



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern – independent – internationalist!

International Meeting of Jurists of WFTU

July 16, 2018 in Athens

Dear colleagues,

The World Federation of Trade Unions, which brings together more than 92 million members in 126 countries on five continents, throughout its 73-year history, has been at the forefront of every just struggle, both international and regional, developed by workers and popular strata. With internationalism, class solidarity and struggle for the emancipation of the working class, the WFTU did not hesitate to offer its best militants, wherever the fire of the struggle for a more just society burned.

Today, under more complex conditions of world capitalist crisis and a generalized attack of capital and transnationals against the life and rights of workers, the WFTU continues to respect this duty of resistance. At the same time that the achievements of the working class are being dismantled, at the same time that the imperialists and their allies are attacking peoples, that waves of refugees and immigrants have increased dramatically, that fascism and Nazism are once again emerging in light, the need for internationalist solidarity is unpredictable.

In this framework, the WFTU, during its 17th Congress held in Durban, South Africa, decided to establish a Legal Committee, composed of militant lawyers and jurists, of fighting scientists who have put their knowledge at the service of the working class and their struggles; a Committee that will stand firm next to each fair battle organized by our class, which will fight on its side, trying to take advantage of the smaller legal margin granted by the bourgeoisie for the benefit of the people.

The Legal Committee is a necessity for the international class trade union movement; a need born of the intensification of repression in the capitalist states, of the intensification of persecutions, of anti-union laws that want to put an end to the historical achievements of the working class, including the right to strike!

The militants of the WFTU know very well that Justice and Law are not blind! They have their own special and most prominent role for the implementation of the capital strategy!

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They have their own role in the hunting of the WFTU militants in Colombia, Paraguay, Greece, Turkey, Guatemala, Palestine and other countries! That is why a class lawyer must be there to support and fight for the rights of his brothers and sisters!

Colleagues,

The duty for the foundation of a Legal Committee comes from the need to enrich our experience on the anti-worker changes in the labor laws at world level, of the need to learn more about the legislative apparatus of the bourgeoisie all over the world and to coordinate more effectively the intervention of the WFTU within the International Organizations where we have representation. We must put pressure for the improvement, as far as possible, of the legislation, as much as the system allows it.

In this sense, we can prepare an international platform for collecting data and following events in every corner of the world; a joint coordination and intervention platform in favor of the workers' interests. In this way, we can follow with quick reflexes the reactionary interventions against the popular liberties and democratic rights, whatever they may be.

The three key issues to be discussed are:

- 1) Solidarity and legal support to the militants who need it.
- 2) Collection of data on the legal framework by country, exchange of experiences, coordination and creation of a legal data base.
- 3) Interventions before International Organizations in favor of democratic rights, trade union freedoms and respect for the dignity of workers and militants of the trade union movement.

In the light of all the above, the WFTU Secretariat **calls on organizations that have jurists, lawyers and legal advisers to participate in the Constitutive Meeting of the Legal Committee of the WFTU that will take place in Greece, in Athens, on 16th of July 2018.**

Each affiliated organization can send up to one (1) participation of a lawyer to the mail: athens@wftucentral.org, as soon as possible.

The WFTU will cover the cost of accommodation and food. The cost of air tickets will not be covered.

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Let the class jurists put their knowledge at the service of the working class!

In case you need a visa please send your passport so as to receive a personal invitation.



Fraternally,
The Secretariat

Athens, April 16, 2018