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PSI World News

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | January 2011

Haiti a year after the earthquake: advancing together with hope

Public Service International's affiliates worldwide reflect with profound sadness on the terrible losses suffered by our members and fellow citizens in Haiti as a result of the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

PSI calls on affiliate members to take time to remember the people of Haiti and to recommit to using international trade union solidarity to move from promises to action.

PSI solidarity with Australian unions

PSI has sent a message of solidarity to affiliates in Australia who are dealing as workers and citizens with the unprecedented flooding affecting their country.

Numerous members have suffered the loss of loved ones, livelihoods, homes and workplaces.

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Speaking out for public services

Newspapers such as The Economist and The New York Times started the new year with articles that highlight the efforts of right-wing interests to make public services workers the scapegoats for the economic crisis. PSI and EPSU have written a joint response to The Economist and other affiliates have also reacted to the article.

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United States: Time to fight back

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is urging members and allies to take action to stop the media and neo-liberal lies about public service workers.

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European Commission endangers Europe's social model, say unions

On January 11 John Monks, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, issued a letter to the European Commission accusing the EC officials of ignoring social dialogue and collective bargaining processes and directly intervening in the labour markets of Greece and Ireland in implementing the EU/IMF rescue packages.

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United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW 55) will take place in New York from 22 February to 4 March 2011. A strong trade union delegation from PSI, Education International and the International Trade Union Confederation will be there.

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At long last, civil servants in Thailand get the right to unionise

Public Services International welcomes the news that a new law is in the works that will allow civil servants, ministry officials, department officials and provincial officials to unionise in Thailand.

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Canada-EU trade talks present perils for public services

A delegation including PSI Canadian affiliates will be visiting Members of the European Parliament in January to urge them to reject the inclusion of investment protection provisions, including an investor-state arbitration mechanism, in the proposed Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

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Water workers in Jakarta demand their rights
Employees of the regional water company PAM Jaya in Jakarta held a demonstration on 21 December to demand a decent wage. They have not received a salary increase since the water company was privatised 13 years ago.

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Health sector unions in West Africa create their network
PSI health sector affiliates in Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana have created a successful and active network, following on from the FNV project on Trade Union Development and Organising in West Africa.

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European Framework of actions on recruitment and retention
On 17 December 2010, EPSU and HOSPEEM signed a framework agreement that will enable employers and unions at European and national levels to tackle staff shortages and qualification needs.

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Public Service Trade Union Award 2011
Public Services International presents an award each year to a PSI affiliate or a local union which has taken initiatives contributing to the advancement of public services. We are now accepting nominations for the Public Service Trade Union Award 2011.

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