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PSI World News

PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | March 2011

Japan earthquake and tsunami – solidarity with PSI affiliates

PSI affiliates have been quick to support PSI's affiliates in Japan after the disastrous earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, with many messages and donations to the PSI Aid Fund. PSI is working with the PSI Japan Council to ensure that contributions are directed to where they are most needed.

March for the Alternative

PSI and affiliates participated in the March for the Alternative in Central London on 26 March. The UK Government's spending cuts will damage public services and put more than a million people out of work. The March for the Alternative was about giving a voice to all those affected and presenting the alternatives, including a financial transactions tax to support funding of public services.

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Amnesty International urges US to abandon legislation limiting workers' rights

Amnesty International has urged several US states to abandon planned legislation that would drastically restrict workers' rights. States including Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee have proposed bills severely limiting the collective bargaining rights of trade union members. A similar bill was passed in Wisconsin on 11 March.

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Let's get the facts straight about public employee pensions
In this excellent article, the American Federation of Teachers dispels popular myths about public sector pensions in the US. Some of their comments are relevant for public sector workers in other countries, who are also struggling with austerity measures.

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South African union activist killed: Demand justice now
South African Municipal Workers' Union shop steward Petros Msiza, aged 43, was shot point-blank when police opened fire on protestors taking part in a peaceful demonstration in the city of Tshwane on Thursday 3 March. PSI and SAMWU condemn this outrageous act of police violence and call for a judicial inquiry charged with assessing evidence of police violence.

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WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched from 21 March to 17 April 2011 a web-based public hearing on the draft guidelines for monitoring the implementation of the WHO Code Practice on the international Recruitment of Health Personnel. PSI affiliates are invited to participate.

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PSI campaign exposes violations to core labour standards in ADB-funded projects

As part of the PSI campaign "Dialogue for Mainstreaming Core Labour Standards and Quality Public Services in Asian Development Bank (ADB) Projects", PSI affiliates in major stakeholder countries are requested to lobby their governments on workers' rights violations in ADB funded projects in Asia.

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Right to Water and Sanitation must be put into action

On 22 March, World Water Day, Public Services International called on national governments to save lives by implementing the new United Nations resolution on the Right to Water and Sanitation without delay.

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PSI welcomes European vote in favour of a financial transactions tax

On 8 March 2011, the European Parliament voted in favour of introducing a European-wide financial transactions tax (also known as the Robin Hood Tax).

A financial transactions tax has been described as "a tiny tax that could make a big difference." PSI is greatly encouraged by the European Parliament's decision.

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Reducing the gender pay gap

In a new report, the European Federation of Public Service Unions publishes the results of its Gender Pay Gap survey among public sector unions in 27 countries. The report highlights issues in relation to pay gap statistics, the concentration of women in low-paying jobs and part-time work, and the need for transparency in wage systems.

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Public Services International on TV— a feature interview

In a wide-ranging interview with Danish TV Europa, featured on CNN iReport, Public Services International general secretary Peter Waldorff speaks about PSI activities as a global union federation, including: supporting trade union rights from Egypt to the United States to Colombia; PSI's engagement in the Council of Global Unions' *Quality Public Services—Action Now!* Campaign, and much more.

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Civil rights groups release report of public hearings into G20 security issues

"The maintenance of public confidence in law enforcement demands a full public inquiry into what happened during the G20 in order to ensure it doesn't happen again," concluded last year's public hearings on G20 security issues. On February 28, a final report was released by PSI affiliate National Union of Public and General Employees and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

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