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PSI world news

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | June 2010

Public services build a sustainable world

The voices of Public Services International members were raised from the streets of Europe and South America to international trade union and government meetings in Canada throughout the month of June.

The message rang loud and clear: workers and their trade unions reject public spending cuts that reduce the wages, pensions and social programmes that families and communities rely on. Working people must not be made to pay any further to bail out banks and speculators.

Deliver commitment on jobs now!

PSI has signed the Global Unions Statement that puts forward a comprehensive plan for growing the global economy out of the recession. It stresses the need for G20 Leaders to focus on progressive revenue-raising measures and agree to take immediate action on a Financial Transaction Tax as one means of meeting public funding requirements.

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Spate of arrests of Turkish trade unionists

Five trade unionists belonging to PSI affiliates in Turkey are currently in prison on trumped up accusations of "belonging to illegal or terrorist organisations" or making propaganda on behalf of such organisations. PSI contends that these arrests are part of a deliberate policy by the Turkish authorities to misuse the courts in order to harass and intimidate trade unionists.

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PSI European affiliates strike against austerity measures

Public sector unions around Europe are expressing their opposition to proposed austerity measures that will hit public services, their users, and public sector workers. In Romania, Spain and Italy, PSI affiliates have made their voices heard, with strikes and demonstrations involving tens of thousands of workers.

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Public service unions argue for alternative responses to the crisis

At its meeting on 28 May 2010, the EPSU Executive Committee heard how pay freezes and pay cuts were spreading across Europe. In 17 countries, including five from Eastern Europe outside the EU, pay freezes, pay cuts, job cuts and recruitment freezes are part of the fiscal consolidation strategies being imposed by national governments, often in line with demands from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

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Welcome to new PSI president Dave Prentis; a warm farewell to Ylva Thorn

The meeting of the PSI Steering Committee in May 2010 was the last meeting attended by Ylva Thörn, who has retired as leader of Kommunal in Sweden, and stepped down as president of Public Services International. She is replaced by first vice-president Dave Prentis.

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A new global code for ethical recruitment of migrant health workers

Public Services International and the European Federation of Public Service Unions welcome the World Health Organization's adoption of a code of practice for the international recruitment of health care workers, following more than six years of concerted lobbying and direct input by PSI and its affiliate unions.

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Quality Public Services: Action now!

PSI affiliates are showing a lot of interest in the upcoming conference on Quality Public Services that will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12-14 October 2010. You can find documentation for PSI attendees to the conference on the PSI website, while for more general information you should visit the dedicated conference website.

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Global peace index

The Institute for Economics and Peace has compiled the Global Peace Index (GPI). The Index is composed of 24 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the level of respect for human rights.

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Do you remember Dan Long?

PSI has received a request from a labour historian based in Wellington, New Zealand, who is writing a biography of Dan Long, general secretary of the NZ Public Service Association from 1960-1976. The biography will deal with his significant contributions to the labour movement, such as the links he fostered with public service unions, including those outside of New Zealand.

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