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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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COMMENTS

International Trade Union Conference of Working Women, Brussels, September 13-14, 2007



The Conference was attended by 95 delegates from 62 countries representing 80 trade union organizations and its works ended with great success. Participants denounced the attacks of capital, corporates, cartels on the rights of unions and violations of labour rights.

Delegates called upon all women militants of the world to act jointly with men inside trade unions, to resist the capitalist globalisation, imperialist wars, destruction of environment and to demand trade union and democratic freedoms.

WFTU demands cancellation of debt for the poor countries of Africa-Asia-Latin America

For the WFTU, the eradication of poverty is an immediate and common objective for action by all the world's workers and trade unions. This common action can begin with the imperative that all trade unions demand that all debts of all poor countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to be cancelled now!

We call upon trade unions of the world to make this demand for the cancellation of debt and to globalise our struggles at a national and international level.

The World's richest people: the billionaires

It's been a busy year in the fortune-hunting business...

The 20 richest people in the world come from 11 nations and are worth \$537 billion.

India is now the Asia Pacific nation with the most ten-figure fortunes. It has 36 billionaires, worth \$191 billion. Approximately 1,5 million children die each year before reaching their first birthday and another 3/4 die before the age of 5 because of poverty, malnutrition of their mothers, diseases, lack of immunization and sanitation.

In Mexico, one of poorer countries in the Americas, Carlos Slim Helu fortune is \$50 billion. His wealth comes to 6.3% of Mexico's annual economic output. 20 million people in Mexico live on less than two dollars a day. Sixty million people, half the Mexican population, live in poverty, and 20 million of them live in extreme poverty. Most of the time, garbage is their food, and some days, they eat nothing.

October 17, 2007 : Day of Mass Demonstration by CGTP-IN Portugal

Thousands of workers protested in Lisbon during the EU Summit of Heads of State and Government demanding a change of policies, for a social Europe and jobs with rights. Workers voice was raised against flexicurity demanding full employment and social justice.

Congress of T.U.I. Energy : Mexico, Sept. 26-28, 2007

The Congress was attended by 56 trade union organisations representing 27 countries of the world, in total 208 delegates. The works ended successfully and the membership of the TUI was tripled.

Energy branch trade unions were mobilized to work together united and coordinated proposing action plans and alternative solution for the energy sector problems through mass struggle. The election of CITU India, a WFTU friendly organisation, as President is practically promoting unity and determination to successfully respond to workers expectations.



Around the World

COMMENTS

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50 million uninsured

According to US Statistic Service, 1/3 of citizens less than 65 years was uninsured between 2006-2007.

The "Families of USA" organisation elaborated a survey reporting that 89,6 million people, that is the 35% of the total US population was uninsured for more than nine months. The higher rate, 45%, is located in Texas.

Bogota: reporter in danger

Heraldo Gigien, reporter of Miami newspaper had to leave Colombia. His life was threatened because of a book he wrote revealing the role and contacts of Alvaro Uribe, Colombia's President with cartels of drugs and extreme-right paramilitary organisations.

It is known already that 14 people (deputies, senators and politicians) who were close to Uribe are now in prison due to their relations with paramilitary organisations.

" Bank of the South"

It was a joint decision of Venezuela, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay to decide the foundation of "South Bank". Its seat will be in Caracas and the initial capital will be \$7billion. The role of the Bank in Latin American countries is expected to be important.

A new anti-Cuban farce

The CTC of Cuba has denounced the ITUC (ICFTU) for slanders against the Cuban Revolution. The CTC has described the ITUC as "a servant of Mr Bush". It is obvious that the ITUC has changed only its name, still preserving the same mentality. The mentality and history of the ICFTU..."

The new WFTU website !

Preparations for the new, easy to use and rich in context WFTU Website are in the finishing stretch. Our technicians are constantly working on this and we estimate that the renewed website will be online from next month.

25th Congress GFTU Syria Damascus, 16-20/11/2007

The GFTU Syria is holding its Congress in a time of major importance for the working class of the country and the wider area.

Demanding the deliberation of Syrian Golan and peace in Middle East, the Resolution of the Congress will send a strong message of unity and struggle.

W.F.T.U. Asia Pacific Regional Meeting New Delhi, 28-29/11/2007

In a two days meeting among affiliates and friends in the region of Asia Pacific, the labor situation will be examined and analysed.

The working class and trade union movement in all countries of the region is facing many challenges and the role of the class-oriented trade union movement is upgraded.

The WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos will participate in the meeting.

Congress of T.U.I. Transport Brazil December 10-11, 2007

The present and future of workers in transport branch sectors, their problems and the position of class oriented trade unions are going to be determined in the forthcoming Congress in Belo Horizonte Brazil, hosted by Corrente Sindical Classista.

Protest to ILO

The WFTU General Secretary has forwarded two letters of protest to the ILO Director General Juan Somavia, criticizing his lack of objectivity towards the WFTU and its affiliates.

The WFTU has a long history and should be respected by everyone.