OFFICIAL INVITATION
to 17th World Trade Union Congress
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA – 5-8 OCTOBER 2016
Struggle - Internationalism - Unity

Forward! For the attainment of the contemporary needs of the working class against poverty and wars generated by capitalist barbarism

The World Federation of Trade Unions is honored to invite your Organization to be represented at the 17th World Trade Union Congress which will take place in Durban, South Africa on 5-8 October 2016.

At a time when the International Working Class is adversely affected by:

• The International Capitalist Crisis,
• The inter-imperialist contradictions that generate new wars and conflicts,
• The reconstruction of the political sphere,
• The struggle of the working class and the toiling masses worldwide, the working class needs stronger, more dynamic, more mass based, more class oriented, trade union movement, Trade unions with deep and stable roots within the industries, within the multinationals and within all sectors, to defend its rights and demand “the attainment of its contemporary needs against poverty and wars generated by capitalist barbarism”. We move “Forward” with struggle, internationalism and unity.

The WFTU is organizing an open, democratic, class-oriented and internationalist Congress
in the heroic land of South Africa. South Africa was chosen as the host of the 17th Congress in recognition and respect of the heroic land of South Africa and the expression of Internationalist Solidarity with the people of the entire African Continent.

South Africa, the land of the heroic liberation and anti-apartheid struggle, the land of the militant and heroic SACTU, the land of Moses Mabhida, J.B Marks, Mark Shope and thousands of other known and unknown fighters, the land of the heroic South African working class is ready to whole-heartedly welcome the 17th Congress delegates that will arrive from all around the world to discuss and resolute:


2) Report on Finances

3) The Plan of Action for 2016-2020

4) The Election of the Leadership of WFTU.

According to the Resolution of the Presidential Council, each organization is entitled to a specific number of Voting Delegates based on their membership:

a. Trade Unions with up to 100,000 members – 2 delegates

b. Trade Unions with 100,000 to 1 million members – 4 delegates

c. Trade Unions with 1 to 3 million members – 6 delegates

d. Trade Unions with 3 to 6 million members – 8 delegates

e. Trade Unions with more than 6 million members – 10 delegates

f. Each TUI should have 3 delegates

Registrations for the Congress open on May 1st 2016.

Please send us the name and surname of your delegates and their Passport Copies at the emails: info@wftucentral.org and international@wftucentral.org

Ticket arrangements should be sent as soon as possible.

International Air Transport must be covered by the participants themselves.
All delegates should arrive on 4 October 2016 and depart on 9 October 2016.

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Opening of the Presidential Council Session

Welcoming Speech by the WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos (Extracts)

Dear comrade Dang Ngoc Tung, President of VGCL Vietnam,

Dear comrades members of the Executive Committee of VGCL Vietnam,

Dear comrades brothers and sisters,

I am happy to welcome you to the Session of the Presidential Council which is taking place in Hanoi, Vietnam. A Session which has been exceptionally prepared by the leadership and the cadres of VGCL. Allow me at this point, on behalf of the WFTU entire leadership to express our cordial thanks to the VGCL leadership and cadres of the International Department for the excellent preparation of the WFTU 2016 presidential council and total program. The daily communication with the WFTU Head Office, the cooperation with the Vietnam Embassies and Consulates abroad have lead us to today’s successful meeting. I cease the opportunity to express our thanks to the VGCL for its stable support annually, in all aspects, morally, financially by paying their fees in annual basis and materially.

With this Session, here from Vietnam, we officially start our journey towards the 17th World Trade Union Congress which will take place in South Africa. Joining us in this PC Session is a large delegation from COSATU to present to us the preparations they have made so far for the organizing of the Congress. The proposed dates for the Congress are 5-8 October 2016.

The journey of the 17th World Trade Union Congress begins here from the historical ground of Vietnam, were thousands of determined people fought against imperialism, sacrificing their lives for the better future of humanity. We honor the great leader of the Vietnamese people, Ho Chi Minh and his comrades in the Communist Party of Vietnam who layed the ground for an independent, autonomous, socialist state. The foundation of the Socialist Democracy of Vietnam 70 years ago with
the defeat of fascism and Nazism had a great historic importance and opened a new era of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist victorious struggles. To the people who struggled in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America, to the people who shed their blood for freedom and national liberation, the WFTU extended full solidarity and stood on their side every minute of this struggle. From country to country, from struggle to struggle, there are hundreds of pages of books and historical references demonstrating how the internationalist solidarity took shape, strengthened the struggle in national level, put pressure on the International Organizations and the Governments, exposed the plots of imperialism and organized the international movement of solidarity with the people and the workers in struggle achievement of their objectives.

In the previous decades the Socialist Democracy of Vietnam made great steps of progress in the field of economy, culture, for the improvement of the livelihood and the cultural level of its people. We are following closely this course of progress and we wish that it will continue to improve the daily life of the ordinary people. In this course the WFTU is steadfastly on the side of our comrades in Vietnam.

I wish all success to the works of the Presidential Council Session. We will discuss many and important topics as we always do with full freedom of speech, democracy, collectivism and responsibility.

The WFTU Presidential Council met with the President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam

In the framework of the Annual Presidential Council meeting the WFTU Delegation headed by the WFTU General Secretary met with the President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Trương Tấn Sang.
Dear brothers, dear comrades,

On this great occasion of your National Congress, I am happy to be amongst you. To celebrate this glorious day with you and to convey to you the warm fraternal red salute from the workers of world who are represented by the World Federation of Trade Unions today: 92 million workers in 126 countries.

May your congress be successful, equivalent to the heroic history of AITUC, the mother of the Indian class-oriented trade union movement. May your congress be successful for the benefit of the working class of India, for the unity of the class-oriented trade union movement in India, for the betterment of the working people in Asia-Pacific and Internationally. We express our solidarity to the struggle of the Indian working class and we fully back the Charter of demands for the betterment of the workers lives in India. The completion of the 95 years of AITUC is a glorious anniversary full of heroic struggles for the workers’ rights and for the country’s freedom. AITUC has been playing a leading role in forging united struggles in India against neo-liberal economic policies and continuous to do so today with pivotal contribution to the massive General Strikes and Demonstrations that have send a strong message nationally and worldwide.

Since the foundation of the WFTU in 1945, AITUC has been an integral part of the WFTU class-oriented family and AITUC leaders have played important role and held important positions in WFTU leadership. Leaders like comrade S A Dange, Com
Indrajit Gupta, Com. K.L. Mahendra have been historic leaders of WFTU forming the unity of the class-oriented trade union movement worldwide.

Now Com Mahadevan is the Dy. General Secretary and Head of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Com C H Venkatachalam of AIBEA is in charge of TUIBIFU and is also president of Finance Control Commission.

Your Congress is correctly analyzing the world we live in today and the conditions in which the workers struggle takes place. In these times the International Working Class is affected by:

- **The International Capitalist Crisis.**

  A crisis which grows the competition between the monopolies and forces the implementation of anti-labour and anti-peoples policies. This way they want to make the working class pay for the crisis of capitalism. A crisis they did not creat. The labour, social and trade union rights are under attack. Privatizations and extreme unemployment rate. The quality of life is degrading.

- **The inter-imperialist contradictions that generate new wars and conflicts.**

  For the control of natural resources, markets, roads of transport of goods and the control of new territories, the competition between the imperialist forces and their satellites is being intensified day by day generating new wars, conflicts and interventions in various countries. The misery and poverty generated by the imperialist wars can be witnessed in Syria, in Libya, in Iraq, in Ukraine.

- **The struggle of the working class and the people strata worldwide.**

  Struggles unfolded in all parts of the world during the past years. Many of them great and heroic had to deal with the brutal response of authorities and the capitalists who responded to the fair struggle with arrests, imprisonments of militants and even murder of trade unionists. The workers struggle against the anti-labor and neoliberal anti-people policies is the positive perspective that can open new roads for the reconstruction of the trade union movement. The working class needs stronger, more dynamic, more mass, more class-oriented, trade union movement, Trade unions with deep and stable roots within the industries, within the multinationals and within all sectors, to defend its rights and demand “the satisfaction of its contemporary needs against poverty and wars generated by Capitalism”. To move “Forward” with militancy, internationalism and unity.

In these conditions, the WFTU is moving forward in an upward course. We hold the wheel steady, making steps to meet the demands of our times, we defend the demands of the working class and the popular strata. we strengthen the class-oriented characteristics of our Organization, we build our Organizational pillars regionally and sectorally, we empower the internationalist, democratic and collective spirit of WFTU, supporting the unity and the coordination of the class-oriented trade union movement by promoting the action
and the presence of the WFTU across the world. International Action Days have been organized successfully in dozens of countries to demand the workers rights for the protection of the unemployed, for stable work, for food, water, books, medicine, housing for all.

The 70th Anniversary of the WFTU has been celebrated internationally honoring the contribution of WFTU to the national struggles against colonialism, apartheid, imperialism and for workers rights throughout the years. Trade Union training programs, seminars, workshops, trade union schools are been organized in numbers strengthening the militant capacity and class-oriented understanding of our trade unionists.

The role of AITUC in this new upward course, the support of AITUC to WFTU is crucial and vital. As WFTU expands and meets new goals, more efforts has to be made from all of us, to meet the expectations of the workers and of our times today. I am in the happy position to announce to you, that the 17th World Trade Union Congress will be organized this year on 5-8 October 2016 in Durban of South Africa under the slogan: “Forward: For the attainment of the contemporary needs of the working class against poverty and wars generated by capitalist barbarism” Forward! With struggle, Internationalism, Class Unity!

Long live AITUC! Long live WFTU! Long live the Indian working class! Long live the International Working class Unity!
Dear friends and comrades, brothers & sisters,
On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions I convey my best wishes and fraternal greetings to your important Congress for its resounding success in fully protecting all interest of the Working Class of Greece.

I come from India, as I represent the All India Trade Union Congress –AITUC- which has 14 million (14.000.000) members and democratic as yours, and this year celebrated 95 years since its foundation in 1920. AITUC is the mother of the trade union movement in India since it was the first national level trade union Organization of the working class in India. AITUC is also a founding member of the WFTU. There in the founding Congress of the WFTU in Paris in 1945 it was for the first time that AITUC and GSEE leaders met since both our Organizations played a decisive role in the 1st World Trade Union Congress.

With these few words I want to share with you about our proud and worthfull, exemplary history of the past.

Today, the WFTU reaffirms and expresses its solidarity and proletarian internationalism towards the working class, our class allies, the poor farmers, the youth besides in particular the people of Greece who are under the anti-labour onslaught orchestrated by the IMF, the European Union, the Greek Governments and the bourgeoisie of Greece.

On behalf of the WFTU, allow me to congratulate the common Greek men and women in the islands and cities of Greece who show such humanitarianism, such great feelings of solidarity and sympathy to the refugees and migrant workers. For the class-oriented trade union movement it is clear that the European Union, the USA and their allies are just hypocrates. They pretend to care about the migrants and refugees while they are the ones who drove them to abandon their homelands because of the imperialist intervention and wars. The refugees and migrants abandon their homes by force because of the bombs, the deaths, the rapes that are utilized to form new boarders,
new markets, new targets of control. Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Mali, amongst others, fully experienced the imperialist barbarity and the consequences of the imperialist competitiveness which ultimately draw them to the present unacceptable inhuman situation. Our position is that all foreign armies must leave the territory; that the NATO to be dissolved. The people should decide by themselves, freely and democratically their present and future.

In our country in India the problems for the toiling people are multifarious. Unemployment, poverty, souring prices of essential goods, homelessness. 200 thousand (200.000) are the suicides of poor farmers and indebted agricultural people in India. Against this situation we organized many united struggles. Most recently, the great general strike organized along with other trade unions on 2nd September 2015 wherein around the country more than 170 million (170.000.000) working people participated in India.

A few days ago on the 26-28 February, my premier Organization of the Indian working class, AITUC held its National Congress in the city of Coimbatore in South India. 3 thousand (3.000) elected delegates from the lengths and breadths of our country representing 14 million members participated. In this Congress we had the proud privilege and joy of having amongst us the General Secretary of the WFTU, comrade George Mavrikos who was previously General Secretary of GSEE. We were immensely inspired by the participation of the General Secretary of WFTU.

Beloved Friends and comrades,

We wish you all the best to your historic Congress and your glorious struggles. We will continue to be on your side.

Thank you,

“INQUILAB ZINDABAD (LONG LIVE REVOLUTION)!
LONG LIVE GREEK WORKERS!
WORKING CLASS UNITY LONG LIVE!”
We live today in Brazil a very serious political situation. We are facing a fierce coup offensive carried out by conservative forces, whose main targets are President Dilma Rousseff and former President Luiz Inacio da Silva, most popular leader in our history. Behind this movement, one can find the powerful hidden forces often working in the shadows including the US imperialism. It also operates in Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and other Latin American and Caribbean countries with the purpose of reversing the geopolitical change of the continent marked by the rejection of the FTAA, the creation of CELAC- Community of Latin American and Caribbean countries, UNASUR- Union of South American Nations and ALBA-Alliance of the People, in order to restore its hegemony.

Those responsible for the political coup, led by the PSDB (right wing party), have strong support in sectors of the judiciary power and the Federal Police Power along with the shameless complicity of the media under the leadership of the Globo broadcaster, evil offspring of the military regime. Under the banner of a false moralism and acting as “justice makers” on the sidelines of the Constitution, trampling fundamental rights, the pro coup actors have transformed the lavajato operation (investigation in Petrobras) as an instrument to destroy the PT (Workers’ Party), in order to overthrow the Dilma government, to humiliate and if possible arrest the former President Lula, who a few days ago was the victim of an illegal and authoritarian forceful arrest. One must be aware that the target is not only Lula and Dilma, but the nation, whose sovereignty is already being compromised by those who support the coup (as indicated by the Serra project on the privatization pre-salt deposit). The Brazilian working class and union movements are and certainly will be the main victims of the reactionary onslaught.

At this time our greatest challenge is to enlighten the conscience of the people with the deepest reality of the facts, which is far from coinciding with the manipulated, exploited appearances by the capitalist media. It is imperative to intensify the awareness campaign and mobilization of the working class on the basis of our unions, to clarify the Brazilian people about the real interests and actors involved in the political game, denounce and unmask the lies of the bourgeois media and win the battle of the streets, that became a decisive arena of the class struggle. It’s time for total mobilization against the retrocession and the coup in defense of democracy, national sovereignty and the appreciation of the work.
Japan’s youth demand substantial increase in minimum wage
A group of students and young people called “AEQUITAS” took to the street in the busiest district of Shinjuku in Tokyo on March 14, demanding an increase in minimum hourly wages to 1,500 yen. Representatives of the Japanese Communist Party and other opposite parties delivered speeches in solidarity.

Union workers hold street campaign for higher wages
Members of the National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren) took to the streets near Tokyo Station to increase public support for their calls for a monthly pay increase over 20,000 yen and an increase of over 150 yen in hourly wages.

Zhanartu-Kazakhstan Delegation visits WFTU Central Offices in Athens, Greece
21 Mar 2016
ASIA, KAZAKHSTAN, ZHANARTUA
dedication of Zhanartu-Kazakhstan met with the WFTU General Secretary, Comrade George Mavrikos, and discussed about the political situation and the class oriented trade union movement in Kazakhstan. The WFTU General Secretary extended the solidarity of the 92 million workers in 126 countries of the world, affiliated to WFTU, with the working class of Kazakhstan against the anti-labour measures of the Government.

TWO MILLION WORKERS NEED $30 WEEK INCREASE TO AVOID US-STYLE WORKING POOR.
The Australian Council of Trade Unions is calling for a $30 a week increase in the minimum wage to $686.90 per week or $18.08 per hour. In its submission to the Fair Work Commission’s Annual Wage Review, the ACTU sees minimum wage levels which are still stubbornly low at 43.8 per cent of average weekly full time earnings, up only slightly on last year’s record low of 43.4 per cent.

This is despite labour productivity continuing to grow faster than wages, which means Australians are working harder for less reward. The impact shrinking wages is having on inequality is significant, with fears Australia is seeing an increasing underclass of working poor.

Meanwhile, other key economic indicators are positive. Australian economic growth of 3.0 per cent in the past 12 months outpaced most OECD countries and FWC data shows that business bankruptcy rates are at a record low while the number of business overall grew by 1.0 per cent in 2014-15.

Hard working Australians on the minimum wage have earned a $30 pay rise and the government should join Unions to urge the Fair Work Commission to award the ACTU’s claim to protect the living standards of almost two million Australians.
Key facts on minimum wage earners:

- There are 1.86 million Australians who earn the minimum wage - that’s nearly one in five workers.

- Minimum wage workers are mostly women (57.5 per cent) and are typically younger than the workforce as a whole (average age of minimum wage worker is 35.7 while average age of all workers is 39.5).

More than one million minimum wage workers come from just three occupations: community/personal service workers, sales workers and labourers.

- Over half of all hospitality workers, cleaners and laundry workers are reliant on the minimum wage.

- Compared to all workers, minimum wage workers are more likely to work part time or be casual.

Global unemployment to rise by 3.4 million in two years, report says

International Labour Organization predicts joblessness will surpass 200 million by end of 2017 for the first time on record

**Sean Farrell**
Tuesday 19 January 2016 21.00 GMT

More than 3 million people will become unemployed worldwide in the next two years, making existing jobs vulnerable and fuelling potential social unrest as the global economy slows, a report warns. The International Labour Organization predicts unemployment will rise by about 2.3 million this year to 199.4 million, and that 1.1 million will be added to the global count in 2017, taking joblessness to more than 200 million for the first time on record.

The ILO, a UN agency focused on labour standards and social protection, said the effects of last year’s economic slowdown would play out in higher unemployment in 2016, particularly in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Developing markets in those areas will bear the brunt of increased joblessness after the prices of oil and other commodities tumbled in response to slowing growth, the ILO said in its World Employment and Social Outlook report for 2016. The ILO released the forecasts as the global financial elite gathered in the Swiss ski resort of Davos for the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting. The event takes place as oil prices hover near 13-year lows below $30 a barrel, share prices tumble and analysts try to determine the impact of China’s slowing economy.

Raymond Torres, one of the report’s authors, said market turmoil at the start of 2016 meant his already gloomy predictions could prove overoptimistic.

The International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecast on Tuesday.
THE GREAT MARCH AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

The Great March Against Unemployment continues! The great 220km march is an initiative of the City of Patras under the slogan “Jobs for All, Jobs With Rights!” The march started on Sunday April 3rd and is to reach Athens on Sunday, April 10 with a big rally and concert organized by the Musicians National Union, with the participation and support by the trade unions, federations and people’s associations and organizations.

This initiative has met international support and solidarity from the World Federation of Trade Unions, unions and federations from many countries.

Demonstration of Solidarity With the Refugees PAME held a militant demonstration on Friday, April 1st to condemn the law of the SYRIZA Government on the Refugee Situation, which imposes the EU-Turkey Agreement and will lead to trapping of thousands of refugees in Greece.

It will escalate oppression against the refugees and turn Greece into a huge “prison”, as the Agreement considers the refugees as “illegal” and thus, it imprisons them. PAME and the class unions of Athens, organized the demonstration under the slogan, “Murderers-Thieves-Hypocrites Are the European Imperialists”, “NATO Out of the Aegean Sea” and “Immediate Measures for Support and Relief of the Refugees”.

At the same time the class unions and people’s committees continue their daily, material support to the refugees, all over Greece.

Athens, April 4, 2016
INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND WORKERS

Support for the fight against the Israeli occupation and for the rights of Palestinian workers working in Israel, support for the GUPW. These are the main themes of the International Meeting of Solidarity with Palestine by the USB and the WFTU, which took place Saturday, 12 in Milan. Confronted with Mohammed Yahya, on behalf of the General Union of Palestinian Workers, the WFTU Palestinian Union affiliated, there were Olga Koliusi of Greece, Mathieu Devch of the CGT’s PAME of France, Bassam Saleh of the Committee Whit Palestine in the heart, Cinzia Della Porta USB International Department, Pierpaolo Leonardi and killings. The unemployment rate is high and employment is characterized by low salaries and heavy working conditions. The scenario is war, infernal mechanism war-exodus-exploitation, instrumental in creating an industrial reserve army at the service of a systemic crisis, capitalism and the role of the European Union, the United States imperialist pole construction, and Nato. The focus of the discussion was how support for the BDS campaign-boycott, divestment, sanctions—strongly supported by GUPW and instead opposed by the other Palestinian Trade Union affiliated with the ITUC -International Trade Union Confederation, (the former CISL International) now thematic maps. The USB has declared itself willing to invest the body of the Organization and the categories of the countryside and to support actively the GUPW both in Palestine than in Italy. Other guest of CGT and PAME have also intervened to strengthen the friendship and the common tie Trade Union stressing the importance of adherence to the WFTU and launching the next WFTU World Congress in October in South Africa where international solidarity will be one of the topics at the Centre of the work. USB international department

on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).
The need to return to the spotlight the Palestinian question has been well addressed in opening remarks by Riccardo Germani of Lombardy USB hosted the event.
Mohammed Yahya told not only about how severe the escalation of the aggression of the Government and of Israeli troops but also how many problems they face every day the Palestinian workers, especially those forced everyday to go to work for Israelis and forced to undergo humiliating lines at check point that often result in abuse, violence, arbitrary arrests

FLASHES from WFTU, April 2016

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APRIL 4: STRUGGLE AGAINST PRIVATISATION GOES GLOBAL

In many countries and in all continents a lot of class oriented trade unions, members of the World Federation of Trade Unions, responded positively to the appeal launched by TUI Public Service S & Allied for an international day of fight against privatization.

Rallies, demonstrations, meetings, Sit-in, debates have animated this day across Europe but also in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The fight against privatizations is directly fight against capital and transnational corporations that want to get their hands on each country’s strategic sectors, from energy to water, from transport to health and education.

With these initiatives now we began to give a unity answer. From today we are stronger in each country to keep fighting.
Events Held to Mark March 8 International Women’s Day

i) In DPR Korea

National Meeting Held to Mark 106th International Women’s Day

A national meeting took place at the People’s Palace of Culture on Tuesday to mark the 106th March 8 International Women’s Day. Present there were Choe Ryong Hae, Yang Hyong Sop, and officials concerned, women officials and members of the women’s union here. Present there on invitation were overseas Korean women, women of foreign embassies and missions of the international organizations here and foreign guests. Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK), made a report. He said that in the more than one century since the March 8 International Women’s Day was instituted, world progressive women have struggled for genuine peace, democracy, true rights and dignity of women and a great advance has been made in the development of the world women’s movement. The Korean women’s movement started and has recorded a history of victory along with the glorious course of the Korean revolution under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il. Today the Korean women’s movement is greeting a new heyday in its development under the leadership of Marshal Kim Jong Un. The women should make positive contributions to ushering in the greatest heyday of building a thriving socialist nation and building a reunified power, dignified and prosperous, on this land.

Sports Games Held to Mark International Women’s Day

Sports games of housewives across the country took place at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium from March 5 to 7 to mark the 106th anniversary of the March 8 International Women’s Day. The games brought together at least 360 players selected from here and each province.

Central Committee
General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea

ii) In Quetta (Pakistan)

All Pakistan Labour Federation (APLF) and Balochistan Federation of Trade Unions (BFTU) celebrated International Woman Day 8 March 2016/ labour Conference at Quetta Pakistan. The Programe was chaired by Mr. Sultan Muhammad Khan, President APLF and various trade unions leaders, civil societies members, labour leaders particularly female workers. During the programme of brief summary of women international day and their rights were discussed and said that the 1st international women day was held/celebrated on 19th March 1911, where 100 of demonstration were held in all over the world such as Australia, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland where more then a million people gathered, during these demonstration the importance of this day was highlighted. The people supported the women rights and demand for fixation of a day so that the people may get educated about the rights of women particularly women workers. In response of such huge demonstration the United Nation Organization on 1975 fixed 8th March for “International Women Day”. Hence this day is celebrated all over the globe as International Women Day. In This day in most of the countries celebrates this day and they initiate various workshops seminars, workshops, conferences and rally to highlight and educate the people about women rights.
iii) In Lahore, Pakistan

WFTU Pakistani Affiliates Federation Jointly Organized a National Seminar on International Women day on 8th March at National Hotel Lahore Pakistan

While addressing the National Seminar on the occasion of International Women Day Haji Muhammad Saeed Arian Founder/Secretary General (PLF) Said that No Economical revolution without empowering women and giving them due rights and space to play their crucial role. He was addressing the National Seminar jointly organized by WFTU Affiliates (PNFTU) (PLF) (PTUWF). A large number of representatives of Trade Unions attended the seminar. Mrs. Atia Saleem Said that it had been difficult for women in Pakistan to unlock their potential and fully contribute to the country’s development due to multiple reasons, including non-conducive work environment for them. She said that the Law against Sexual harassment passed in 2010 provides Legal protection to working women against Sexual harassment at workplace. Ch Tariq Javaid President (PTUWF) said that Now the women had the right to approach mandatory inquiry committees in their respective organizations or directly the Women Ombudsperson in case of violation of their right to a harassment-free workplace. Malik Ali Umar Awan President (PNFTU) said that regardless of the economic and social compulsions to earn income, women faced many hurdles while moving outside their homes. He said that They faced harassment and felt insecure on the streets, at public places, in the buses and at workplaces. Mrs. Samia Gul Khan, Mrs Rashda Butt, Mrs. Malik Shakeela, Mrs. Bushra Iqbal, said that practices like staring, passing remarks, abuse of authority for Sexual favors were common in our society, which discouraged women to join the Labour Unions. They said that WFTU was committed to remove all barriers to women development in all over the World and to empower women and make them feel secure at workplace. They said that the aim of WFTU to educate masses, especially women, on protection against sexual harassment at workplace. (Malik Ali Umar Awan)
President (PNFTU).

Rally Against Racism & Fascism: April 3
Published 29 March 2016

An anti-racism rally has been organised in Melbourne Victoria on Sunday April 3. The rally is in response to the concerted effort by far right and fascist forces to organise and become a serious political movement in Australia. History shows that in times of economic crisis, far right and fascist groups are encouraged by sections of the ruling class to target activists and minorities. Labour groups and unions have historically been one of the main targets of fascism. Workers’ organisations represent the strongest force that can defeat fascism and the politics of austerity and exploitation.

Forced labour common for Hong Kong domestic workers
Published 29 March 2016

The city of Hong Kong has around 300,000 domestic workers, mainly women from Indonesia and the Philippines. A new report has found that the working conditions for many of them are still very oppressive, with as many as 50,000 of them working in conditions of forced labour. Unfortunately this is a problem that has been existed for some years, and only through the right of residency and the ability to join unions, will conditions improve for these workers.
Malaysian police shuts down Marxism course
Published 22 March 2016
The Malaysian police have shut down a Marxism course organised by the Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM), in a new escalation of state repression. The police cited reasons of public safety and violence as the reasons to shut down the course, and alleged that they had received complaints about it. The PSM believes political opponents are behind the complaints, and has issued a public statement. This attack on political organising is not new in Malaysia, and demonstrates yet another reason why we as workers must unite internationally against all forms of repression against our efforts to organise.

Ten Pakistani coal miners killed
Published 22 March 2016
In another sign of the savage exploitation that workers in Pakistan have to endure, 10 coal miners were recently killed in a methane gas explosion. The disaster happened in Al-Hussaini coal mine in Kyber Pakhtoonkhaw province. Subsequent bad weather and poor rescue equipment further hampered the rescue efforts. These deaths are only the latest in a series of disasters that point to the lack of health and safety conditions for Pakistani coal miners.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN QATAR VIOLATED: REPORT

New Delhi: DHNS: Migrant workers engaged in construction work at the World Cup football venue in Qatar are subjected to forced labour, an Amnesty International report claimed on Wednesday. These migrant workers, some from India, also face trouble while leaving the country, the report claimed. Workers claimed they were threatened by managers of companies hired for construction, not paid salaries on time and not given exit permit to leave Qatar, according to the report “The Ugly Side of the Beautiful Game: Exploitation of Migrant Workers on a Qatar 2022 World Cup Venue.”
The report, prepared after interviewing 234 workers over a period of one year, said that Amnesty International identified more than 100 migrant workers in 2015 employed on the Khalifa stadium who were being “subjected to human rights abuses by the companies” for which they worked.

The labour rights of migrant workers involved in landscaping green spaces surrounding Khalifa Stadium were being abused by their employer, it claimed. Amnesty also extensively quoted Indian workers describing their plight. 28 year old metal worker at Khalifa Stadium Hrishikes Hrishikes (name changed) told Amnesty team that he had not received salary for 10 months. “I just want the money still owed to me and then I want to return home to India. May manager says he will help me get a permit to leave the country. He said the company will pay for my airfare and give me 90 Riyals, nothing more."
I did not complain to any officials, who would I speak too? I am too scared the company will punish me.” Another worker Manoj upon completing his two-year contract in March 2015 asked his manager for an exit permit to return to India. However, the manager did not give him the exit permit and threatened him, saying: “I’ll tell you when you can leave. Get back to work, don’t make this request of me again.”

Nabeel, a metal worker from India explained how he was threatened by manager that he would not get his salary and would be prevented from changing employers or leaving the country, unless he kept working for the company.

“The manager threatened that if I do not continue working until the end of the contract in 2017, he would stop paying me and would refuse me an NOC or exit permit .... So I have to work until the end of my contract,” he said.
This National Convention of Workers organized by the Joint Platform of the Central Trade Unions (CTU) of the country along with Independent National Federations of employees of different Industries and Services congratulates the workers for the resounding historical success of the strike on 2nd September 2015 and also for their huge participation in the countrywide National Protest Day on 10th March 2016. This massive unity of the working people in the joint actions has to be further widened and strengthened in the process of struggle against the anti-worker, anti-people policies of Governments.

The Convention notes that attitude of the Govt is profoundly negative and hugely challenging to the working class. Despite readiness expressed by the CTUs through joint letter to the Govt after the 2nd September 2015 strike for commencement of dialogue on the 12 point charter of demands (CoD), the Govt did not respond at all thus arrogantly ignoring the message of such a huge strike by crores of workers pressing for their demands unanimously formulated by all the CTUs. The issues in the CoD relate to basic interest of the country’s economy and also issues concerning the livelihood of the toiling people of both organised and unorganized sectors including the scheme workers.

The Govt is mysteriously silent on the question of retrieving the black-money stashed abroad. This Govt is equally unconcerned on recovering the Rs 4.04 lakh crore of Bad Debts, euphemistically called Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of Public Sector Banks and almost similar amount on account of unpaid direct tax. Rather in the Union Budget, it allowed further relaxations to both loan defaulters and tax-defaulters. And at the same time, the common and marginal people are being strangled through huge increase in the burden of indirect tax and cut in allocations on social sectors etc.

Whole range of social security measures are under severe attack. The EPF and the ESI schemes are proposed to be made optional by the Govt to pave the way for their ultimate demolition. Post 2004 entrants in govt services, defence, railways etc have been subjected to notorious new pension scheme. And for the vast unorganized sector workers, old schemes are being repackaged and renamed, without providing for funds and implementation-machinery to just befoul the people.

Although the Government had to roll back their retrograde budget proposal to tax the EPF withdrawal, they have launched atrocious attack of drastic cut in interest rate on small savings instruments like PPF, Postal saving deposits, Girl Child savings scheme, Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana, Kisan Vikas Patra, National Savings Certificate and even senior citizens’ deposit schemes and monthly income scheme. This retrograde move would hit the common and marginal people very hard, more particularly those living on interest income only after retirement.

Totally ignoring the united opposition of the workers, the Government has been moving fast to demolish existing labour laws thereby empowering the employers with unfettered rights to “hire and fire” and stripping the workers and trade unions of all their rights and protection provided in laws. As follow up to the PMO’s written communication to the Chief Secretaries of States, state governments are being directed to carry out Rajasthan type pro-management amendments in labour laws. The Labour Secretary, Govt of India has issued executive order on this 12th January granting exemption to so called Start-up Enterprises from inspection and application of 9 major labor laws, thereby legitimizing violations.

The proposed Small Factories (Regulations of Service conditions) Bill prescribes that major 14 labour laws will not apply to factories employing up to 40 workers. Labour Code on Wages Bill and Labour Code on Industrial Relations Bill under the cover of amalgamation, seek to make registration of unions almost impossible, making retrenchment and closure almost free for the employers class. These bills have been
put in public domain totally ignoring the trade unions thereby violating the provisions of ILO Convention 144 on Tripartite Consultation. All these amendments are meant to exclude 90% of the workforce from application of labour laws thereby allowing the employers to further squeeze and exploit the workers. All rights-components in all the labour laws are being demolished to impose conditions of slavery on the working people. Simultaneously, almost in all the states, the work-place level struggles of the workers are being sought to be crushed through repression including intimidation and arrests by the Govt machinery as is being nakedly visible in Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat etc in recent times.

Attack on public sector has been pushed to unprecedented height. Not merely disinvestment, the Govt will now go for ‘mega strategic sale’. The main target is the Maharatna CPSUs and those amongst the top profit making CPSUs including banks/insurance. The ownership control and management of our shining CPSUs are being sought to be handed over to the private corporates, both domestic & foreign. Along with, almost unlimited FDI is allowed in strategic sectors like Railways, Defence and Financial Sector as complementary to the move of privatization/PPP etc.

The anti-worker and authoritarian attitude of the Government is also nakedly reflected in their refusal to implement the consensus recommendations of 43rd, 44th and 45th Indian Labour Conferences on formulation of minimum wages, same wage and benefits as regular workers for the contract workers and granting status of workers with attendant benefits to the scheme workers like anganwadi, mid-day-meal, ASHA, para-teachers etc. On the contrary, the Govt drastically curtailed budget allocations to all those centrally sponsored schemes meant for poor peoples’ welfare. The legislation on the issue of Street Vendors is not being implemented appropriately.

The convention reiterates the demand for strict implementation of labour laws and a total scrap of its proposals of so called “labour law-reforms”, halting mass scale unlawful contractorisation, minimum wages at not less than Rs 18000 per month with indexation and universal social security benefits and pension for all including the unorganized sector workers, etc. The demands also include compulsory registration of Trade Unions within 45 days and ratification of ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

The Convention calls upon all the trade unions, federations across the sectors to widen and consolidate the unity at the grass-root level and prepare for countrywide united movement and observe the following programme of agitation and action:

1) Joint conventions and campaigns during June-July 2016 in states, districts and at industry level and take initiative to involve peasants, agri-labour and mass of the people in the campaign

2) Day-long ‘Mass Dharna/Satyagraha in the Capital of the States and Industrial Centres preferably on the auspicious day of 9th August 2016 (Quit India Day) in preparation for the Strike

The National Convention of Workers calls upon the trade unions and working people irrespective of affiliations to unite and make the countrywide General Strike a massive success. Unity of working people and masses have to be defended and strengthened through the process of struggles only. Convention also appeals to the Peasants, Agriculture Labour and the rural and urban toiling people to support and participate in the strike on 2nd September 2016.

BMS  INTUC  AITUC  HMS  CITU  AIUTUC  TUCC  SEWA  AICCTU  UTUC  LPF
AND ALL INDIA FEDERATIONS OF BANKS, INSURANCE, DEFENCE, RAILWAYS, CENTRAL/STATE GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES AND OTHER SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS
Dear Comrades,

Indonesian workers movement is under big threat today. The capitalist in collaboration with government official has been attacking workers movement massively using criminalization of workers and unjust imprisonments. One of the real evident is that happened to Comrade Abdul Hakam and Comrade Agus Budiono. These two comrades are organizer and member of KASBI in Gresik East Java.

On April 7th 2016, Comrade Hakam and Comrade Agus were sent to jail for three months for their trade union activities, especially in the fight against outsourcing in State-ownership enterprise (BUMN), PT. Petrokimia Gresik. They are charged under “unpleasant act” article that actually had been removed from Indonesian Criminal Law. This criminalization of workers case started on December 2013 when PT. Hasil Bantuan, one of outsourcing company in PT. Petrokimia Gresik, filed a case to charge Comrade Hakam and Comrade Agus under
“unpleasant act”. Even this charge actually not proven and weak in the trial, the Judges insisted to declare that Comrade Hakam and Comrade Agus are guilty. The same scenario and situation also happening in Higher Court on 2014 and Supreme Court on 2015, even when the Constitutional Court of The Republic Indonesia already removed this “unpleasant act” from Indonesian Criminal Law. The decision of court in every level actually violate the principal of law that stated “If there is a change in the law after the changes are made, then the defendant applied the most favorable conditions for him” that actually embraced by Indonesian Criminal Law. The same act and scenario to criminalize workers and labor activities has been massively applied in Indonesia now and days. It is happening in Bekasi, Tangerang, Karawang and other major industrial areas and also to 26 workers and activist in Jakarta. The purpose of this acts launched by capitalist in collaboration with government official is clearly intended to attack workers movement in Indonesia which has massive fight against capitalism and neo-liberalism agendas in Indonesia.

Konfederasi KASBI, as a part of global workers movement against capitalism and neo-liberalism, call for solidarity from all comrades around the world to fight against this unjust imprisonment of Comrade Hakam and Comrade Agus and against criminalization of workers in Indonesia.

Konfederasi KASBI demand:

1. **Free Comrade Hakam and Comrade Agus Now!**
2. **Stop all criminalization of workers in Indonesia!**

Please send your letter or email to government of Indonesia or embassies of Indonesia in your country. This is some email or social media address you can use to join this campaign:

**The President of Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo:**

Email address:  
https://www.laporpresiden.id/ (website)  
https://www.facebook.com/Jokowi/ (facebook)  
https://twitter.com/jokowi (twitter)

Other website: 
http://www.setneg.go.id/  
http://www.mahkamahkonstitusi.go.id/  
https://www.mahkamahagung.go.id/

**Workers in all countries, UNITE!**

Jakarta, 8 April 2016

National Committee of Konfederasi KASBI (Confederation of Congress of Indonesian Unions Alliance)

MUDA - BERANI - MILITAN

Chairperson                   General Secretary

Nining Elitos                                   Sunarno
WFTU Statement on May Day 2016

The World Federation of Trade Unions on the occasion of the International Workers’ Day on 1st March 2016 conveys a militant salute to all men and women of the working class and to the 92 million members of WFTU in 120 countries. Men and women, younger or older, employed or unemployed, migrants and refugees, the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes you strength, determination and courage in your small-scale or large-scale struggles.

The multinationals, the reactionary governments, neo-fascist and racist forces, the imperialist mechanisms dread this day. Because it is a symbol of internationalism, a symbol of struggle, a symbol of class unity. These are our most powerful tools with which we need to arm ourselves in our struggles for better lives, in our struggles against poverty and wars generated by the capitalist barbarity.

Building strong class-oriented base trade unions that are massive, democratic, militant we strengthen the WFTU. And by strengthening the WFTU as a rooted class-oriented Organization of the base, internationalist and uniting, we strengthen our trade unions.

In all countries of the world, with all forms of action we demand our contemporary needs, our labor, social and trade union rights.

Our reality of misery, unemployment, poverty and wars in contrast to the technological and scientific progress and the wealth we produce, prove how unrealistic and rotten the capitalist mode of production is.

We rally our forces and build our social alliance with the popular strata against exploitation and capitalist barbarity.

On the occasion of May Day we once more want to send our internationalist solidarity to the peoples of Palestine, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and all peoples who are suffering imperialist attacks and fight for their right to decide for themselves over their present and future.

This year 2016, the 17th World Trade Union Congress will summon the representatives of the class-oriented trade union movement in the heroic land of South Africa. On 5-8 October 2016, thousands of delegates, real militant unionists, from all continents will gather in Durban, analyze the global and regional developments, exchange experience and proposals and resolute on the strategy and action plan of the WFTU for the next five years.

With this Congress we make a vital step forward for the international class-oriented trade union movement. “Forward! For the contemporary needs of the working class against poverty and wars generated by the capitalist barbarism”.

THE SECRETARIAT