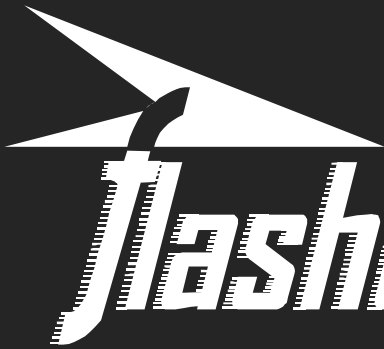


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Flashes FROM WFTU

NOVEMBER, 2007

(Vol. II, Issue-V)

New Delhi

SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

□ JOINT CALL BY GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS & ALL PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF UNITED TRADE UNIONS FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY

The All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU) has joined Pakistan new trade union, the GFTU, in calling for the immediate restoration of the rule of law, the country's Constitution and the fundamental democratic rights of its people. Fundamental rights including freedom of association and of assembly have been suspended under the state of emergency imposed by Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf; heavy restrictions have been imposed on the media; members of the opposition, lawyers, labour leaders have been detained, and the government is

placing further pressure on lawyers and the judiciary.

"The Constitution, rule of law and proper democratic processes must be restored", said APFUTU General Secretary. "General Musharraf's actions represent a huge step backwards for the whole

country, and any attempt to deal with the tensions which exist within Pakistan cannot succeed unless it is based on the full exercise of democratic rights by the people of Pakistan".

Restrictions which are being imposed on the holding of meetings and demonstrations will have particularly heavy impact on Pakistan's workforce, as their trade unions will be unable to function freely and effectively to represent workers and support their rights. The APFUTU calls on

□ WFTU Urges for Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan

Dear Comrades,

The WFTU Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau strongly condemns the Emergency and Marshal Law promulgated in Pakistan and the attack on the democratic rights of the people including the working class of Pakistan.

We urge the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and all political, civil and human rights to the people of Pakistan.

We also demand the release of all the arrested leaders including the trade union leaders immediately.

We appeal to all unions world over to send their message of protest to the president of Pakistan.

With Warm Greetings,

Fraternally,
(H.MAHADEVAN)

Dy. General Secretary &
Incharge WFTU Asia-Pacific Region

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ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE NEW DELHI**

the authorities to respect Pakistan's international obligations, in particular concerning freedom of association, and to take immediate steps to end the state of emergency and enable the elections scheduled for January 2008 to take place in full freedom and fairness.

□ International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples on the state of emergency in Pakistan

On November 3rd, 2007, a state of emergency has been imposed in Pakistan. In the days that followed, arrests have been multiplied. Demonstrations have been banned, and constitutional rights suspended.

The International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples supports the demand of trade unions and democratic organisations in Pakistan that the State of Emergency be immediately cancelled, all prisoners released and the right of expression and association guaranteed. Its support and solidarity especially to all trade unions in Pakistan. We call to send declarations from all over the world asking for the immediate cancellation of the State of Emergency and the restoration of all elementary democratic rights.

Send telegrams and declarations to :

- the President of the Republic of Pakistan, General Musharraf Islamabad, Pakistan.
- the embassies of Pakistan in your own country

□ APTUF Protest

On Nov. 3, the government of Pakistani military dictator Gen. Pervez Musharraf declared emergency rule, suspended the constitution and imposed a Provisional Constitutional Order. Musharraf cited «rising Islamic militancy» and «growing judicial interference in government functioning» as the reasons for effecting Marshal law. He also dismissed the entire Supreme Court. Among the judges removed was Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, a judge that Musharraf had sacked earlier this year, only to be forced to reinstate him in response to large protests. Military forces quickly surrounded the Supreme Court and detained the judges. They have been held under house arrest with their communications cut off. Pakistan's security forces ruthlessly attacked demonstrators, led by lawyers protesting the imposition of martial law. Thousands of lawyers, activists, trade unionists, human right advocates, opposition party figures and

others have been detained. The military government placed severe restrictions on the press. A dozen news stations were taken off the air. Even broadcasters from imperialist countries like the BBC and CNN were cut off.

The day before the imposition of Marshal law, engineers of Pakistan International Airlines went on strike, demanding a wage increase and an improvement in working conditions. The strike caused the cancellation of 92 flights, both local and international. There is an upsurge in labor struggles, particularly among the workers of water and power, telecom, railways, the garment industry and others. In recent months, different segments of the Pakistani population have been in motion in opposing the dictatorship, a most worrisome prospect for Musharraf and his U.S. backers. A history of rule as a client state since the formation of the country in 1947, Pakistan's rulers have been an indispensable part of imperialist policy in the region.

APTUF observed “**Black Day**” all over the Pakistan and held protest gates meetings, workers wore black badges and bands, shouted slogans against the government. Workers went to hold protest outside the gates, but heavy contingent of police and intelligence agents stopped workers not to come out of the factories. Police also threatened workers to get inside the factory otherwise they will charge tear gas. To save from confrontation the office bearers of trade unions told workers to hold meetings inside the factory premises. Some employers in different provinces issued charge sheets to the office bearers holding protest meetings in the factory premises.

Police threatened union office bearers not to hold meetings in future, otherwise the cases under 16 MPO will be registered; They said that due to the emergency no meetings could be allowed.

APTUF calls up on all members of the society to strongly condemn the brutal act of government on lawyers, trade unionists, journalist, human right activists and show solidarity to those who are experiencing repression.

APTUF demands national trade unions, organizations, human rights lawyers, journalists to urge the government to lift the emergency rule, respect human rights and allow the people to exercise their right to elect their representatives.

World Federation of Teachers' Unions (FISE)

Report by Com. B. Vijaya Kumar, General Secretary

34th General Conference of UNESCO was held at PARIS from 16th October, to 3rd November 2007. About 150 country delegations led by their respective ministers of Education /Higher Education /Science/Technology /Culture and about 100 NGOs as members of civil society participated in the conference. Some Prime Ministers / Presidents / Kings also addressed the conference. FISE participated in the conference with a seven member delegation which included Prof. B.Vijay Kumar, General Secretary, Prof. Kartik Mondal Vice-President, Prof Biju Longhinos, Secretary, Prof Asok Kumar Barman Secretary, AIFUCTO, Prof. D.J.Abedin, Ex President, Assam College Teachers' Association, Prof V. Ravindranath Tagore & Prof. Chalma Reddy (both College Teachers from Andhra Pradesh, India). A meeting of International Forum of Civil Society, UNESCO'S Partners was held on 25/10/07. The meeting was inaugurated by Koichiro Matsuura, Director General, UNESCO and presided over by Andras Lakatos, Ambassador & Permanent Delegate of Hungary. The meeting discussed the issues of citizens and Global governance, manifold partnerships to achieve UNESCO'S objectives. FISE intervened in the meeting highlighting that peaceful global governance is not possible without internal peace. Internal peace is not possible with decrease in decent living/ working conditions of workers which includes employees working in educational institutions. At the conference FISE inter-

acted with various international NGOs working with similar objective in different fields.

UNESCO is holding an International Conference of NGOs on 'Sustainable Development : The choice is up to us', from 5th to 7th December 2007 at Paris. As "Equitable and Sustainable Development" is more dearer to FISE, a subcommittee is formed with Prof Asok Kumar Barman, Secretary, AIFUCTO, as convener with authorization to opt some more members. He is further requested to participate in the international conference.

For the last few years FISE had no Permanent representative of FISE to UNESCO at Paris / France. This naturally created some void in percolating the information from UNESCO. On our request Prof. Daniel Monteux, former Secretary FISE, agreed to be the Permanent representative of FISE to UNESCO.

To improve our working relations with UNESCO, FISE sought to be a member of Liaison Committee of NGOs to UNESCO. Accordingly we filed the nomination to be a member of Liaison Committee of NGOs to UNESCO, elections for which has to be held on 6/12/2007.

As informed in the earlier circular the administrative committee, meeting held at Chennai on 30/7/2007 decided to request Prof. Mrinmoy Bhattacharya, former General Secretary FISE, to be a permanent invitee to the Administrative Committee of FISE.

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Yours sincerely

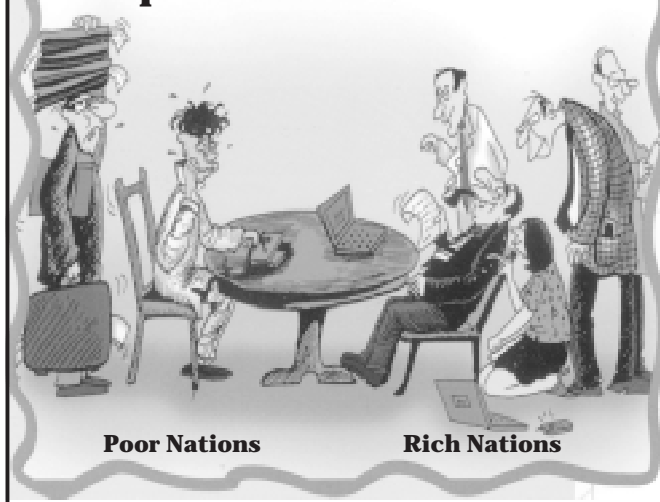
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Unequal Discussions in WTO



THE CTC DENOUNCES A NEW ANTI-CUBAN FARCE

During the last 48 years the Cuban trade union and labour movement has accomplished many benefits, and social goals in key sectors such as education, health, social security, full access to culture, full employment and broad participation in the decision-making process at all levels; rights which are not earned by many in the world.

All of this in the midst of a brutal economic and political war, constant harassment and terrorist actions, military attacks and reiterated campaigns of slanders, geared towards creating a distorted image and to undermine Cuba's prestige in the international arena, something that they have not been able to fully attain because of the cleanness, our commitment toward truth and the altruism which has characterized the Cuban conduct around the world.

We should not forget that when imposing the blockade, the US argued that the majority of Cubans supported the revolution and that in order to defeat the revolution it would be necessary to implement measures geared towards creating discontent by the way of hunger and suffering.

In their efforts of obtaining the openly declared purpose of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution and changing the system and government that were legitimately chosen by our people, the US administration created a Commission chaired by high governmental figures who elaborated a plan by which the measures of the blockade are brutally reinforced; governments, agencies and enterprises are shamefully put under pressure, and mercenaries under the disguising veil of being trade unionists, without being representatives of no one and ignoring the millions of workers who are builders of the Cuban society, are financed by the US diplomatic headquarters in Havana, living without working and at the expenses of the resources provided by the US government, just for fulfilling the infamous task of betraying their people and serving as lackeys under the command of the super power that already during the XIX century had seized Cuba's independence and caused so much damage, deaths and tragedy to our people.

Unfortunately and in spite of the good will of the Cuban trade union and labour movement and our policy of maintaining relations of respect with all workers' organizations in the world, there are trade

union leaders who are determined to rather serve the unjust and genocidal cause of the powerful who attack this small but noble country, that regardless of not being rich, is capable of sharing in an unselfish manner the fruit of its efforts and intelligence with other nations afar, who suffers misery insalubrities and penuries.

It seems that the double discourse which characterizes the US administration in terms of world issues, is being transferred to the ITUC top-ranking trade union leaders who whilst declaring their intentions of maintaining a position of respect and dialogue towards our trade union movement, in a treacherous manner and encouraged by the US wage-paid mercenaries, become accomplices in sending old fashioned and frayed accusations to the ILO against Cuba without having the least evidences.

Once again it's all about imposing their devious morale and double standard, while so many violations are taking place in different countries across the world which are ignored, concentrating all their lies and attacks against a country under aggression, a country under seizure for decades, by an aggressor who has raided the world killing, violating, invading and destroying in the name of democracy and human rights.

Good service has been rendered by the top-leaders of the ITUC to Mr. Bush in his plan to strangle Cuba, which include in a declared and public manner his intention of using trade union organisations and NGO's within the ILO, with the aim of justifying his criminal policies against our workers and people; a policy rejected by the vast majority of its own affiliates, that shows as a fact, the little respect and consideration given by the leadership of ITUC to the opinions and thoughts of its affiliated national organisations.

Therefore, we call on all our friendly trade union organisations, advocates of truth and justice to demand from these unscrupulous leaders, to stop using their level of representation for in its name attack this friendly and supportive country serving the political interest of the powerful who oppresses the world.

**CUBAN WORKERS TRADE UNION
CENTRAL**

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS OF ENERGY

- Report by Com. Valentin Pacho

The last week in September 2007 we held the International Congress of the Trade Unions of Energy in Mexico. The results have been very successful.

As you know, I had the responsibility of coordinating all the preparations of the Congress. We worked very hard but the results have been very positive.

1. *Participation: 56 organizations from 27 countries.*
2. *152 international delegates plus 56 delegates from the organizations of Mexico, a total of 208 delegates to the Congress.*
3. *Organizations of 17 countries wanted to participate in the Congress but were unable to do so, because they wanted assistance to pay for their passage to the Congress, since the cost of the air tickets was very expensive, and in other cases they had problems with visas, as was the case of the delegation of the Congo, which only reached Brazil and could not continue to Mexico.*
4. *The comrades of Mexico helped with the passage to Cuba, also the Mexican comrades offered Cameron to pay half of their passage but the*

comrade from Cameron wanted it complete and did not participate and also North Korea did not participate; they were offered payment of half the fare but did not respond.

5. *The debates in the Congress were very active and developed with all normality, which had two parts.*
- Defense of Energy, prevent privatization of the hydrocarbons and the electrical industry, and in second place, Defense of Water.
6. *New statutes of the TUI ENERGY were approved (it is the first TUI which states in its statutes that it forms part of the WFTU.)*
7. *The number of new affiliates of very representative trade unions has been tripled.*
8. *The present TUI-ENERGY is the most representative.*
9. *The new Executive Council of the TUI-ENERGY, is very representative and of all continents.*

IN CONCLUSION:

The Congress was a success. It has exceeded our expectations, it has tripled the number of organizations affiliated to the TUI. (Further details in the next issue)

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Athens, October 25, 2007

To comrade Salvador Valdes Mesa CTC Cuba

Dear comrade:

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade unions and its 63 million members in the world we express our indignation about the new slanderous attacks against the working class and the people of Cuba.

Yesterday's speech of USA President G. Bush was a speech full of hate towards Cuba, the Revolution and the progress of your people.

It is more than sure that USA wants Cuba to be a marionette of imperialism; To be a Cuba without dignity and pride. USA wants Cuba to be deprived of scientists, without any economic progress and without any development.

On the contrary, all of us, the progressive people in the whole world, support the Cuban Revolution, we are in solidarity with your efforts, we fully understand the difficulties you are facing and we wish you to overcome all this.

We, therefore, strongly condemn in the most definite way yesterday's statements of USA President against your country and we declare once more our internationalism and the fraternal relation with you.

With comradely greetings

George Mavrikos

General Secretary of the WFTU



ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΟ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΟ ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΠΣΟ
EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WFTU

ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΚΟ ΡΕΓΙΟΝΑΛΪΟ ΒΪΟΡΟ ΒΪΤ
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FEDERASION UN USF

Statement of the European Regional Office of WFTU on the “Reform Treaty” of the EU

On the 18th of October 2007 in Lisbon, where more than 200,000 workers demonstrated their protest against the anti-labour policies of E.U, the leaders of the member states of the European Union reached an agreement on the “Reform Treaty” of the EU.

This new complementary Treaty which will be signed on the 13th of December in Lisbon amends the existing Treaties but does not change them, as the “European Constitution” sought to do.

The “Reform Treaty”, which we recall, was rejected as a “European Constitution” in referendum by the people of France and Holland, is now being put back on the table by the ruling circles of the EU, mainly through amendments regarding its terminology so that they will not be obliged to let the peoples of Europe express their will in referendum.

However, the reactionary elements of the content remain as they were, given that amongst other things the militarisation of the EU through the adoption of the American dogma of so-called “pre-emptive wars”, the transfer of sovereign rights of member states to the intergovernmental institutions of the EU, the abolition of the “veto” and the establishment of qualified majority voting is provided for. Its philosophy leads to even greater attacks on workers rights, to the consolidation of the repressive mechanisms of the EU and to the greatest possible strengthening of big capital and the multinational companies.

“Free and unfettered competition” might not constitute anymore an obligatory goal in the “Reform Treaty” as it was in the European Con-

stitution, but it is established as the means for the functioning of the “new” Treaty.

In addition, the adoption of the Reform Treaty has agreed in the absence of E.U citizens’ participation, in the absence of participation of European Parliament and National Parliaments, without a Constituent Assembly and especially without referendum from the people of Europe. It is clear that this decision of E.U for the Reform Treaty is suffering, apart from all other reasons, from its democratic deficit. **For that reason ERO is supporting the demand of the people of Europe for holding referendum in every member state of E.U.**

It is obvious that the ruling circles of the EU are seeking in this way to entrench neo-liberalism as the operational model of the EU, a fact that will lead to the intensification in the attacks against the rights of working people which have been gained through the shedding of blood and struggles by the peoples of Europe but also to the further undermining of the social state which at one time represented one of the characteristics of the European social model.

In this context, ERO knowing well that the new Treaty includes a number of crucial aspects for the interests of the working class and its negative impact into the labour movement of Europe, aligns itself with the Left, progressive forces and the class-orientated Trade Union Movement in Europe and calls on the working people to continue the struggles for a Europe of the peoples, Justice and Peace.

Cleanthes Cleanthous
Responsible
European Regional Office of WFTU.

WHY KOREAN CONSTRUCTION WORKER SET FIRE TO HIMSELF?

Shouting, "the Incheon electricians strike is just, arrest defacto owner of Youngjin Electrical Company, Yoo Hae San, 48-year old Jung Hae Jin, member of the Korean Construction Workers Union, KFCITU, an affiliate of the Korean Confederation of Trade Union (KCTU) set himself on fire at 1:54 p.m. on Saturday, October 27 in front of Youngjin Electrical Company during a march and rally. He would later die from his injuries at 9:00 despite efforts by doctors to save his life.

Close to 400 members of the KFCITU were participating in a demonstration to support the 113 day-old strike of the Branch of Incheon Electricians. The rally was part of the annual National Rally in Support of Irregular Workers Rights. At the time of the Jungs self-immolation, the union members were in a confrontation with riot police who had set up blockades to forcefully stop the union from continuing with the rally. Shocked union members rushed to douse out the fire but tragically Jung suffered third and fourth degree burns to at least 40% of his body. While Jung was rushed to the hospital, the riot police refused to allow the union members to leave and threatened throughout the day to arrest them. Eventually, the riot police removed their blockades allowing union members to go to the hospital to pay their respects to Jung Hae Jin.

The Branch of Incheon Electricians of the Korean Construction Workers Union (KCWU) began negotiations with the 13 sub contractors that hired electricians in the Incheon metropolitan area on February 28, 2007. However after repeated efforts to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement resulted in failure, the union began a strike that was supported by 88% of its membership on June 19. The union's demands included union recognition, 44-hour work week, and an end to illegal subcontracting. In addition, the union emphasized safety, as electricians frequently worked under hazardous conditions, particularly since electricians worked on power lines that contained high distribution-level voltages. Should there be a slight mishap during the repairs of

these power lines, a worker could easily loose an arm or leg and even worse die as a result of electrocution.

Throughout the strike, Yoo Hae San, defacto owner of Youngjin Electrical Company even though his wife is the official CEO of the company, consistently repressed the union. After obtaining a mandate from the sub contractors to represent them, Yoo Hae San refused to engage in legitimate negotiations with the union. In addition, he hired thugs to intimidate union members participating in the strike and forcefully pull down a tent that was part of a sit-down demonstration in front of Youngjin Electrical Company.

Jung Hae Jin had been an electrician for close to 20 years working for several sub contractors. In recent months, Jung Hae Jin was working as a day laborer substituting for contracted electricians due to lack of work and injuries (most recent to his back) that he suffered from two accidents on the job. In both occasions the employers refused to recognize the accidents as work-related and thus he could not receive workers compensation. He joined the union during the recent strike after witnessing the forceful tactics of Youngjin Electrical Company against the union. He had first-hand knowledge of the repressive methods of Youngjin as he had worked for them as a day laborer in several occasions. Jung was considered a very kind person and well-liked and respected by everyone.

His tragic death is part of the on-going struggle of South Korean construction workers to be treated like human beings. According to a fellow union member of Jung Hae Jin, they work 12 to 13 hours a day without being treated as human beings. It is because of this they were calling on the employers to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement so that they finally honor the labor laws and treat them like human beings.

Both the KCTU and KFCITU leadership have established an emergency committee to discuss how to address this terrible tragedy.

Report by - Lee Changgeun

PRESS COMMUNIQUE by ALL INDIA STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

SUKOMAL SEN, General Secretary

About one crore State Govt and Central Govt employees and teachers from Primary to University and semi-Govt employees took part in a nationwide strike demanding total scrapping of anti-employee New Pension Scheme and the 12-Point Charter of Demands including Interim Relief to the Central employees, grant of Right to Strike and other demands.

Other demands include stopping privatization, downsizing, retrenchment, casualization and contractualization instead of regular appointment, filling up of vacancies of nearly 20 lakhs of vacant posts in various Govt departments of the country so that the jobless youths can get jobs. The demand also includes appointment of a Judicial Commission for wage review and improvement of service condition of the 'Grameen Dak Sevaks', increase in the interest rate of GPF and small postal savings from 8% to 12% .

The decision for this countrywide strike was taken at the Joint Convention of the State and Central employees and teachers' organizations held at Delhi on 13 August'07.

The strike was complete in Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh in North-East. In Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu strike was nearly complete. The State and Central employees, teachers and Semi-Govt employees joined the strike in a massive way. In Haryana, even the Roadways employees joined the strike. The Govt of Haryana declared the strike 'illegitimate' and threatened action against the employees. The employees obviously ignored it.

In Madhya Pradesh, the administration was paralyzed by the large scale absence of the employees and holding massive dharna in Bhopal in support of the demand for scrapping of New Pension Scheme and other demands. In Uttaranchal also the employees abstained from work in a very big way and held demonstration. In Rajasthan the strike received good response and employees held big demonstrations. In other States also, striking employees held rallies.

In Orissa, Assam and Punjab, the effect of the strike was very good among the employees and teachers. In the Barack valley of Assam, employees and teachers strike assumed the form of a general strike because of spontaneous participation of the other sections of the people including the transport workers and business community. In this State the teachers' strike was full. In Delhi and Gujarat and Meghalaya, employees of different departments of the Central Government observed full strike.

On the eve of nationwide strike the Central Govt issued a notorious circular threatening the employees by drastic vindictive measures including pay-cut and dismissal from service to suppress the strike. But the employees ignored that threat of repressive Circular and boldly participated in the strike. The strike of the employees was also complete in Pondicherry and Andaman Nicobar Islands.

Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions extended full support to the strike, The organizations of the Banks and Insurance employees lent full support to the strike. In some states like Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal they demonstrated on 30. 10. 2007 in support of the strike. Railway employees, BSNL and Defence employees lent support to the strike in some States.

Pensioners' Associations in different states organized protest rallies, dharnas in support of the strike, as the pensioners will also be victims of New Pension Scheme.

The New Pension Scheme originally mooted by the previous NDA Govt under the dictates of IMF World Bank and the policy of imperialist globalization by the US Administration and it was shamelessly carried forward by the present UPA Govt. But the PFRDA Bill and the subsequent Ordinance (Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority Bill) lapsed because of stiff resistance by the Left MPs in the Parliament. Thereafter, the Chief Ministers and State Finance Ministers Conference called by the Prime Minister at Delhi on 22 January'07 also became a fiasco with the stout opposition by the Finance Ministers of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura and some North-East States.

Contd. on next page

The ICFTU has changed only its name Its tactic is the same since 1949 until today Its course is the same with George Bush

Our Federation is the biggest Trade Union Federation in Greece. It has 242,000 members; is a class-oriented trade union and a founding organization of PAME. We participate in UITBB under the positions and strategy of the WFTU.

Yesterday, once more, we heard the attacks of George Bush against Fidel Castro, Raul Castro and the socialist Revolution of the Cuban people.

The killer George Bush is the one who murders, by his policy, the children in Iraq, the women in Afghanistan and throws out workers from their jobs. The slanderer George Bush continues the illegal imprisoning of the five Cuban heroes in USA prisons and shows his real face in Guantanamo. George Bush is very short and Fidel very tall! This is the truth.

The ICFTU leadership follows the same policy with USA. against Cuba, Lebanon and against the people of Venezuela and Ecuador.

We recently read the "2007 annual survey" of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) about the violation of trade union liberties all over the world. We will limit ourselves to three comments.

The "Survey" is only words and much hypocrisy of the ITUC. They are hypocrites because in Colombia, USA, Nepal, European Union, Burma and Thailand the cause of violations is the capitalist system. Monopolies give birth to violations and the ITUC is allied to monopolies. The ITUC is allied to the International Monetary

Fund, to the World Trade Organization, It is allied to George Bush and Tony Blair. The ITUC allies are those who hit hard trade union rights.

In the "Survey" they mention that the ITUC is a new organization being "less than one year old". Another hypocrisy. We all know that the ICFTU has changed only its name, its title, while preserving the same strategy and targets. By changing its name it is trying to hide its historic responsibilities; It is trying to hide its role during the wars of Korea and Vietnam, during dictatorship in Chile, Portugal, Greece etc; its role during the wars in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan etc. All these facts can not be hidden by changing the name, neither because some sold-out trade union leaderships (CGT - France, COCO - Spain) entered under the umbrella of the ICFTU/ITUC and the ETUC.

Within the "Survey" of the ITUC there are some slanders against Cuba, Belarus and China. This survey has probably been made in order to attack these countries. But they forgot Venezuela. The ITUC last year had Venezuela in the first place... In cooperation with the ILO... Particularly the attitude of the ITUC towards Cuban Revolution reveals its real aims. They hate people of Cuba, the Communist Party of Cuba and the CTC Cuba. They hate the revolution and Fidel, because they love capitalism. You may all draw your conclusions. The new anti-Cuban trick made by ITUC will also fail.

Giannis Pasoulas
President of the Federation

Contd. from pre. page

The New Pension Scheme stipulates ending the existing Pension Scheme of the employees, their G.P. Fund, Gratuity and family pension benefits and instead the New Pension Scheme will impose cut of 10% of their pay and DA every month and handing over that accumulated astronomical amount to private companies both indigenous and foreign to invest in Stock Market. It is nothing but an imperialist conspiracy to boost up the profit greed of the Finance Capital, the speculators and the Financial sharks at the expense of the common employees' age-old benefit.

This nationwide strike is another warning to Govt of India and the State Govts to desist from implementing this notorious anti-employee scheme as otherwise the Joint Convention of Central, State and Teachers' organizations held on 13 August 2007 warned the Govt to face more severe nationwide resistance including an indefinite stoppage of work by these sections of the employees and teachers.

We hope, the Govt will learn adequate lessons from the tremendous response to the strike and retrace from their ill-conceived steps of implementing the imperialist conspiracies of which New Pension Scheme is an integral part.

United Forum of Bank Unions (India)

Agitational Programmes

- C. H. VENKATACHALAM, Convenor, UFBU

“Demands:

1. **To oppose the merger of Public Sector Banks.**
2. **To expedite the Pension Option.**
3. **To revise the Compassionate Appointment Scheme.**
4. **To fill up all unfilled vacancies.**
5. **To stop outsourcing.**

Units are aware that UFBU has been pursuing the above important issues with the IBA. While discussions were started with the IBA on our demand for one more option to join the pension scheme based on the suggestions submitted to IBA by the UFBU, the matter is not moving forward. On compassionate appointment, the revised guidelines of the government and IBA are far from satisfactory and needs review. The discussion on outsourcing is yet to take place as agreed by the IBA in the MoU dated 21.3.2007 and Minutes before CLC dated 10.9.2007. In the matter of recruitments also, the managements are not moving earnestly and thousands of vacancies remain unfilled resulting in increase of the workload to the existing staff. Even on the issue of covering the employees recruited between 1.11.1993 and date of Pension Regulation in September, 1995, under Pension scheme, recently the Government has declined. As per settlement,

all new recruits from 1.11.93 are mandatorily covered under pension scheme, yet it is being denied and declined. In the matter of merger of public sector banks also, the managements and the Government are moving in their agenda.

Hence, in the recent UFBU meeting, it has been decided to take up these issues through agitational programmes to demand expeditious solution to these demands.

Accordingly, the following programmes are given for implementation :

1. **Centralized Joint Demonstration in all stations on 20.11.2007 and 27.11.2007.**
2. **Dhama in all State Capitals between 3rd to 7th December, 2007.**
3. **Extensive display of posters before all bank branches.**
4. **Looking to developments, All India Strike will be decided - preferably during Winter Session of the Parliament.**

Comrades, the importance of the issues need not be exaggerated or elaborated. There is no other alternative for us than to agitate to focus the issues and to get early redressal. We call upon all our units to mobilise all our members in the above programmes and make them a grand success.

AN APPEAL FROM BANGLADESH

From Jatiya Nirman Sramik Federation (JNSF)

(A National Federation of Construction Workers' - Bangladesh)

Central office: 31/F, Topkhana Road (1st Floor), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

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An appeal for help to the cyclone victims

Cyclone Sidr has struck Bangladesh in the midnight of 16th November. One third area of the whole country was trampled under its ruthless claw. It has cost more than 10000 in terms of human lives as estimated by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The numbers of the maimed and homeless stands by the millions. The effects of its destruction on crops, cattle, live stock, forest and wild life is incalculable. Peoples of the effected area suffering from scarcity of food stuff, drinking water medicine and other bare necessities. They need immediate help just to live in. We appeal for help to all corners in favour of this suffering humanity .All helps in kind or cash would be most welcome.

Account number : C/A- 956, UTTARA BANK LIMITED (Pallabi Branch, Dhaka)

Shafiuddin Ahmed
President.

Rabindra Nath Roy
General Secretary.

Quamrul Ahsan
Member.

NEWS FROM JAPAN TRADE UNIONS

i) 1,679 companies paid 22.7 billion yen in back pay in 2006

A Labor Ministry survey released on October 5 showed that the number of corporations that had paid more than one million yen in back pay for overtime in FY 2006 under the Labor Standards Inspection Office's guidance reached 1,679, a record high since FY 2001 when such surveys began.

The amount of payment totaled about 22.7 billion yen, equivalent to 13.5 million yen per company on average or 120,000 yen per employee.

The cumulative total from FY 2001 is 107.8 billion yen and involves 6,840 corporations.

Efforts made by workers and the Japanese Communist Party have achieved this outcome. The JCP has used nearly 300 Diet interpellation sessions to address the unpaid overtime work issue and demand the eradication of such an illegal labor practices.

iii) Government panel proposes basic labor rights for public service employees

A government panel discussing basic labor rights for public service employees has drawn up a report proposing a right to collective bargaining for them. The Headquarters for Administrative Reform's task force submitted the report on October 18 to Watanabe Yoshimi, administrative reform minister.

In the report, the task force called for a reform to establish a system to determine working conditions through negotiations between labor and management.

As to whether firefighters and prison guards who are currently denied the right to strike and other basic labor rights should have the right to unionize, the task force only listed the pros and cons of doing so. This should be seen as highly problematic since the right to bargain can only be effective if the right to strike is guaranteed. It is unacceptable that the task force did not recommend giving firefighters and prison guards the right to unionize in spite of the fact that doing so is an international trend.

While clearly calling for restoring the right to conclude labor agreements to public service workers, the report said, "It is necessary to carefully decide on the subject by taking into account the cost of reform." This leaves a room for retrogression.

It is also problematic that the panel's report refers to the possibility that the right to conclude labor agreements could be restricted for minority unions. Such a provision could violate the constitutional freedom of association.

Zenroren Secretary General Odagawa Yoshikazu on October 19 published a comment on the report, saying, "While the task force proposal has progressive aspects, including the call for restoring the right to collective agreement for public service employees, it contains problems in that it lists pros and cons regarding whether public service workers should have the right to strike and unionize. Zenroren calls on all workers concerned to work together to establish the right to conclude labor agreements."

In Japan, public service employees were deprived of the right to strike in 1948 by order of the Occupation Forces. Their right to unionize and right to bargain were restricted. Today, public service workers, excluding police officers and firefighters, have the right to unionize but are denied the right to strike as well as the right to conclude legally-binding agreements. Their salary levels are subject to recommendations by the National Personnel Authority.

In 2002, the National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren) and the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) filed a complaint with the International Labor Organization (ILO) maintaining that depriving public service workers of basic labor rights is a violation of the ILO Convention.

The ILO three times between 2002 and 2006 recommended that the Japanese government give public service employees basic labor rights. The recommendations by the task force at this time can be conducive to taking a step forward for the first time in 60 years thanks to persistent union struggles.

Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions All India Convention against Contract System

19th November 2007, V P House Lawn, New Delhi

DECLARATION

The All India Convention of Contract workers, being held on 19th November 2007 at New Delhi expresses grave concern at the fast spreading phenomenon of mass scale contractisation of workplaces, both in public and private sectors, trampling underfoot the basic provisions of all the laws of the land.

In most of the places, in manufacturing, services and trade, workers are being deployed on contract even in permanent and perennial nature of jobs and in the core jobs of the establishments as well, in utter violation of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970.

In some PSUs like petroleum, mining, construction etc, the share of contract workers in total employment is above 70 per cent. And these contract workers, mostly deployed in regular production jobs and also in highly sophisticated and mechanised production process, are paid a pittance compared to the permanent workers.

In private sector establishments, the situation is even worse. In the establishments, particularly those emerged after initiations of policy of globalization in 1991, overwhelming majority of workers are deployed on contract of various forms and nomenclatures. The data of employment pattern published by official agencies confirms the above trend. As per NSS data, manufacturing sector in our country employ around 4.80 crore of which only 66 lakh are in the organized sector and the rest 4.14 crore account for unorganized sector. Manufacturing sector should not be characterized as unorganized sector. And given the type of manufacturing units in our country and its employment pattern, it can well be presumed that overwhelming majority of the so-called unorganized sector manufacturing employment is of contract or temporary in nature. As per a similar estimate, in the mining & Quarrying, of the 23 lakh workforce, the share of temporary and contract employment is 13 lakh—all working under various contractors and subcontractors. Construction sector is another segment where contract/temporary employment is ten times more than the regular employment in the sector, around 1.65 crore—

again mostly employed under various contractors and numerous petty, sub-contractors.

The contract workers are being subjected to worst form of exploitation, and are always under fear of losing jobs; in most of the places they cannot form trade unions. The working hour for them is at least 12 hours a day on the average, and they get much less wages, often much below the statutory minimum wage, besides being deprived of PF, ESI and other social security benefits. This barbarous form of exploitation is further exposed by the fact that the share of labour cost in total cost of production is declining steadily over the years and as per the Report of Annual Survey of Industries it has gone down from 7.84 per cent in 1999-00 to 6.82 in 200304. The same Survey also exposed that the average daily wage of the contract workers is around 65 per cent less than the total average daily wage of all workers in the industry.

Another important issue needs to be considered. Although the Contract Labour (R&A) Act could not be amended by the Govt to make contract work legally permissible in all kinds of work, the Judiciary came to their rescue. The Supreme Court Judgment in the SAIL case that set aside its own judgment in Air India Case has deprived the Contract Workers deployed in permanent perennial jobs to get regularized. This judgment has further encouraged the spread of contractisation everywhere with impunity.

The convention views that all the above are a part of the game plan to introduce hire and fire regime through backdoor and also to weaken the trade union movement. This is also a conspiracy to curb the core labour rights as envisaged in ILO Conventions viz., the Right to Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining. The Trade Union movement must have to combat such dubious game plan and heinous conspiracy through united countrywide struggle both at workplace and national level.

At workplace level, the Convention calls upon the trade unions of regular workers to take up the task of organizing the contract workers and fight for their cause. Without integrating the contract

workers with movement of the regular workers, it would be increasingly difficult for the unions to defend its right to collective bargaining from the forthcoming onslaughts. At National level, the Convention adopts the following demands for the contract workers to be achieved through suitable legislation, incorporation in the existing laws and enforcement by the Government:

1. All workers engaged through contractors, outsourcing agents and job contract system and any such mechanism, must be recognized as employees of the Principal Employer.
2. Contract workers engaged in permanent/perennial jobs must be regularised in the permanent roll of the company and there must be stringent punishment for violation
3. Outsourcing should be treated as contract and should be covered by Contract Labour Legislation.
4. Equal pay for same and similar work both for regular and contract/temporary workers must be ensured and this provision should be put in the main body of the legislation (at present similar provision is there in the rules framed under the present statute).
5. SECTION 10(1) of the Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970 be amended to negate the pernicious impact of the Supreme Court Judgments, in the SAIL case in particular, on the rights of the contract workers
6. Payment of the minimum wage prevalent for the regular workers in the company/establishment must be ensured for the contract workers of the said company.
7. All contractors must obtain license from the appropriate authority for running its operation
8. Even if contractor changes, the contract workers engaged by previous contractor should continue to be deployed without any interruption and change in service conditions: this provision should be incorporated as a condition in the tender to be invited for appointment of contractors.
9. The Annual Return on employment to be submitted to labour department by the Principal Employer should compulsorily include details of the contract workers including the contractors and their licence details.
10. In case of death owing to accident or otherwise in course of employment, contract workers should be paid same compensation as the regular workers; the deceased contract worker's dependent must be provided employment and it should be

statutory obligation of the principal employers to ensure such compassionate employment.

11. The Principal Employer should be held responsible for implementation of all labour laws for the contract workers including maintenance of employment register; submission of annual returns to labour department, regular payment of wages, PF, ESI, pension and other social security benefits and basic welfare measures like housing, creche facilities, children education etc and workmen's compensation; any violation of those laws should attract stringent punishment on the principal employers as well.
12. A separate inspectorate with adequate manpower has to be established in all states only for the purpose for inspection of the contract-employment related matters.
13. Contract labour monitoring board must be constituted in all states and central level with the representatives of unions, employers and government to monitor implementation of labour laws in respect of contract workers including the Inter State Migrant Workers Act, etc.

The Convention calls upon the working class movement irrespective of affiliations to popularize the above demands and build up united countrywide movement to cry a decisive halt to the conspiracy of contractorisation of workplaces.

The Convention calls upon the working class and the contract workers in particular to mobilize in a big way in the programme of COUNTRYWIDE MASS SATYAGRAHA on 4th and 5th December 2007 already decided by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions.

The Convention also adopts the following programmes to press for appropriate changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act and strengthening of the enforcement machinery in line with above demands:

- **State-level and Industry-level joint convention on the issue of contract workers**
- **Observance of All India Demands Day for the Contact Workers on 8th January 2008 to be observed through demonstration/dharna, rallies in all workplaces/ establishments and submission of joint Memorandum to respective Principal Employers**

- **Prepare for countrywide united strike action**

AITUC AICCTU CITU HMS
UTUC-LS UTUC TUCC

And

Independent All India federations/Unions

This is Austrelia. Is this not the same in other countries also?

JOBs to Go

- **McJobs in the halls of higher learning**
The first casualty of a market-driven system could be your job



"More market" in higher education means more competition, endless restructuring, and less public funding. There will be some winners and plenty of losers.

Redundancies are already on the agenda. Temporary and part-time work will continue to expand. All staff- academics, technicians, librarians, support staff, and management - will face growing pressure on holidays, hours of work, sick leave, and sabbatical leave.

We already face increased stress and workloads, and falling real incomes:

- Since July 1989, lecturers' salaries have gone up 13.9%. The cost of living has gone up 20.7%, and a backbench MP's salary 27.9%.
- In the UK, universities employ approximately two general staff for every academic. In New Zealand, it's 1:1.
- In 1988, universities enrolled 72,313 students. In 1997 they enrolled 105,691, a 46% increase.
- In 1988, the ratio of staff of students was 1:12. Today it is 1:17. This is an increase in workloads (a 'productivity gain') of 42%.
- Since 1988, casual, part-time, and temporary work has increased, impacting particularly on women.

Market-driven higher education will make this worse, as the science reforms show. Since science was restructured in 1992:

- Turnover in crown research institutes has increased by more than 61%. Of remaining staff,

fewer are permanent employees.

- Only 15% of CRI scientists believe the reforms have delivered the promised benefits. Just one in four would encourage young people to take up a career in science or engineering.

The market model does not work in higher education.

A failed experiment could cost your job

HIRE EDUCATION

- **A New and Lucrative Field for Your Investment Dollar!**

That sales pitch may be coming sooner than you think. Despite overwhelming evidence that the market model has failed in other fields such as health, the government has decided to restructure universities along market lines. This will mean:

- * universities run as businesses instead of places for public education;
- * students become consumers who use their vouchers to buy education, possibly overseas;
- * public and private education providers compete for the consumer (student) dollar;



- * private providers strip out profitable areas of higher education;
- * universities have to cut corners and quality, or charge higher fees;
- * universities are run by boards of business people instead of elected councils;
- * research is governed by what the market will pay for;
- * staff conditions of employment come under more pressure; and
- * academic freedom is jeopardised as universities protect their 'corporate identities' and incomes.

Focus on Srilanka

“United Nations, Sovereignty and Human Rights”

(Reproduced from Daily News.lk, 10th October, 2007 (Extracts))

Under the multilateral vision, the human rights special procedures mechanisms such as Special Rapporteurs were created to exercise a protection or monitoring function from outside the country with due respect for State sovereignty.

Attempts by the United States and its allies to instrumentalise the United Nations in this field is not new within the United Nations, the process began with the creation of the highly politicised Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and restructuring of the former Centre for Human Rights. The Centre functioned as a secretariat to service the human rights multilateral organ - the Commission on Human Rights and to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Governments - at their request - to establish or strengthen national institutions to carry out protection functions.

An insidious transformation is taking place within that Office turning it into an instrument of direct intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States through a rapidly growing implantation of field offices essentially staffed by individuals paid by rich donor countries or private institutions. **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has effectively turned into an intelligence-gathering arm in the name of “humanitarian intervention;”**

More than 60 years after the founding of the United Nations, the United States and its partners want to substitute for the common vision held by peoples and States emerging from the victory over fascism, a unilateral and grotesque interpretation of the threats and challenges faced by the world, and actions that must be taken. Member States are being pressured to adopt “a new security consensus that whatever threatens one threatens all,” and accept that “threats which each region of the world perceives as most urgent are in fact equally so for all.”

Under the guise of “freeing the world from want,” the Western powers are seeking to legitimise the imposition of conditionalities on poor and weaker developing countries so as to force upon them the single economic model thereby accelerating the process of capitalist globalisation with the accompanying devastation that we are witnessing. Developing countries are pressured to strengthen so-called ‘governance,’ combat corruption, reduce the State role in the economy and society except those that stimulate private investment, increase the role of the private sector and civil society, provide legal and other guarantees for their activities, including

property rights: conditions that already form part and parcel of the controversial structural adjustment programmes of the rich countries and their notorious international financial institutions. In return, the rich countries will reward developing countries with “increased development assistance, a more development-oriented trade system and wider and deeper debt relief.”

Thirty-seven years ago, the Declaration on principles of international law friendly relations and co-operation among States, which further defined the Charter of the United Nations, proclaimed that “States have the duty to co-operate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in order to maintain international peace and security and to promote international economic stability and progress, the general welfare of nations and international co-operation free from discrimination based on such differences.” Today, instead of cooperation between sovereign States, unilateral humanitarian intervention often under cover of the United Nations - in the name of defence of human rights has become the rule.

From now on, regional arrangements will be replaced by the tenebrous “international community or relevant regional actors and organisations,” with the right to intervene wherever and whenever in accordance with a political agenda. From now on, local disputes will be replaced by “whatever threatens one threatens all”. From now on, pacific settlement will be replaced by “other methods or the full range of available instruments” Member States and the United Nations will be reduced to less than nothing.

If we should allow victory of unilateralism over multilateralism, NATO intervention against former Yugoslavia, the armed US aggression against Afghanistan, its aggression and occupation of Iraq will retroactively gain legitimacy. So will the establishment by the Security Council of ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, of which Louise Arbour was the Prosecutor! All that is illegal will become legal; Lies will become truth.

Will Sri Lanka become another target?

Accepting the opening of a United Nations human rights field office in Sri Lanka will be accepting a project which is, in essence, a diabolical one.

SOME (LATE) CONDOLENCES ON COM. KLM

(i) From Montreuil

H. MAHADEVAN
Secrétaire Général Adjoint
Responsable de la région Asie pour la FSM
Email : wftuasiapacific@vsnl.net

Chers Camarades,

Le Comité Exécutif de notre Union Internationale c'est déroulé les 2, 3 et 4 octobre 2007 à Hanoi (Vietnam) à l'invitation du Syndicat CGTV des travailleurs de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural du Vietnam.

Cette réunion a été très positive dans sa préparation, son déroulement et les décisions qui ont été prises.

Nous avons tenu à rendre un hommage officiel et fraternel à notre Camarade K. L. MAHENDRA, Président de la FSM et Secrétaire Général du Syndicat AITUC de l'Inde, décédé courant août de cette année.

C'est avec beaucoup d'émotion que notre Comité Exécutif a salué la mémoire de ce grand militant syndical et politique de la cause des travailleurs de l'Inde et du monde.

Notre Comité Exécutif a salué son engagement et son dévouement, son attachement et son combat pour faire vivre le mouvement syndical de classe, son intelligence au service de la lutte des classes ouvrières et des peuples, son humanisme au contact des militants et militantes. Une minute de silence a été observée par l'ensemble des membres à sa mémoire.

Nous tenons à vous exprimer une nouvelle fois toutes nos condoléances et notre solidarité

Recevez, Chers Camarades, nos salutations fraternelles.

Pour la Fédération :
Freddy HUCK
Président du Bureau

(ii) From Cuba, City of Havana, October 25, 2007

Comrade H. Mahadevan
Deputy General Secretary &
In charge WFTU Asia-Pacific Region

Esteemed Comrade Mahadevan,

Receive a warm greeting from our trade union central.

Regrettably, we only knew through the WFTU press release dated on August 13th, 2007 that you sent to us about the death of our dear comrade K.L. Mahendra.

We didn't know on time this sad news and that's why we take advantage of this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to all comrades and relatives on this loss, on behalf of all Cuban workers and the national leadership of the CTC.

Comrade Mahendra devoted long time of his life to struggles in defense of Indian workers and through WFTU in defense of workers around the world. He was an honorable example of trade union leader and politician and a great friend of the Cuban Revolution and its trade union movement.

In the course of carrying out his duties as the President of WFTU he contributed to the strengthening of this organization, to improve its prestige and to unite international proletariat.

Please, receive this message with the same feeling we send it, for a man whose image and thought will be remembered by all those who fights for a better world, for peace, solidarity, unity, justice, and fraternity among workers around the world.

Yours Fraternally,

Dr. Raymundo Mirel Navarro Fernández
Secretary for Foreign Affairs
National CTC