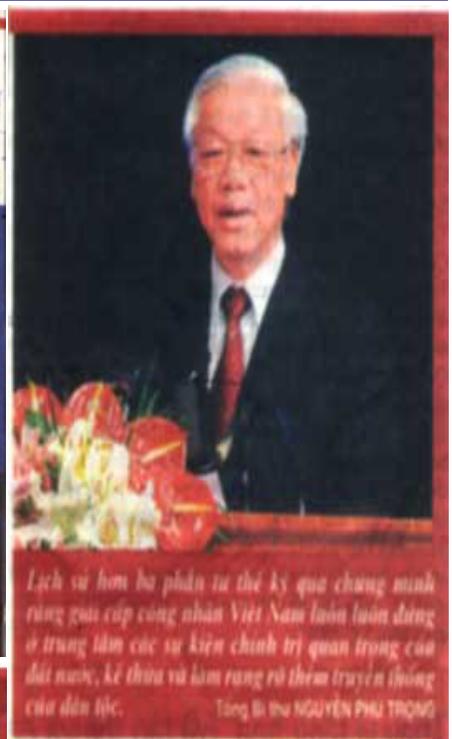




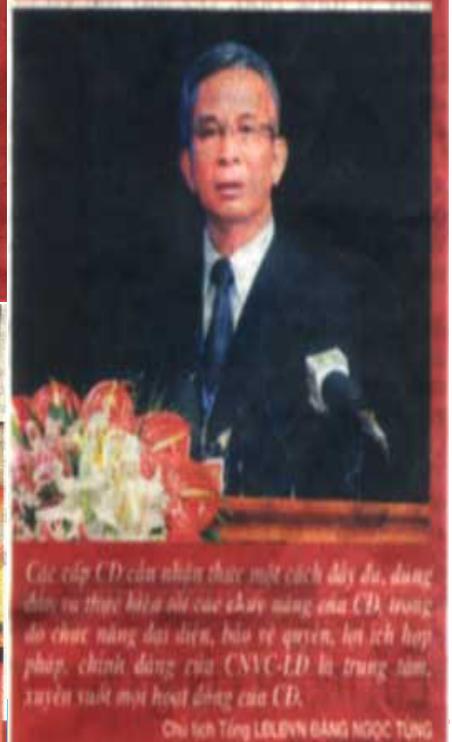
- Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng: Nâng tầm cao trí tuệ và vai trò chính trị to lớn của giai cấp công nhân Việt Nam.
- Chủ tịch Ủy ban T.Ư Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam Huỳnh Đảm: Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam luôn tự hào về giai cấp công nhân và Công đoàn Việt Nam.
- Kiên nghị của công chức, viên chức, công nhân lao động và tổ chức công đoàn: Xem xét giữ lại Điều 10 trong dự thảo sửa đổi Hiến pháp 1992.
- Đại hội tiến hành bầu Ban Chấp hành Tổng LĐLĐVN khóa XI.

Sáng 28.7, đúng dịp kỷ niệm 84 năm Ngày thành lập Công đoàn Việt Nam, tại Hà Nội đã khai mạc trọng thể Đại hội XI Công đoàn Việt Nam. Tới dự sự kiện quan trọng nhất của 7,9 triệu đoàn viên công đoàn và 15 triệu người làm công ăn lương cả nước có các đồng chí: Tổng Bí thư Nguyễn Phú Trọng; nguyên Tổng Bí thư Lê Khả Phiêu; nguyên Tổng Bí thư Nông Đức Mạnh; Chủ tịch Nước Trương Tấn Sang; nguyên Chủ tịch Nước Trần Đức Lương; Thủ tướng Chính phủ Nguyễn Tấn Dũng; Chủ tịch Quốc hội Nguyễn Sinh Hùng; nguyên Chủ tịch Quốc hội Nguyễn Văn An; Chủ tịch Ủy ban Trung ương Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam Huỳnh Đảm; cùng nhiều đồng chí lãnh đạo Đảng, Nhà nước; các đoàn khách quốc tế, tổ chức quốc tế tại Hà Nội. Tham dự đại hội có 944 đại biểu chính thức. (Liên tiếp trang 4, 1, 3)

Đoàn Chủ tịch Đại hội XI Công đoàn Việt Nam. Các đại biểu tham dự đại hội. Ảnh: Đ.Đ.Đ. - T.Đ.Đ.



Lịch sử hơn ba phần tư thế kỷ qua chúng mình cùng giai cấp công nhân Việt Nam luôn luôn đứng ở trung tâm các sự kiện chính trị quan trọng của đất nước, kể thừa và làm rạng rỡ thêm truyền thống của dân tộc.
 Tổng Bí thư NGUYỄN PHÚ TRỌNG



Các cấp CĐ cần nhận thức một cách đầy đủ, đúng đắn và thực hiện tốt các khuyến nghị của CĐ, trong đó chú trọng đại diện, bầu cử quyền, lợi ích hợp pháp, chính đáng của CNVC-LĐ là trung tâm, xuyên suốt mọi hoạt động của CĐ.
 Chủ tịch Tổng LĐLĐVN BẢNG NGỌC TÙNG

VIETNAM

Trade Union starts 11th Congress

HA NỘI: The 11th Congress of the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) for the 2013-2018 tenure, opened in Ha Noi yesterday, July 28, aiming to develop a stronger workforce, more ably equipped to protect their legitimate rights and interests.

The congress was attended by 950 delegates, representing nearly eight million trade union members nationwide as well as delegations from foreign trade union organisations, including the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). To mark the occasion, 22 international trade union organisations sent their greetings to wish the congress every success.

One of the first reports presented to congress stressed that over the last five years, trade union organisations nationwide have reached all the main targets set by the 10th congress. The trade unions gathered contributions from every level on the drafting of a plethora of legislation and polices that relate to workers, especially the 2012 Law on Trade Unions and the 2012 Labour Code.

Patriotic emulation campaigns launched by the trade unions have also made a considerable contribution to completing socio-economic tasks, with the best examples being the construction of Dung Quat oil refinery, Son La hydro power plant, Lai Chau hydro electric power station and the Ca Mau fertiliser factory.

Addressing the congress, Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong stressed that the working class has made many substantial contributions to the country. He asked that



President and other top leaders of VGCL with Com. H. Mahadevan, Dy. General Secretary, WFTU

over the next five years, the trade unions, at every level, grasp the ideologies of the 11th Party Congress Resolution, Political Programme and Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the New Period’.

This, as well as a resolution to build up the working class, would bolster the industrialisation and modernisation process. He stressed that trade unions should represent the workforce and protect their legitimate rights and interests.

They needed to become more involved in labour negotiations with employers and be involved in the signing and implementation of collective labour agreements as well as dealing with labour disputes.

The Party leader also urged trade union organisations to pay more attention to promoting democracy at grassroots level, stepping up social activities and encouraging workers to exercise their rights. He said the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) should enhance its role as a sociopolitical organisation that represents the strengths and interests of its members.



Bangladesh Trade Unions Seminar on Labour Laws

Dear Comrades,

We are happy to inform you that World Federation of Trade Unions; Bangladesh Committee organized a national seminar on proposed amendments of country's Labour Law-2006 on 12th July, 11a.m at Reporters Unity Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This seminar was attended by eminent lawyers, intellectuals and trade union leaders from different sectors of the country. Speakers at the seminar seriously urged to the government to amend Labour Law-2006 to ensure workers rights and interest accordingly. As the existing Labour Law of the country is highly criticized by trade unions and many social-political organizations for its inadequacy to protect worker's right and interest; so there is no alternative to amend the law, speakers added.

Bangladesh is a country which is ratified 7 core I.L.O conventions out of 8 and those ratified conventions are strongly relevant to the right of 'Freedom of Association' and 'Freedom of Choosing Leadership'. Despite government's ratification of such a big numbers of ILO conventions, the Labour Law of the country still remains unfriendly to the workers. Although the government is an elected parliamentary government, but there is heavy pressure to the government from the owners and employers of industries. Since, 26 Members of Parliament are direct owner of different garment factories. So, it is predictable why they are pressuring government not to take any positive steps for a 'workers friendly labour law'.

Immediate after the independence of the country there were about 80% workers in public sector and 20% in private sector, after 1975, the situation worsened and by continuing so called neoliberal economy the figure for public sector is now about 5-6% and in private sector 93-94%. In both industrial and agriculture sector there are about 6 million workers and many workers from informal sectors remain under the jurisdiction of this Law. But every moment workers rights been violated and law remains silent. Moreover, the safety and hygiene at workplace, rights of women workers have been endangered due to deficiency of the Labour Law-2006. According to legal experts, this Labour Law is totally contradictory to ILO Convention 87 and 98. The existing labour law has practically seized the fundamental rights of workers both in formal and informal sectors. Consequently, massacre like 'Rana Plaza' occurred and unrest and instability are rapidly increasing among workers.

Considering all these situations, voice has been raised by 30 trade union organizations of Bangladesh to strengthen a movement for amendment of Labour Law-2006. World Federation of Trade Unions; Bangladesh Committee seeks international solidarity for this just movement of workers of Bangladesh.

With warm greetings:

(dr.) Wajed ul Islam Khan, General Secretary, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre(BTUC) & Convener of WFTU, Bangladesh Committee



World Federation of Trade Unions on Situation in Egypt

EGYPT: All workers are class brothers. The recent developments in Egypt confirm the positions, the principles and values of the class oriented trade union movement that through its longtime historic experience knows that the workers and the poor farmers shouldn't be trapped in reformist illusions and illusions about the so called "better management" of capitalism. The forced that prevailed during the so called "Arab spring", carried on the anti-people policy of Mubarak. The results were poverty, unemployment and wages of 2 dollars per day. Millions of poor people live only on the ridiculously low allowances and charities.

The reason of the mobilization of the Egyptian Working Class and of all the Egyptian People can be found in the great unresolved social problems. Old and new administrators of the Egyptian capitalism appear every time as saviors. But life proves them wrong. The situation of the popular strata is getting worse. The situation in Egypt, Northern Africa and the Middle East is getting more complicated because of the rivalry between the imperialist centers for the sacking of natural resources and the control over the energy transport routes. One of the permanent objectives of the capital is steal the wealth of the countries.

The weakening of the countries of the Middle East, the sacking of their natural resources, the large migration waves, the exodus of their inhabitants, the destruction

of their infrastructure, is actually serving Israel and the strategy of the US and NATO for the so called "New Middle East". Today in Egypt, the contradictions between bourgeois forces are sharper. They are contradictions inside the bourgeoisie. They are contradictions inside the capitalist system. And the army took the side that -at this moment- appears to support a secular – capitalist course. The class oriented movement is against the intervention of the military in political controversies.

Result of this complicated and complex situation is workers hitting workers on the streets of Cairo, Alexandria and elsewhere, workers killing workers over religious beliefs and religious political parties. The WFTU makes an open appeal to the whole Egyptian Working Class and tells them: Comrades workers, we are all brothers and sisters. Class brothers and sisters. Regardless of religion, creed or tribe, unite and fight as a social class, along with the poor farmers, along with the youth, the women, the People. Your country is a rich country and can ensure for you a decent present and a better future. Don't trust the saviors provided for you by the USA and the EU. There's only one solution: to claim the power for your own interests, to become yourselves masters of your own place, to put an end to exploitation. This will be the real spring and the real revolution. The WFTU is by your side.

The Secretariat

WFTU Condemns the Efforts of FIAT to Silence the Trade Union Militant Action of USB



The WFTU representing 86 million workers in 125 countries condemns the violation of trade union rights and freedom in Italy and the dismissal of its militant member and cadre of USB, Giuseppe Larobina by FIAT Group. We are in solidarity with the struggles and protests of USB Italy for his rehiring by the company, countering the efforts of FIAT to silence the trade union activity of the WFTU members and

to put an end to the fearless confrontation of Larobina, as a USB leader with the employers which set a “bad” example for the rest of his colleagues, calling them in the line of class-oriented struggle.

Giuseppe Larobina is USB member, national leader of the union and trade union delegate to IVECO in Torino.

The Secretariat



PAME YOUTH SECRETARIAT EVENT: NO TO ALL DRUGS, AGAINST DRUG-CULTURE

The struggle against all drugs is another struggle in the continuous war between the working and the bourgeois class, on who shall win the hearts and the minds of the youth.

In this struggle the workers class-defined union movement has come to play a leading part.

The PAME Youth Secretariat undertook a great initiative, in the context of this year's football tournament, against all drugs in order to expose another side of the class struggle. The event completed was titled: NO TO ALL DRUGS, AGAINST DRUG-CULTURE.

Representatives from rehabilitation communities participated in the event, the National Council Against Drugs (ESYN), trade unions, teams who take part in the tournament, university and college students, parents. In the event, the causes of the problem that were exposed was that basic needs have been transformed into unrealistic dreams. For the class-defined forces drug addiction is not a brain disease, necessary evil or an epidemic of the youth. The roots of the problem lean on the barbarism that working people and the youth experience, poverty,

insecurity, non-payment, 300-400 euro salaries, the vertical rise of unemployment, the unsurpassable obstacles in education & health, the disappearance of any access to sports, to the main cultural, reactionary role-models and values.

Under these circumstances it is indispensable to form an obedient worker, away from struggles and demands, disciplined to their ideology. Since the bigger bosses - as already confessed - are wary of uprisings, the measures taken apart from raw suppression have got to be more treacherous, to strike consciousness directly without unnecessary media. Through the spread of drugs, the upper class tries to neutralise the youth's fighting spirit, to render it useless. The crystal-clear stance of PAME against all drugs was presented, against the treacherous pseudo-progressive partition between soft and hard drugs, against the notion of substituting and of preserving the dependence that is promoted by the forces of social-democracy and opportunism. The need of reinforcing precaution, cure and social rehabilitation was stressed.



Fighting Austerity – A Viewpoint ***Our Crisis and Rebuilding Unions from Below***

—**Dan Gallin**



Dan Gallin is Chair of the Global Labour Institute (www.global-labour.org), a labour service organization established in 1997 with a secretariat in Geneva. This is his speech at a conference co-

organized by the GLI, Fighting Austerity: Rebuilding Unions from Below, and held in Athens on June 18-19, 2013.

Comrades, I want to open a discussion on our crisis, the crisis of the labour movement, because I believe that the multiple crises we are facing in society are ultimately the result of the failures of our movement, and that we cannot effectively deal with those economic, social and political crises unless we overcome our own crisis first. I also believe that resolving our crisis is our most direct responsibility, that it depends on us alone and that it is a task we must immediately address because time is short.



PAME gives the fight on social causes. We give the fight of ideas prevalence every day in every sector, every place of labour and at the factories. On the part of the people's interests we are interested in progressively more labourers and working class youth registering in the trade unions, to enforce the class strategy in the union movement. The rallying of the labour movement passes through the conscious struggle of the workers, the working class youth, the

youngsters that sit at the desks of work-training and in placements. They

need to be convinced of their rights, to develop a pioneer fighting life stance, to be uncompromised with drug-culture, which needs them obedient and head bowed down. A final solution to the Drugs phenomenon will be given when the labourers and their allies seize political power; when the causes that create this phenomenon vanish, which is the abolition of the system of exploitation.

The struggle against drug-culture, will have to be a struggle for the youth against any kind of compromise, against any kind of dependence. It must be a struggle for the life we deserve!

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WORKERS

Mavlankar Hall, New Delhi: 6th August 2013

Declaration

The National Convention of Workers being held at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi expresses serious concern and anguish over continuing indifference and inaction by the Govt of India towards vital livelihood related demands presented before the Govt by the all in united platform of trade unions and pursued through numerous agitations/programmes including strikes during last three years.

The Convention once again congratulates the workers for the unprecedented historic success of the two-day strike of 20-21 February'13. These strikes and struggles during last three years have strengthened and widened the unity of the Indian working class. The Convention also conveys its extreme anger and anxiety at the utter lack of concern demonstrated by the Government towards the crores of workers and the mass of the people.

In the wake of the resounding success of the two-day strike, the Prime Minister constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to discuss and settle the Ten-Point Charter of Demands (CoD) jointly formulated by all the Central Trade Unions in the country. The first meeting between CTUOs and the GoM was held on 22nd May 2013.

The CTUOs had demanded to the GoM concrete response to the following burning issues on which the workers conducted strike struggle:(1) Minimum Wage not less than of Rs10,000, (2) Universal Social Security Cover for all workers,(3) Assured Pension for the entire working population,(4) same wage and benefits for contract workers as regular workers for same and similar work, (5) strict implementation of Labour Laws, (6) Concrete measures to contain price rise, (7) Concrete measures for employment generation, (8) stoppage of disinvestment in Central and State PSUs / Undertakings, (9) Remove all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus, Provident Fund; Increase the quantum of gratuity and (10) Compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98. Despite categorical announcement by the Prime Minister in the 45th Indian Labour Conference about the justness of the demands and that many of them are under advanced stage of consideration, the GoM, instead of making any concrete response told the CTUOs that the Government need more time to study the CoD and thus the meeting ended

without any concrete result.

Conveying their concern on the most unfortunate outcome of the meeting the CTUOs in their joint letter to the Prime Minister on 23rd May 2013, noted, "the meeting remained disappointing as nothing concrete has emerged in the response of the Government on the 10 point demands raised by the Central Trade Unions." The CTUOs had urged upon the Prime Minister to ensure that the long pending demands are sorted out through dialogue between the Government and the CTUOs within one month.

The National Convention of Workers expresses anguish over the indifference of the Govt towards the long pending burning issues concerning livelihood of the working people in the country who keep the national economy running and create wealth for the economy, revenues for the public exchequer and also profit for the employers while bearing the unbearable burden of all round exploitation through denial of their basic and minimum rights. The soaring price rise, increasing joblessness, opening up almost all sectors to FDI and further disinvestment of PSUs to cover budget deficit has pushed to country to economic crisis. The Convention calls upon the working people to raise their voice against such indifference and injustice and prepare for intensifying the countrywide united struggle in the days to come.

Accordingly, in the present phase, the following joint programme of agitation

is unanimously adopted in the Convention:

- 1) Demonstration/Rallies/Satyagraha at all State Capitals with respective statewide mobilization on 25th September 2013
- 2) Massive Demonstration before Parliament with main mobilization from neighbouring states on 12th December, 2013
- 3) On the same day of Demonstration before Parliament (12th December 2013); District-level Demonstrations at all District Headquarters all over the country.
- 4) Sectoral programme of joint actions for effectively opposing Restructuring, Outsourcing etc and on sector-specific issues/demands and against Divestment of Shares in Public Sector Enterprises
- 5) Exclusive joint Action Programmes on the demand of Minimum Wage and Contract Workers related other demands

The Convention appeals to the entire working class of the country to demonstrate the power of all-in-unity of the trade union movement and take part in the programmes at the respective levels thundering the message unity of workers and their strong determination at each and every workplace throughout the country.

AITUC, CITU, BMS, INTUC, HMS, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, UTUC, LPF and Independent Workers/Employees Federation.

Remember the Historic Event the 60th Anniversary of the Attack on Moncada Army Barracks



Castro under arrest in July 1953

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of a heroic action that encouraged the mass struggle that led to the victory of the Cuban Revolution and still remains as a permanent inspiration for the Cuban people in its daily work and bravery.

On July 26, 1953, some 150 men and women led by Fidel Castro and Abel Santamaria, launched assaults on the Moncada army barracks in Santiago de Cuba (the headquarters of Batista's military dictatorship in the East and the second most important military garrison in the country) and the nearby Bayamo garrison. They were students, workers, young professionals, teachers, artists, clerks. Some were poor, a few were rich, and most of them were sheltered sons and daughters of middle class families.

The majority worked in Spartan clandestinity, a few with the knowledge and silent admiration of their trembling parents. They were led and inspired by an articulate twenty-six year old rookie lawyer, himself the son of a wealthy planter and educated in one of Havana's exclusive Roman Catholic schools. His had been the only voice which dared condemn publicly Batista's military coup d'état of 1952, three months before national elections.

In fact, four days after the coup and ten days before the United States officially recognized the dictator, that lone voice went on record at one of Cuba's highest civil courts, indicting the tyrant and asking for a public trial. His name was Fidel Castro Ruz.

They sold their books and jewelry, they took extra jobs and mortgaged their cars, properties, businesses, until they raised fifteen thousand dollars with which to purchase guns and uniforms. They had no outside help, no offers of support from powerful individuals, organizations, or foreign land. So meager was their arsenal that when time came for the uprising many anxious and well-trained partisans had to be left behind for lack of weapons. ("If only we had had twenty more hand grenades...!")

As in every revolution, the price was high. Half of the rebels died, not in



Moncada army barracks in Santiago de Cuba

combat, but under torture. Their captors were eager to pin the blame for the aborted insurrection on some high official or foreign instigator. The irate tyranny could not conceive that the near-defeat it suffered had been inflicted by a group of ill-equipped youthful civilians with no ties whatsoever to disgruntled politicians, army chiefs, or an exotic ideology. There simply was nothing to confess to, and the truth was too compromising for the government, too indicative of oppression and discontent to be admitted.

After being held incommunicado for 76 days, denied the use of books and legal papers and counsel, aided only by a privileged memory, the novice young leader gave a devastating dissertation in which he reviewed the human and legal rights of men to rebel against tyrannical lords, from the struggles of Oliver Cromwell against Charles I, to the American and the French Revolutions. He quoted from the Rights of Man and the American Declaration of Independence, from the writings of Rousseau, Milton, Balzac, Locke, Saint

Thomas Aquinas, José Martí... Turning against his captors he indicted them for abetting the inhumanity and corruption of the dictatorship. He reviewed Cuba's chronic social injustices and economic ills; 33% illiteracy, 30% unemployment, the majority of the people living in hovels, sustaining themselves on a diet of roots and rice, unable to give their children shoes, medical care, a hope, a skill, a future. In the presence of the 100 soldiers guarding him in that courtroom, Fidel Castro accused Batista of a reign of terror and illegality which left the people no other course to liberation than a civilian uprising. And instead of asking for an acquittal, he closed his defense by demanding to be sent to join his brother-rebels already serving jail terms in the Isle of Pines prison, ending with these prophetic words; "Sentence me, it does not matter. History will absolve me."



The Barracks are now a school and a Museum of the Revolution

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN OVER THE DEADLY FLOODS

The World Federation of Trade Unions expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the people of Pakistan over the national tragedy caused by the heavy rains and floods all over the country. The devastation caused by the floods has killed more than 50 people, while thousands have lost their houses and all their belongings.

This last disaster comes to prove that workers and poor people in the poorer countries are the last to enjoy the technological breakthrough that has been achieved. Those who condemned to poverty, illnesses, imperialist wars

and massive immigration rates by the imperialist aggressiveness and barbarity are also unprotected and condemned to insecurity, uncertainty and misery because of the lack of basic infrastructure that could protect them by natural disasters.

The WFTU on behalf of its 86 million members worldwide expresses its moral support and solidarity with all those affected by the terrible floods, as well as with all unions and affiliates in the country.

THE SECRETARIAT



Remember the Historic Event...

From Page 11

The Barracks are now a school and a Museum of the Revolution.

Join us to celebrate and to highlight what the Cuban Revolution means today and why it remains an example for working people – and all oppressed and exploited humanity– around the world, including the United States itself. The most outstanding example is the Cuban Five Heroes who in September 12 will be still languishing in US jails for the

only crime to expose terrorism in defense not only of Cuba, Latin America but the American people too.

Down with US blockade!!!!

Free the Cuban Five Antiterrorists immediately!!!!

Long live the Cuban Revolution forever!!!!

Due to its importance for the Cuban People this document can be resent, copied or published. Your comments will also encourage us to keep on fighting for a better world.

Public School Teachers: New Unions, New Alliances, New Politics

By Michael D. Yates, Cheap Motels and a Hot Plate/Op-Ed



A few months later, the Occupy Wall Street movement, which supported many working class efforts, spread from New York City to the rest of the nation and the world. Then, in September 2012, Chicago's public school teachers struck, in defiance of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's attempt to destroy the teachers' union and put the city's schools firmly on the path of neoliberal austerity and privatization. These three rebellions shared the growing awareness that

The U.S. working class was slow to respond to the hard times it faced during and after the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Finally, however, in February, 2011, workers in Wisconsin began the famous uprising that electrified the country, revolting in large numbers against Governor Scott Walker's efforts to destroy the state's public employee labor unions.

economic and political power in the United States are firmly in the hands of a tiny minority of fantastically wealthy individuals whose avarice knows no bounds. These titans of finance want to eviscerate working men and women, making them as insecure as possible and wholly dependent on the dog-eat-dog logic of the marketplace, while at the

same time converting any and all aspects of life into opportunities for capital accumulation.

If the teachers' unions are unlikely to aggressively support the CTU and other radical local union actions, the rest of organized labor is still less likely to do so. Support might come from local unions, but, except for the United Electrical Workers and perhaps a few others, national unions will be missing in action. These are still mired in the muck of labor-management cooperation; they are top-down autocracies, afraid of their own members. Like the AFL-CIO, the federation to which most of them belong, they are joined at the hip to the Democratic Party, whose leaders and major money donors support Rahm Emanuel and not public school teachers. Rank-and-file insurgencies, in and of themselves, do not guarantee that a union will be radically transformed. The new leaders are susceptible to cooptation by employers and political elites, and to a retreat to business as usual when times get tough. Creating a new, more democratic culture within a union is hard work; it requires patience, rank-and-file education programs, a willingness to trust the members, and a commitment to a permanently adversarial relationship with those sitting across the bargaining table.

Finally, the fact that a group of reformers gets elected to lead a union does not mean that the union will embrace the kind of class conscious, anti-capitalist perspective that alone could help create a labor movement. COPE's commitment to embed itself in the communities that

teachers serve, especially those where poor, mainly minority parents live, is important. We are facing the imposition by our economic masters of what promises to be unending austerity, and those most supportive of CORE have and will continue to suffer most as a result. An alliance of teachers (and other public sector workers) and those who most need quality schooling (and other public services) could be a powerful building block of a radical politics. But to make such a politics a reality will require radical education—of teachers, students, parents. Every action taken by the union must be complemented by education: history, political economy, ideology. Only in this way can we come to understand why we face austerity, why our schools are being closed, why our communities are being laid waste, why certain topics are ignored in our classrooms. The promise of public sector unions has been debated for at least forty years. Perhaps some teachers have finally seen the light, and, in the face of unprecedented attacks on them and public schools, are beginning to create new unions, new alliances, a new politics in our towns and cities. As always, I am hopeful.



View from Brazil

Brazil's "Other" Protesters

*—By Fabiana Frayssinet,
Inter Press Service*

Rio De Janeiro - The young people who have been protesting in Brazil over the last few weeks, who say they are apolitical and who have organised over the social networking sites, were not entirely pleased with Thursday's demonstrations by the country's trade unions and social and popular movements. During a "National Day of Struggle" Thursday, strikes, protests and roadblocks were organised by the CUT central trade union and 77 urban and rural social organisations. The demands of the new and more organised protests included better wages, a reduction of the work week to 40 hours, job security and an end to outsourcing, higher pensions, 10 percent of GDP for education, higher spending on public health, and improved public transport.

According to the organisers, 100,000 demonstrators came out on the streets nationwide. In Rio de Janeiro, where some 10,000 people joined the march, the trade union's flags and banners, professional-looking signs, sound systems and balloons contrasted with the hand-made placards of the students and other young people who began to take to the streets in Brazil's cities in June. But the student protests, initially triggered by bus fare hikes and organised over Facebook and other sites, were much bigger, reaching one million

people countrywide. Thursday's protest "was peaceful; we're asking for better working conditions and we're protesting cuts in our companies," one worker taking part in the protest, who said his name was Eduardo Henrique, told IPS.

Apolitical protests

Far away from the noise of the trade union's sound systems, a group of around 200 demonstrators blocked traffic on one of the city's main avenues with a sit-in, to draw attention to the demands that gave rise to the movement of young people who describe themselves as apolitical. "This is a movement without party affiliations that was organised over the Internet. They (the trade unions) took advantage of us. They have sound wagons, they buy everything, they hand out flags, the people don't have any of those things," said Karina Monteso, an economist.

Meanwhile, in the demonstration organised by the trade unions, urban planner Orlando dos Santos, with the NGO Observatorio de Metr opolis, was also opposed to the organisation of the two sporting events. As a member of the non-governmental World Cup and Olympics People's Committee, he is against the forced evictions caused by the sports-related construction projects in poor neighbourhoods.

Food workers in Lebanon Fight for their jobs Against a Global Giant

In an obvious union busting move, the global snack food giant Mondelez has abruptly closed its factory in Beirut, Lebanon, intending to move operations to a non unionised factory in nearby Egypt. Mondelez has a history of suppressing workers' right to organise. There is an ongoing international campaign linking these struggles. Mondelez has factories all over the world, and co ordinated actions by workers across its global operations will be the most effective strategy to advance our rights.

* * *

New law in Indonesia to Restrict workers' organising

A new law passed this week by the Parliament of Indonesia is reminiscent of laws that existed under the era of General Soeharto when unions and worker organisations were tightly controlled. This is a worrying development especially considering the growing strength of the workers movement in Indonesia over the last two years. The passing of the bill was marked by protests from workers in the Metal Trade Workers Federation.

* * *

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee

The National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme proudly celebrates the 50th anniversary of



Some 100 young people dressed in black and covering their faces to avoid tear gas demonstrated in parallel to the workers' march. "We have no words," one of the young demonstrators told IPS. But their signs did: "Make love not war", "Power to the people", "Anarchist shock troops". Separated from the main trade union march, which filled an entire avenue, a group of young artists dressed as clowns chanted against police repression. They called themselves the "nhoque nhoque troops" – a play on words alluding to the security forces' "tropa de choque" or "shock troops".

Members of the governing leftwing Workers Party took part in the march organised by CUT, although without carrying party flags. After they identified themselves as party members, they said they were calling for a "deepening" of the socioeconomic improvements ushered in over the last decade by former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2003-2011) and President Dilma Rousseff. This was the first reaction by organised leftwing political and social groups in Brazil in response to the wave of young people's protests.



the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. The Yolngu people of Yirrkala in northeast Arnhem Land sent two bark petitions – framed by traditional ochre paintings of clan designs – to the Australian House of Representatives. They were protesting the Commonwealth's granting of mining rights on land excised from Arnhem Land reserve and sought the recognition by the Australian Parliament of the Yolngu peoples' traditional rights and ownership of their lands.

Turkey's Government Targeting Organisers as Protests Subside

While the recent government crackdown on nationwide protests has succeeded in halting mass protests, demonstrators are still defying the government with smaller demonstrations. It is apparent that the government has now begun targeting protest organisers with arrests in a number of cities and the revelation that it is checking social media sites in an attempt to identify people. The government is also trying to whip up xenophobia by targeting non Turkish nationals as well as blaming foreign conspirators. The working class movement in Turkey will have to brace itself for more attacks.

WFTU ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING **25 & 26, OCTOBER, 2013**

at "NUBE Training Centre, 13.5 km Jalan Pantai, Teluk Kemang, 71050 Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia". Two representatives from the affiliates of WFTU in the Region from (1) India (2) Bangladesh (3) Pakistan (4) Sri Lanka (5) Australia (6) Vietnam (7) Indonesia (8) Philippines (9) Japan (10) Malaysia (11) Cambodia (12) P. R. China (13) DPR Korea (14) Laos (15) Nepal (16) Kazakhstan and TUI (Construction), TUI (Finance) are invited to participate.

— H. MAHADEVAN
Dy. General Secretary &
Incharge, Asia Pacific Region.

Published by H. Mahadevan, on behalf of the **World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Asia Pacific Regional Office, New Delhi**, from 4/7, 2nd Floor, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 011-23258685. Fax: +91-011-23258684. **e-mail: wftuasiapacific@gmail.com, hmaha4@gmail.com** **Editor: H. Mahadevan**