



#2

October 2010

REFLECTS

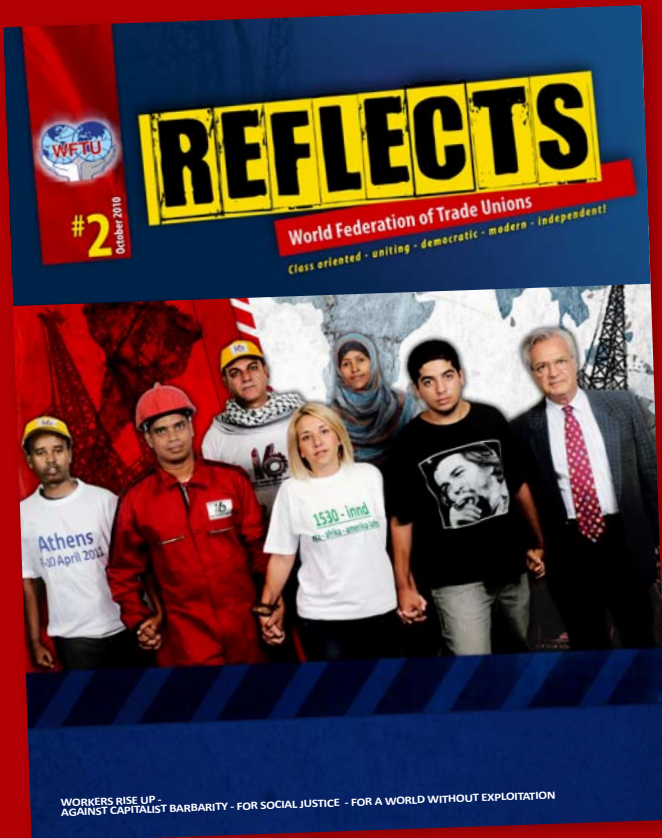
World Federation of Trade Unions

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern - independent!



**WORKERS RISE UP!
AGAINST CAPITALIST BARBARITY - FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE - FOR A WORLD WITHOUT EXPLOITATION**

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Feverish preparations for a militant Congress

The preparations for the 16th World Trade Union Congress which will be held in Athens on 6-10th April 2011, have already started to have a dynamic pulse. Participant forms are arriving every day from all over the world. Important proposals and observations reach the e-mail address of the WFTU for the congress wftu-16congress@hotmail.com and are taken into consideration. The Papers of the Congress are being finalized, translated and sent to all the members and friends of WFTU. The central poster of the Congress is already circulating.

The Secretariat has already published and sent to all the affiliates and friends of WFTU three Circulars regarding the Congress. **Circular No1**, which was symbolically published on May Day, launched the Call, marked the time, the context and the objectives of the 16th World Trade Union Congress and stated that it will be an open, democratic, militant meeting of thousands of trade unionists. The preparations for the 16th World Trade Union Congress which will be held in Athens on 6-10th April 2011, have already started to have a dynamic pulse. **Participant forms are arriving every day from all over the world.** Important proposals and observations reach the e-mail address of the WFTU for the congress wftu-16congress@hotmail.com and are taken into consideration. The Papers of the Congress are being finalized, translated and sent to all the members and friends of WFTU.

As a proof of the trade unionism principles of collectivity and brotherhood, a group of militant young trade unionists from PAME are offering voluntarily their work for the WFTU and are translating all the official documents of the Congress.

The central poster of the Congress is already circulating.

Circular No2 provided many details

regarding the participation and the announcement of a poster, poem and music competition dedicated to the 16th World Trade Union Congress. Much, beautiful, artistic and dynamic participation has already reached the central offices of WFTU proving that the most impressive art is inspired by the working class movement.

Circular No3 informed that all trade union affiliates, friends and independent ones who wish to send submissions in order to be included in the materials of the Congress, can do it up to

servers need to register and send the necessary documents in the e-mail wftu-16congress@hotmail.com in order to receive the nominative form as soon as possible.

The **opening ceremony** of the 16th World Trade Union Congress will be held in the new Tae Kwon Do Stadium in Faliró, Athens and will be a glorious celebration in harmony with the history, the struggles and the principles of the working class.

The Congress will be held in **Hotel Novotel**, in the city centre of Athens,

Contact WFTU about the 16th World Trade Union Congress through wftu-16congress@hotmail.com Send your registration! Send your proposals!

November 30th. The up to 4-pages-long **proposals** should be in one of the languages English-Spanish-French-Arabic. Proposals, criticism and observations regarding the Statute and the Leadership are also welcome.

The call of the Congress has reached every continent, every country. Already more than a hundred trade unionists have registered for the Congress. All the representatives and the ob-

with capacity to host the numerous participation as well as the simultaneous workshops and meetings that will take place.

Young trade unionist who are voluntarily translating the documents of the 16th Congress



On the occasion of the **16th Congress** of W.F.T.U. in Athens, Greece



By Muhammad Shaaban Azzouz
President of the World Federation of Trade Unions

We believe that it is our right and the right of our workers to be proud of all activities, acts of solidarity, attitudes and achievements

It has been five years since the 15th Congress of our WFTU which was hosted in Havana, the Capital of the Cuban Revolution.

These years are full of trade union struggle for millions of our workers and our organizations and the trade union movement. There has been an active and wide-led mobilization by the forefront of our fellow activists, cadres, leaders of W.F.T.U., its member organizations, regional offices,

associations, and professional organizations.

We believe that it is **our right and the right of our workers to be proud** of all activities, acts of solidarity, attitudes and achievements, despite all the difficulties of limited resources because of their sincere commitment and their constructive efforts. They are facing with the workers and peoples of the world the attack of the big capital on the rights and interests

*“Let’s work **together** and in sincere **solidarity** for all these big goals for the success of the 16th World Federation of Trade Unions **Congress** and sharing in the process of strengthening our **common struggle** for a better future for the **workers**, peoples and humanity as a whole.”*

of workers and their social acquisitions. They stand firmly in the face of attempts to weaken unions and the construction of working class unity. Our cadres have moved strongly in condemnation and against wars, occupations, blockades, threats and acts of aggression launched by the world imperialism led by the U.S. administration, its allies and their instruments.

Our W.F.T.U., its organizations and workers have stood firmly against all merit of projects, blocks and suspicious strategies that hostile forces and leaders of the new world order

have attempted to pass in most of continents to stress the American domination and imperialism and globalized plunder to the resources of the people and the fruits of the efforts of the working people and work force. It is registered to our W.F.T.U. its class-oriented and political consciousness since its 14th Congress in Damascus In 1994. Our W.F.T.U. has warned against the negative effects of the variables and globalization. **Its present struggle is manifested in exposing and confronting the repercussions of the global crisis of the capitalist system** and its call that workers and taxpayers must not pay the bill of the burden of this crisis.

Today, as we all share a provision for the 16th Congress of the W.F.T.U. in the beautiful Greek capital; Athens, we have to appreciate the early preparations, the preparation of draft technical documents and sincere efforts in this area and throughout the past period by the secretariat. We particularly appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General comrade, the efforts and cooperation of all leaders of organizations and cadres, and all who have contributed and will contribute to the success of our coming Congress from the regional offices and our TUIs as well as our pride of the friendly Greek organization PAME. We appraisers their former, current, and subsequent support to the work of the W.F.T.U. and its General Secretariat in Athens. We also praises Greece for hosting our headquarters and then our 16th Congress next year.

The convening of the conference of W.F.T.U. at the fixed time for the conclusion of the past 5 years trade union cycle is a success by itself. It signals the culmination of the organizational and constitutional achievements that the leadership of our federation and the General Secretariat could achieve during the last period. **It shows the**

practical translation of their keen to keep their promises and to our constitution and its internal systems. On this occasion, we must express our pride of the formats, coordination and cooperation among us in the W.F.T.U. Presidential Council members on one hand, as well as between the W.F.T.U. Presidential Council and the Secretariat on the other hand. I would like to refer to our success together in holding all the Presidential Council annual meetings in their fixed schedule. These meetings have been kindly hosted by many of our member

Let's work together and in sincere solidarity for all these big goals for the success of the 16th World Federation of Trade Unions Congress

organizations in different continents. Also, there have been initiatives of the Secretariats in adding new, productive organizational tradition concerning holding an informal presidential council and also holding W.F.T.U. Friends Council during the annual sessions of the International Labour Conference in Geneva. This successful experience has created expansion of opportunities for meetings among the representatives of the governing bodies of W.F.T.U., as well as Vice Presidents and heads of delegations participating in the conferences of the International Labour Organization of member organizations and friendly countries. It has contributed to the revitalization of the prospects for consultation and comradely cooperation and a trade union instrument for the development of our role in the Worker's Group of the organization.

This leads us to pay tribute to the endeavors of the General Secretariat of our W.F.T.U. and our unions delegations to highlight the presence of our W.F.T.U. and its TUIs, in the ILO conferences and forums. Their positions and interventions have been distinguished during the Conference and the Governing Council sessions especially during the last three years.

The democratization and activation of the ILO as well as the rest of the United Nations agencies in addition to the expansion of the participation of all international trade union movement organizations and strengthening the labor team was and still among the most important axes of the work and efforts of our W.F.T.U. These struggles are appreciated by all comrades, friends and organizations.

Now, we are all invited and during our next congress and after it to develop our financial and moral support to our W.F.T.U. and to the provision

of supplies and tools for its follow-up combative and achievements course. **Our W.F.T.U. has achieved a quantum leap and rising developments in the size of membership, prestige, effectiveness, field activities and delegations visits.** This is in order to develop bilateral relations and joint work programs and enable it to continue its constitutive and advanced role in the International Trade Union Forum in Beijing and in other meetings and forums of agencies, organizations and international bodies. All these actions are to defend the interests of workers, the rights and freedoms of association and in the face of crises and challenges and in support of the right of peoples for freedom, independence, sovereignty, peace and human progress.

Let's work together and in sincere solidarity for all these big goals for the success of the 16th World Federation of Trade Unions Congress and sharing in the process of strengthening our common struggle for a better future for the workers, peoples and humanity as a whole.

**EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 17-18TH - ATHENS, GREECE**

“Reinforcement of the class-oriented struggle is our aim”

Trade unionists from thirteen countries participated in the European Trade Union Conference organized by PAME on September, 17-18th in Athens, Greece where they exchanged experience regarding the consequences of the capitalist crisis, the anti-labor measures and the organizing of the struggles in their countries. The representatives of the European trade unions decided on a future plan for joined activities in order to reinforce the coordinated and class-oriented struggle of the workers’ movement in Europe.



**9TH CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE
OF WFTU, OCTOBER 1ST-2ND ROME ITALY**

Successful meeting of special importance

The 9th annual meeting of the WFTU European Regional Office took place in Rome on October 1st-2nd, 2010. The USB Italy hosted this successful meeting with a high number of representatives of the class-oriented trade union movement in Europe.

This meeting had a special importance this year due to the difficulties that European workers are going through in this period of capitalist crisis. The discussions were very fruitful and the delegates focused their attention on the struggle for workers not to pay for this crisis.

The 9th Conference organised by the European Regional Office of the World Federation of Trade Unions and Confederazione Sindacale di Base Italy, reviewed the international and European political situation, the developments on social and labour rights and discussed the action plan for 2010.



The offensive against the rights of the workers

By Artur Sequeira, Vice-President of TUI Public Services

Taking advantage of the current economic crisis, one more of the cyclical crises of capitalism, Brussels - backed by the IMF, the global financial vulture on the prowl - imposes a brutal reduction of public deficit to the European states. The exact target of these neoliberal policies carried out by right-wing parties and Socialists who alternate in power and sell these policies as inevitable in order to get over the crisis, is the welfare state and its social functions, which are great achievements of the workers' struggle.

Various European governments, albeit in varying degrees, developed reforms in public administration aimed at the destruction of public services provided by the state to the people, deepening their class nature and putting it (each time more clearly) in the service of the international monopolies, who are interested in exploring profitable sectors such as Education, Social Security and health, among others.

Practically, these policies take the form of strong attacks against the rights of workers in public sector and workers in general.

In order to make those attacks on the rights of workers in public administration easier, European gov-



ernments are trying to convince the public that civil servants are a privileged stratum and the main culprit for the state's deficit.

They try to convince us that the reduction of public deficits will be achieved in all countries, by reducing and taking back the rights won by the workers in public administration. So, they increase job insecurity, they increase the minimum age for retirement, they devalue pensions, they reduce the purchasing power of workers, they lower or freeze salaries; they destroy career opportunities, they cut paid holiday and Christmas bonuses and generally crush social rights.

These vindictive policies, developed by the big bourgeoisie governments, aim at attacking the rights of the workers and the disadvantaged persons and at protecting the rights of the powerful.

The class - oriented trade union movement is aware of this situation and it carried out great protest movements throughout Europe - strikes, general strikes, demonstrations, marches- with thousands of workers marching the streets in defense of their rights and the social state, against privatization and the giving of public money to banks, in order to support capitalism in crisis and generate and benefit from financial disruption that is used to justify the attack on the rights of those who have less and leads us to a social backlash.

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The workers' voice against the capitalist crisis!

2ND INTERNATIONAL ACTION DAY ORGANISED BY WFTU

A strong militant voice was heard in many countries of the world, on the 2nd International Action Day, on September 7th bringing the call of WFTU to all the workers of the world saying: "We will not pay for their crisis – Alternative in favor of the workers, now!". With class-oriented demands the progressive forces of the trade union movement joined their power and proved once more that the unity of the working class can open paths to another way of development in favor of their workers and their families, in favor of the popular strata. Millions of workers participated in many initiatives and mobilizations which took place during the day including strikes, demonstrations, action inside the working places and within the basic sectors, occupations of banks.

The General Secretary of WFTU, George Mavrikos, chose Palestine to celebrate the 2nd International Action Day as a symbolic act of the WFTU's outmost solidarity to the heroic people of Palestine and their fair struggle. On the International Action Day, the General Secretary attended a meeting of more than 100 trade unionists, he visited the Wall of Shame where he had the chance to discuss on more on the Palestinian issue. Finally he visited Arafat's grave and laid a wreath of flowers in his honour.



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Argentina (1)- ESNA, events and rallies were organised in Buenos Aires with the participation of tens of labor, social and human rights organizations

Bangladesh (2)– FISE, demonstration in Chittagong, Bangladesh demanding “free and public health, transport and compulsory education for all”.

Basque Country - LAB participated in a demonstration in the city of Pamplona -Irunea and organised a mobilization in the bank “Santander”.

Brazil – CTB, UST organized an important, militant activity in Plaza Ramos de Azevedo in Sao Paulo where signatures were collected for the support of the popular referendum for the Land Limits of Brazil.

Cameroon – FTBAC, training seminar for its rank and file who work on a major building site in Cameroon.

Chile (6): Affiliates and friends of WFTU gathered on September 7th outside the Ministry of Labor in a dynamic mobilization and demanded “Stable work for all”.

Colombia: More than 1500 workers marched to "Plaza de Bolivar" in Bogota in a strong militant demonstration organised by the class-oriented forces in Colombia.

Costa Rica: Through picket-holding and leaflet-sharing the trade unionists in Costa Rica informed the working people for the consequences of the global capitalist crisis.

Cuba - A militant meeting was held in Havana addressed by Raymundo Navaro, CTC Secretary for International Affairs, Ramon Cardona, Head of the WFTU Regional Office of Latin America.

Cyprus – PEO, DEV-İŞ, KTAMS, KTÖS, KTOEÖS, BES joined forces and organised a successful demonstration against the anti-labor policies with the massive participation of working people.

France: The Secretariat of the TUI of

Workers in Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textiles and Allied countries participated in a massive demonstration in the central roads of Paris. Also, the affiliates of WFTU in Marseille participated by sharing leaflets.

Greece - (3) PAME, four-day activity. In Athens, forces of PAME in Energy sector symbolically closed the entries of the BP offices. Mobilizations against the privatization of the Railway took place in the central railway stations in Athens and Thessaloniki during which trains were stopped. The workers in the industry of Coca-Cola in Patras applauded the speech of the Vice-Secretary of WFTU, Valentin Pacho. Large demonstration in Thessaloniki.

Galicia: A dynamic mobilization with WFTU-pickets took place in the city of Vigo in the framework of the 2nd International Action Day.

Honduras: The FUTH celebrated militantly the International Action Day by participating to the general strike and demanding the grant of the basic salary in the public sector.

India: (4) The 14th and the biggest ever general strike was held on September 7th in India against price rise, violation of labour laws, disinvestment in profit making public sector, retrenchment, layoff and also against contractualisation. Around 100 million (10 crores) workers and employees joined the strike. The strike was being held to 'reassert' the bargaining power of the trade unions. The strike is 99% successful.

Mexico: A demonstration was organised by the class-oriented trade union organisations in Culiacan in the framework of the 65th anniversary of WFTU and the 2nd International Action Day.

Nepal (7)– CONEP, workers and professionals of 23 affiliated member organisations of CONEP took part in a big rally in Kathmandu. The CONEP president, Mr. Pramod Sharma and General Secretary Mr. Premal Khanal addressed the rally.

Pakistan – APFUTU, hundreds of workers participated in the rally, raising slogans against the Government policies, demanding for a salary increase.

Panama: A major conference was organised regarding three significant topics about the "Role of WFTU in the defense of the worker's struggle for world peace", "Democracy in Panama" and "The Environmental Crisis". Afterwards, a protest followed outside the hotel Soloy where dialogue was conducted on the law 30.

Philippines - TUPAS organised a dynamic picket-holding mobilization with many young people demanding labor and trade union rights.

Portugal (5)- CGTP-IN and the federations affiliated to WFTU organised different initiatives on the framework of the 2nd International Action Day including mobilizations and leaflet-sharing.

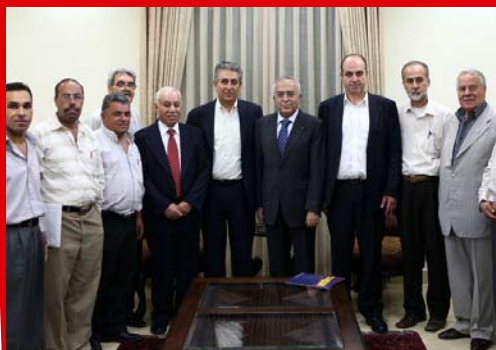
Sri Lanka – ICEU, ACTUF, Thousands of leaflets were distributed in the Free Trade Zones and several other places. The President, the office bearers and some members of the Unions took part in the event held at Katunayake Export Processing Zone area.

Venezuela – UNETE along with millions of workers joined the 2nd International Action Day and reaffirmed the need to mobilize the workers and the people of the world in the struggle against capitalism.

Vietnam – VNUBW, held a solemn meeting in response to the WFTU call for 2010 International Action Day. Union leaders and rank and file members from various workplaces were attending the meeting. Comrade Nguyen Van Binh, Member of the VGCL Executive Committee, President of the VNUBW addressed the meeting.

Initiatives in the framework of the 2nd International Action Day were also organised in other countries (Serbia, Uruguay, R.D Congo, Lebanon etc.)

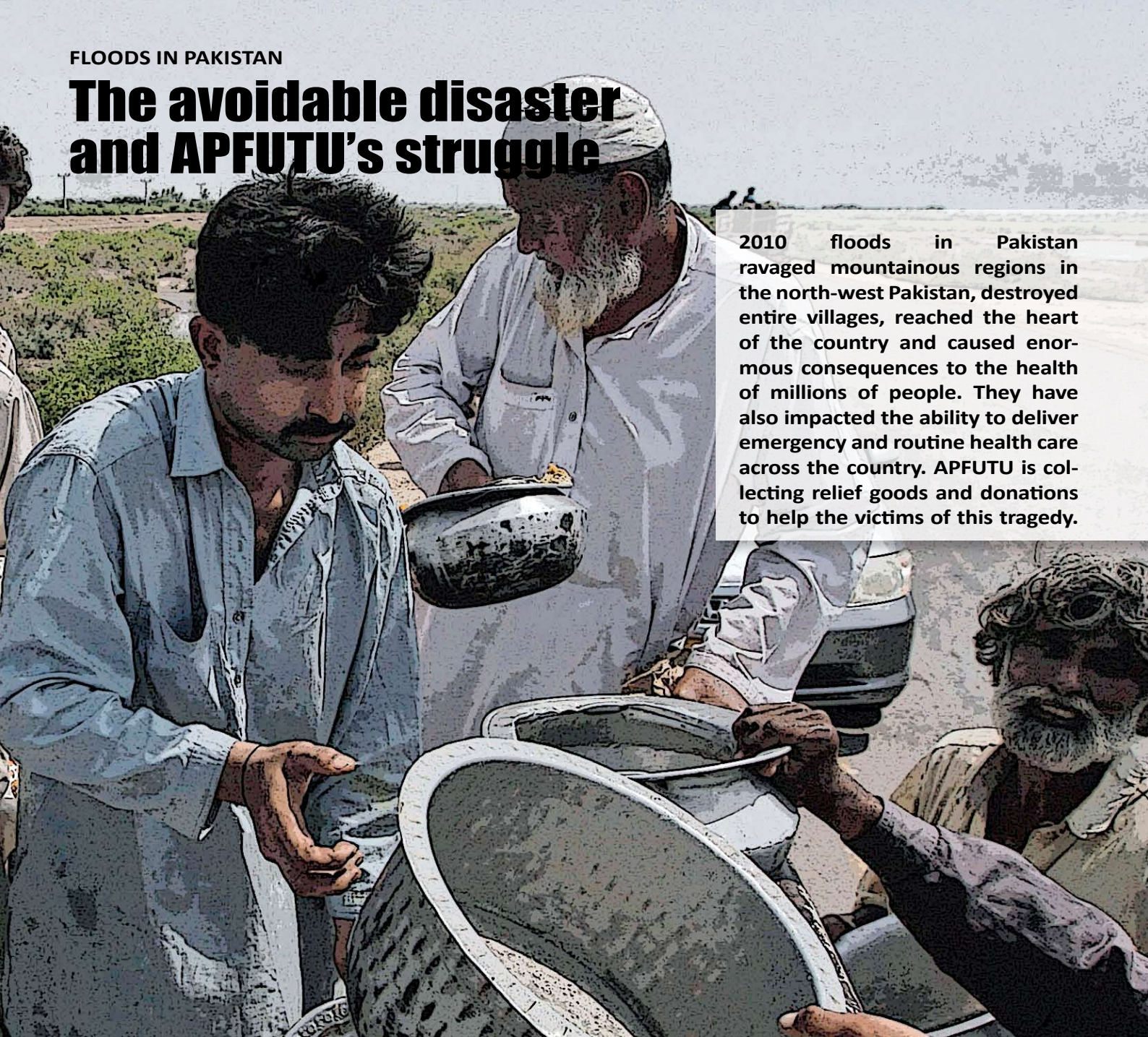
The General Secretary in Palestine





1. Brazil, 2. Cyprus, 3. Colombia, 4. Philippines, 5. Pakistan, 6. Cuba, 7. Greece, 8. Basque country, 9. Panama, 10. Mexico, 11. France

The avoidable disaster and APFUTU's struggle



2010 floods in Pakistan ravaged mountainous regions in the north-west Pakistan, destroyed entire villages, reached the heart of the country and caused enormous consequences to the health of millions of people. They have also impacted the ability to deliver emergency and routine health care across the country. APFUTU is collecting relief goods and donations to help the victims of this tragedy.

Pakistan is the victim of a total disaster and an enormous human tragedy in a country where surviving was even before that, already, a major "achievement" for the working people.

The flooding of the Indus River in his whole length destroyed more than 7 million acres and the lives of more than 20 million people. 1.802 are the announced victims of this tragedy, however no one knows how many are lying underneath the mud. The damage is estimated in some dozens billions of dollars. More victims are expected due to the effect of the diseases from the lack of clean water. There are only 270,000 tents in the refugee camps while 10 million people are homeless.

Despite this tragedy the government and the U.S. consider as a primary issue not the relief of the people, but the attack against the "terrorist Taliban" and the bombing, and announced an increase in Pakistan's defense expenditure by 1.28 billion U.S. dollars, while the government claims to be weak to cope with the size of the disaster and agrees with the U.S government that the burden should be paid by an increase in the tax collection!

The IMF, the World Bank, imperialist centres and multinationals run to offer a loan to the government of Pakistan as an effort to control the future developments and a gesture that will only strangle the working people in the future.

APPEAL OF THE ALL PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF UNITED TRADE UNIONS (APFUTU)

Please send your valuable donations to our bank account the details of which are indicated hereunder:

Title of Account: ALL PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF UNITED TRADE UNIONS, Bank Name: UNITED BANK Ltd. G.T.Road Branch, GUJRAT – Pakistan (Code: 1194).
Bank Account Number: 011-1090-2 Swift Code :UNILP-KKA.

If you want to send clothes, medicines, bed sheets, clothes for winter season, cooking oil, sugar or all other utility items, then send these things to the following address
COMMUNITY WELFARE SOCIETY (Registered Number : DDSW – GRT-10-80) IMTIAZ LABOUR HALL, FAIZABAD, GUJRAT _ PAKISTAN.



Tour of the General Secretary

The tour of the Secretary General of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Venezuela, Panamá, Nicaragua and Costa Rica on July 20 – 28 was completed with success. The purpose of the journey was the participation in the 3rd Trade Union Meeting of Nuestra America (ESNA), the preparation of the 16^o World Trade Union Congress, current affairs of the region, as well as to inform the WFTU affiliates and friendly organizations about the important initiative of “September 7th 2010, International Action Day of the class oriented Trade Union Movement”.

Venezuela

At Bolivarian Venezuela, the Secretary General had the opportunity to express directly to President Hugo Chavez the solidarity of the WFTU and its full support against the unacceptable attacks of Colombia and the USA against the Venezuelan people. At the event organized by the UNETE in order to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the WFTU (in which 600 trade-unionists took part), as well as at the 3rd ESNA, the WFTU denounced the imperialist aggression, the brutality of capitalism and contributed its opinions and its prospective about the struggle. In Venezuela, the leaders of the WFTU had the opportunity to meet and talk with all our trade union cadres.

Panama

The Secretary General of the WFTU, along with the Cuban comrade Ramón Cardona, Regional Secretary, held sig-

nificant talks with the leaders of the CNTP, the FAT, the FSTRP, as well as with independent leaders and friends of the WFTU. The discussion focused on the problems of the workers in Panama and important militant initiatives were decided.

Nicaragua

The WFTU delegation held important fraternal talks with its affiliates and friends from the land of Sandinistas. They expressed their solidarity to the effort of their sandinista affiliates and pointed out that it is every people’s right to decide about their present and future. They also decided about important initiatives.

Costa Rica

The Secretary General, in his central speech, expressed WFTU’s internationalist solidarity to the workers’ struggle against privatization, demanded that trade union rights be respected and that the lay-offs be stopped. He supported the workers claims for sufficient salary increases.

He also referred to the negative part played by European trade-unionists who bring in Central America euros and dollars in order

to buy off trade union leaders and turn them into agents of opportunism and the IMF.

In conclusion, this important meeting between the leaders of the WFTU and their affiliates and friends from Central

The meeting between the leaders of the WFTU and their affiliates and friends from Central America proved that the class-oriented trade union movement has deep and steady roots

America proved that the class-oriented trade union movement has deep and steady roots, based on the principles of class struggle, internationalism and the struggle to overthrow capitalism. It also proved that values such as morality, pride and honesty keep gaining ground on controversy and conformism. It also proved that there are great capabilities for improvement of WFTU’s job and presence in the region and organization of important working class struggles.



Venezuela



Venezuela



“Nuestra America”



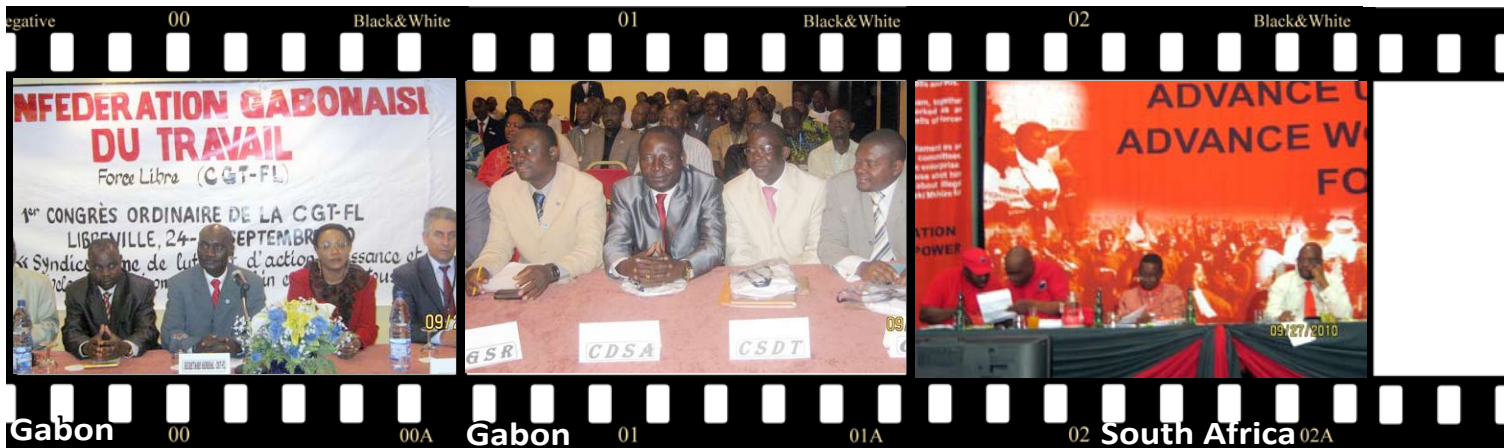
Nicaragua



Costa Rica



Panama



GABON

1st Ordinary Congress CGT-FL

On September 23-24, 2010, the WFTU General Secretary visited Gabon on the occasion of the celebration of the 1st Ordinary Congress of CGT-FL, affiliated to WFTU.

The opening ceremony of the successful Congress started with the celebration of the WFTU 65th Anniversary and the WFTU General Secretary addressed a keynote speech.

During his visit to Gabon, comrade General Secretary had the opportunity to discuss with all WFTU affiliates in the

country (CFT-FL, CDSA, CSDT, CSG) and they decided the action plan for the next period as well as common initiatives for the future. Priority will be given to working women and a full plan of cooperation with neighboring countries will be developed.

All WFTU affiliates in Gabon ratified their intention of taking part in the forthcoming 16th World Trade Union Congress to be held in Athens, Greece, on April 6-10, 2011.

SOUTH AFRICA

9th Congress of NEHAWU

On the occasion of the 9th National Congress of NEHAWU held in Johannesburg on September 27-29, 2010, the WFTU General Secretary visited South Africa and addressed the Congress. The speech of comrade General Secretary was received with great interest and enthusiasm by all delegates.

On September 27th an international seminar was held in the framework of the Congress with the participation of many international delegates from different countries. The main objectives for the seminar were:

1. To give an opportunity to delegates to interact with and understand the WFTU as well as the Trade Union International of Public and Allied Employees
2. To exchange experiences on the issues of global capital and the imperialist agenda and how this affects the working class
3. To discuss issues of the Cuban revolution and Cuban solidarity
4. To give delegates an opportunity to do an analysis of the impacts of the

global economic crisis on jobs, poverty, human rights and trade union rights.

5. Enable a platform to look into problems of human rights, and democracy on the African Continent,

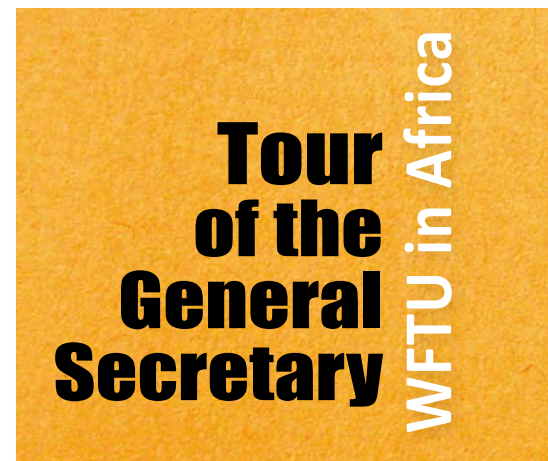
6. The recommendations of the seminar will feed into the congress resolutions.

This seminar was also an occasion to celebrate the WFTU 65th Anniversary.

In his speech comrade General Secretary emphasized on the international framework of the Congress, the consequences of the capitalist crisis on the working class and the need for an alternative path in favor of the working people against the path of the capitalism and the monopolies.

He noted: "We are proud of the history of WFTU. 65 years of class oriented struggles. Always on the side of people who fight for their national independence, for freedom and social progress. Struggles against racism, against Apartheid. You know that in the International Trade Union arena there are two trade union centers.

One is the WFTU which was found-



ed in 1945 as I told you already, and the other is the ITUC which was called ICFTU when founded in 1949 and five years ago in its Congress in Vienna changed its name into ITUC" and continued "These two international organizations are expressing two different worlds inside the trade unions. They express two different views.

On the one side, the WFTU believes in the principles of class struggles and on the other the ITUC that believes in class cooperation and in the policies of the IMF. On the one side is the WFTU, that supports the Cuban Revolution, Venezuela and Palestine and on the other, the ITUC that supports Israel, that slanders Cuba, that slanders Hugo Chavez. On the one side is the WFTU that struggles for the reversal of capitalism and on the other is the ITUC that aims to modernize capitalism. The basic tool of ITUC is money and the buying of trade unionists. The basic tool of WFTU is our ideology, our policy, our history and the proletarian internationalism."

STRASBOURG, FRANCE



WFTU held an International Trade Union Conference, on July 6-7 in Strasbourg

WFTU International Trade Union Conference

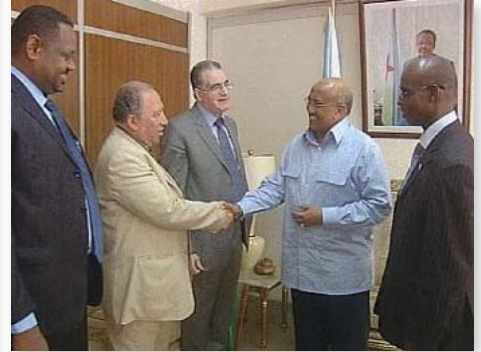
In the framework of pre-Congress debates and activities, the WFTU held an International Trade Union Conference, on July 6-7, in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France with the participation of **18 trade unions from 15 countries**. During the two days of the discussion two topics were tackled: “The WFTU in the threshold of the 21st century” and “Labor Law and International Standards”.

Main interventions were presented by Vietnam VGCL, Syria GFTU, South Africa NUMSA, Portugal CGTP, Greece PAME, France FRONT SYNDICALE DE CLASE and AGRO UIS, Cyprus PEO as well as by scientific experts on the subject.

WFTU was represented by Deputy General Secretary (Sudan - SWTUF) **Elsadig Ali Seed Ahmed Elseikh** and Special Counsior **Maximos Aligisakis**.

DJIBOUTI

8th Congress of UGTD



The 8th Congress of the **General Union of Djibouti Workers (UGTD)** was held on **August 8-9th** at the “Palace of the People” with the adoption of a series of resolutions calling for a revitalization of the activities and program of actions of the organization, to better defend the interests and rights of all workers in Djibouti.

Delegates of the UGTD finally re-elected **Secretary General, Mr. Abdou Sikieh**, and also accepted the enlargement of the Executive Committee now consists of 27 members from the unions based UGTD.

WFTU was represented by comrade **Adib Miro**, Deputy General Secretary.

CAIRO - EGYPT

NBTUFC & WFTU International Seminar

An international Seminar of WFTU and the **Nile Basin Trade Union Federation of Commerce Workers** entitled “Trade Unions and Current Challenges of the Nile Basin Countries”, was celebrated in Cairo, Egypt on September 15-18th, 2010 with the participation of delegations from Egypt, Burundi, RD Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and representatives from PAME Greece and PEO Cyprus.

This was an important international seminar that strengthened the relations of WFTU and the Nile Basin Trade Unions.



8th Congress of CESTRAR



The 8th Congress of CESTRAR, the General Workers Federation of Rwanda, was held in October 7-8 in Kigali, Rwanda. This important Congress discussed the report of the activities of

CESTRAR since the last congress, discussed on the important issue of social security and the problems of Rwanda workers and decided on the action plan of CESTRAR for the years to come in a spirited and important Congress.

The World Federation of Trade Unions declared the militant greetings and the solidarity of the WFTU affiliates and friends to the Rwandese workers and congratulated CESTRAR for its important 25 years anniversary and the election of a new leadership headed by the reelected General Secretary of CESTRAR Mr. Eric Manzi and the Deputy General Secretary Mr. African Biraboneye.

During its visit the WFTU delegation held bilateral meetings with the **President of CESTRAR brother Jeremie Nsengiyumva**, gained more close experience on the working conditions in Rwanda and agreed to create strong brotherly relations with the trade union movement in Rwanda.

Central WFTU Offices ATHENS



A delegation from the Workers House of Iran formed by Mr. Mohammed Hamzeh, Head of International Relations and Mr. Daroush Ghamari and Mr. Mohammad Ali Partovi visited the central offices of WFTU on October 18th, 2010.

Delegation delivers the WFTU announcement



A trade union delegation headed by the WFTU Deputy General Secretary Valentin Pacho (photo) has delivered this morning at the Chilean embassy in Athens an official statement of the WFTU on the heroism of the 33 miners rescued yesterday in Chile, but at the same time to question the role of the Chilean government regarding safety and health at work, especially in the mining sector. This statement has also been sent to the International Labour Organization and the Government of Chile. Below you can read the WFTU statement. In the picture you can see the WFTU Delegates delivering the Statement today to the Consul of Chile in Athens.

The heroism of the miners -

The show of the President of Chile

The World Federation of Trade Unions from the very first moment of the tragic accident occurred at San Jose mine issued a statement blaming the governments of Chile and the employers in the mining industry for the crime committed against the miners.

During this time, the leaders of the WFTU in Chile have been closely following developments; they have pressed and acted to demand the rescue of our 33 brothers.

The Mining Confederation of Chile has remained with dignity in the front line as a class-oriented organization that struggles for the sector and the working class. The TUI Metal of WFTU also had a significant presence in the events.

Now, after the rescue of the 33 workers, we should shout all together:

- Long live the heroic miners in Chile

- Stop to the show of the President of Chile

These memorable 69 days have shown the world the great qualities that only workers have. Discipline, collectivity, struggle, resistance, patience, strength, modesty. These are the qualities that have shown the 33 because they were all children of the working class.

On the other hand is the show, hypocrisy, lies and lifestyle that has represented the President of Chile but also the greed of the media.

They are two different social classes, two different worlds with different principles, values, cultures and behaviors.

Class brothers, miners in Chile, thank you. We are very proud of you. We are very proud of the working class and its values. Now the struggle continues! In June 2009, the WFTU intervened in the ILO together with miners of Chile to struggle for the implementation of health and safety conventions. Unfortunately the ILO in fact so far has done nothing for the application of the conventions adopted.

We demand once again:

- Implementation of all international conventions on health and safety. Immediate ratification of the ILO conventions by the government of Chile.

- Implementation of all measures demanded by the class-oriented trade union movement in this sector.

- Punishment for the capitalists and mine owners as the company San Esteban who refuse to take security measures in the workplace

- Solutions and fulfillment for the demands of miners in Chile, their wages to be paid and not to forget them when the lights popularity go off.

- All mines to be state-owned and monopolies and transnational companies to stop speculating and exploiting the natural resources supply. These sources belong to the people and not to capitalists.



2nd ICATU-WFTU Seminar DAMASCUS, SYRIA

The Second joint initiative of ICATU and WFTU was held with great success. In September 29-30th in Damascus. The international seminar was celebrated on the subject: "Current Challenges for the World Working Class and its Trade Union movement and the ways to confront it". Trade unionist leaders and activists, and participants from International and Arab professional unions from 20 countries participated.

The opening Ceremony included three opening speeches by three keynote speakers and a representative from the Arab organization of Labour (ALO) : Mr. Muhammad Shaaban Azooz, President of WFTU, Mr. George Mavrikos, General Secretary of WFTU, Mr. Rajab Maatouk, General Secretary of ICATU.

The keynote speeches were based on four different subjects related to the main topic of the seminar: The challenges of unemployment and its

impact on young workers and women workers, impediments of economic and social development and their impact on workers, the negative effects of hegemony, blockades, invasions and civil wars, strengthening the capacity of trade unions and workers to confront all challenges.

After the discussions and deliberations, a final resolution was adopted, that will strengthen the role and the action of trade unions in the area.



WFTU SUPPORTING PAKISTAN PEOPLE – JULY 25TH, 2010

“The deadly floods in Pakistan are another proof that the people of the world are unprotected against the natural phenomena, despite the technological breakthrough. Those condemned in poverty, illnesses, imperialist wars and massive immigration rates by the imperialist aggressiveness and barbarity are also condemned in insecurity, uncertainty and misery because of the lack of flood protection measures (as well as earthquake and fire protection measures).

The World Federation of Trade Unions reaffirms its sympathy with the people of Pakistan for the national calamity caused by the worst flooding in nearly a century. The devastation caused by the floods has killed thousands of people and over 20 million people have lost their every belongings.

We are following all developments in the area and we express our moral support to all unions and members that are going to rebuild their country and the living conditions of the people of Pakistan.

Once again we express our full solidarity with the working class of Pakistan and we hope that they can find the strength to overcome this tragedy.

We call upon all the trade union organizations of the world to support the people and the working class of Pakistan with any practical and material way possible.

SOLIDARITY WITH SWAZI PEOPLE - SEPT 7TH, 2010

“The World Federation of Trade Unions follows with indignation the latest breaking news that took place on September 6th 2010 and demands the immediate and unconditional release of PUDEMO Deputy President, Sikhumbuzo Phakathi, of CCEPPWU International Secretary and all the other trade union militants of Swaziland and members of COSATU.

We denounce the police and state violence against the trade unionists who struggle for democracy in Swaziland and free exercise of trade union and labor rights. We support the struggle of class-oriented trade unionists and the people of Swaziland and we demand full satisfaction of their needs.

The WFTU joins its voice with the voices of the workers and trade unionists all over the world who fight for trade union rights and democratic freedom.

On behalf of the 63.000.000 members and 170 trade union affiliates WFTU sends a strong message of solidarity and calls upon all its affiliates and friends to express their solidarity and support to the people of Swaziland who are fighting for democratization of their country and the end of slavery. ”

ECUADOR - WORKERS TAKE TO THE STREETS, OCT 1ST, 2010

“The World Federation of Trade Unions with 80 million members in 120 countries around the World condemns the attempted coup in Ecuador and the assaults on the country’s President Rafael Correa by the police forces.

It is obvious that the events yesterday in Quito, Guayaquil and other cities were scheduled as a plan organized by the imperialists and the capital in that country.

They tried unsuccessfully to achieve what happened in 2002 with the failed coup in Venezuela and what was achieved last year with the coup in Honduras. The brains of the coup had target that the U.S. can control the region, the U.S. military base in Manta not to be closed and to terrorize the people of Latin America.

WFTU calls for the working class in Ecuador to take to the streets and repel by all means the coup. Isolate the coup supporters without mercy. In this struggle, the affiliates and friends of WFTU in Ecuador have been from the very first moment in the streets and at the same time they demand the changes in Ecuador to go further and to speed up for the interest of the working class and its objectives. We wish a fully recovery to President Rafael Correa and to get out of the hospital with health.

We call the union movement to condemn the coup attempt in Ecuador. ”

CHE STILL INSPIRING, OCT 9TH, 2010

“Today it is 43 years since the murder on October 9, 1967, of the legendary communist revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. After a fierce battle near the village of Las Higueras in Bolivia, CIA agents caught Che, wounded in the battle, and then they murdered him.

It’s been 43 years since then, and his example continues to inspire today millions of revolutionaries who continue the struggle of the CHE for the abolition of the exploitation of man by man. Despite the imperialist efforts to transform CHE and its vision into a “souvenir”, into something graphic and trendy, the working class recognizes the fighter, the rebel in the armed struggle, the revolutionary CHE. ”

WFTU SOLIDARITY WITH NUM SOUTH AFRICA, OCT 12TH, 2010

“Dear comrades of NUM From Greece, the country of Aristotle, we convey our honest Condolences for the death of your fellow mineworker in Newman shaft at Lonmin. We kindly ask you to also convey our Condolences to his family.

Dear class oriented brothers of NUM,

On behalf of the 80 million workers who are members of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in 120 countries of the five continents, we express our solidarity and support to the day of protest and strike of the 4.000 miners, October 13th.

Our common struggles to stop the deaths and killings of workers in their workplaces need to become stronger and generalised. The demand of the class oriented trade union movement for substantial – effective measures of HEALTH AND SAFETY in workplaces is an imperative need to be stronger.

At the same time, we believe that the real solution for the World’s Working Class cannot reside inside Capitalism. Therefore, the struggle for Socialism is the real and true way out for the World’s Working Class.

SOLIDARITY FOR EVER. ”

FRENCH WORKERS, OCT 12TH, 2010

“WFTU expressed solidarity with French workers in strike on October 12 against the generalized attack of the French government in the social security system and the rights of the working class. This attack is launched also in France as well as in other countries the EU policy which supports the interests of capital and multinationals. The WFTU supports the class oriented trade union movement of workers in their country and in Europe for the satisfaction of contemporary demands. ”

DIRTY NOBELS, OCT 16TH 2010

“After President Obama who got the Nobel Peace Prize and has already declared three wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, after Dalai Lama, a man of the imperialists, now one more, Mr. Liu Xiaobo gets 1 million Euros from Sweden that also donated him the Nobel Peace Prize 2010, the same as Mr. Obama’s.

Dirty Nobel Prizes, with dirty money and dirty decisions. Shame on them! ”

The awakening of the people

By **Walter Manrique Juarez**, International Relations Secretary
FUTH (United Federation of Workers of Honduras)

Honduras, known as Higuera in Nahuatl language, is located in the heart of America, hence its **geopolitical importance**, since it is the transition point between the Northern and the Southern continent.

The country gained its independence, on September 15, 1821, the same day as the rest of Central America, eleven years after the independence of the other countries in the continent. Later, it formed part of the Central American federation, known as the "**United Provinces of Central America**". This federation was proclaimed by General José Francisco Morazán Quezada, who, like Bolívar, envisioned the creation of a single nation, strong and powerful. During the course of its history, Honduras has been a corporate enclave of mining and banana companies, with a two-party political system, where two political parties (liberals and conservatives) alternate in power, both instruments of the oligarchy. Both were right-wing parties and they have been historically controlled by the U.S. governments, in order to repel the great social movements of our region



and combat the guerrillas of the sister countries such as the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional in El Salvador and the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional in Nicaragua during the 80's of last century.

In the late nineties, **the labor and popular movement started to reorganize** after a decade of implementation of the neoliberal model, marked by increased prices of goods and public services, privatizations, attacks to trade unions and the dismantling of the popular and trade union movement.

It was in this revival of the union movement, when **José**

Manuel Zelaya Rosales was elected President. He began making changes in the economy of our country such as increasing the minimum wage, negotiating collective agreements, respect for the statutes of teachers and doctors, as well as joining the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, Petrocaribe, support for small business, change of the formula for import of fuel, etc.

This was enough for the Pentagon, with the help of the media, the army and, above all, the Honduran oligarchy to

The National Front of Popular Resistance was created, as a public response to the oligarchy, the military and the Pentagon

perpetrate the first coup of the 21st century.

All these that came together would be unable to carry out a coup, without the involvement of Washington and its imperialist policies of the Pentagon, as a way to stop the winds of change, which run through our continent from South to North. That's why they expelled the president and established a military and political dictatorship that now is repressing social movements, trade unions and anyone who peacefully protest against the regime.

Under these circumstances, the **National Front of Popular Resistance** was created, as a public response to the oligarchy, the military and the Pentagon, in order to protect ourselves from attacks and fight for the restoration of democracy and the respect for social gains. It is the largest popular organization that unites people from various sectors of our society: workers, teachers, students, nurses, farmers, artists... That is, a broad popular movement that can access to power, in order to install a national constituent assembly and redefine the state of Honduras.

The **Front**, as it is called, has the task of leading our people in this long road to better social levels, while acknowledging the great challenges it's facing, such as the prosecution and punishment of those responsible for more than 140 murders and tortures and the violation of human rights, the return of political exiles and the guaranteed and unconditional return of citizen José Manuel Zelaya Rosales.

Every time, we make ours the words of Dr. Salvador Allende, when he said that they may have the weapons and forces, but they will not overwhelm the social changes, they cannot stop them nor with the thunder of cannons, nor the crackle of machine guns.

MEET WITH OUR HISTORY

By Kali Patouna

LAZARO PENA (1911-1974)

Lazaro Pena was born in May 29th, 1911 in a poor house in Havana. He was formed as a revolutionary and a bright trade unionist in the cigar factory where he worked, organizing protests against the low wages. In 1930 he became a member of the Communist Party of Cuba and in 1934 he was elected member of its Central Committee. In 1938 he founded, in Mexico the Workers Confederation of Latin America. In January 28th, 1938 he became General Secretary of the National Trade Union Center (CTC) in Cuba, when the CTC became the only federation in the country. His was respected beyond the borders of Cuba and he was one of the founding members of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), in which he was vice-president. After the coup on March 10th, 1952 he was in an illegal status, until he was forced to exile.

He returned to Cuba after the victory of the revolution and he was elected General Secretary of CTC, again, from 1961 to 1966 and again in 1973. He died in March 11th, 1974. The National University of Trade Unionists was named Lazaro Pena, in his honor.

The central aim of his life was to lead the struggle of the proletariat in the world of unity. Even beyond the borders of WFTU. He had an extravagant talent in leading the working people; he passionately defended the revolutionary rights of the working class. He was aware for every problem the working people had. "Who formed, who created this tireless militant revolutionary" was Fidel Castro's last words during the memorial service "He was created by the people, he was formed by his class, the tortured one, the one who was suffering from the exploitation".



SHRIPAT AMRIT DANGE (1899-1991)

Shripat Amrit Dange (10 October 1899 - 22 May 1991) was a founding member of the Communist Party of India (CPI), in which he remained chairman till 1978. Dange had also a rich action in the Indian and international trade union movement. After his imprisonment (from 1940 to 1943), for leading a general strike of textile workers, Dange was elected as the chairman of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). In 1944-1945 he was a delegate to the World Trade Union Conference in London. In 1945-1947 he became the vice chairman of the All India

Trade Union Congress. In October 1945 he became a member of the Executive Committee and chairman of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). Dange died at Bombay on 22 May 1991. He was given a state funeral by the Maharashtra state government, since he played an important role in its foundation by being one the leaders of the "Samyukta Maharashtra" movement. Dange is also the writer of the books: "Gandhi Vs. Lenin" (1921) and "From Primitive Communism to Slavery" (1949).

REFLECTS
OCTOBER 2010



WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS
6-10 April 2011, Athens - Greece

