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PSI World News

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | November 2010

Global unions PSI, ICEM, BWI, sign global framework agreement with GDF SUEZ

Three global union federations, representing a total of 52 million workers worldwide, have signed a global framework agreement with GDF SUEZ, the world's second largest gas, water services, and electric utility. Public Services International, the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, General Workers' Unions and the Building and Woodworkers International reached a "Global Agreement on Fundamental Rights, Social Dialogue, and Sustainable Development" following productive negotiations with Paris-based GDF SUEZ.

Irish unions demonstrate for a better, fairer way

After speculators, bankers and developers ravaged the Irish economy, the government appears to expect the unemployed and people with low to middle incomes to pick up the tab. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions organised a huge rally in Dublin on 27 November in protest to the government's budget plans.

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Portuguese unions organise 24-hour general strike against government cuts

Public sector unions in Portugal held a general strike on 24 November in reaction to the government's planned austerity measures. Public Services International general secretary Peter Waldorff sent a solidarity message to PSI affiliates in Portugal, highlighting the trade union movement alternatives to the cuts.

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Nigerian electricity workers: Soldiers to blame for blackouts

The National Union of Electricity Employees which represents workers at of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria charges that the occupation of workplaces by armed military personnel has led to power cuts in parts of the country.

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Indonesia: PSI unions lead the fight against energy privatisation

The fight against energy privatisation continues in Indonesia, led by the union of energy workers Perusahaan Listrik Negara and backed by Public Services International.

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Defending public services at the heart of today's global struggle

"We've got work to do! There is a sense of urgency to trade union work today, and we need you to be absolutely the heart of the show," Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation told PSI executive board members at their annual meeting, held 17-19 November 2010 in Nyon, Switzerland.

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OECD highlights need for quality public services

Meeting in Venice, Italy, on 15 November, the Public Governance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, chaired by Italian Minister Renato Brunetta, launched the "Venice Initiative" that pledged governments to "provide high quality public services, while dealing effectively with fiscal pressure and consolidating economic recovery."

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Global economic crisis no excuse to cut public services and force workers to migrate

Public Services International migrants' rights activists attended the Civil Society Days of the Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on 8-9 November 2010. The theme of GFMD IV was "Partnerships for migration and development: shared prosperity – shared responsibility."

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International Labour Organization staff take historic action to demand decent working conditions

At the ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, ILO workers gathered for an extraordinary general meeting on 10 November.

Staff at ILO regional offices around the world engaged in various actions at the same time to draw attention to their demands that the ILO enter into negotiations, respect the legally-negotiated rules governing recruitment and selection processes and limit the use of precarious work contracts.

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