.

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