



IWA EXTERNAL BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

The labour movement and workers face major assaults on its conditions and rights and with these attacks come also ideological campaigns. Workers are accused of having been living over all means and spending money they did not have. Greek citizens have been branded amongst other things to be 'lazy', 'corrupt', and 'inefficient' by their own and foreign politicians and business people.

This ideological campaign tries to convince working people that the austerity and crisis is 'their fault' and not the reckless speculation and deregulation of the world economy. Austerity measures and attacks are presented as "financial necessities" and "laws" and the workers must obey in order to later have new prosperity and growth.

The articles of mobilizations, actions, work conflicts and campaigns in this issue 3 of this External Bulletin which is compiled by the IS of ZSP-IWA (Poland), shows what these "financial necessities" means. The attacks continue all over, but especially in the so-called PIGS countries (Portugal, Italy Greece, Spain) which were speculated towards and targeted of a powerful group of Anglo-American financiers from the end of 2009.

The EU seems glad to support the "Arab Spring", while they are attacking their own citizens on all fronts. The attacks creates resistance, as also this bulletin shows, and there will be general strikes in Portugal, Spain, Greece etc on November 14.

The direct actions of the anarchosindicalist organizations are run by their affiliates, and not by paid union officials. The organizations don't and won't receive any subsidies from the state and/or capitalists and that do not class collaborate!

For workers self-organization and emancipation!

Oslo, October 29- 2012
IWA- Secretariat

CNT will call a General Strike on November 14 against the Labour Reform, Cuts and the Looting of the Working Class

Since the beginning of the economic crisis, the CNT has defended the general strike as the main tool of the working class against the attacks carried out by the banks and the bosses.

We reject the negotiation where the unions called on the government to ease the labour reform after the general strike of March 29. In the same way we have rejected the approach of the so-called social summit, to eliminate only the most flagrant excesses of the PP government, maintaining the core of the economic and political system that has put us in this situation, as well as its attempts to divert and delay the social response with useless proposals like the demand for a referendum.

The hard social situation demands a strong response, one which will grow and continue, which will break the ties with the political and economic system in which it originated, which it benefits and which is complicit with it.

After months of hesitation, the CCOO and the UGT will call general strikes on November 14, dragged into it on the one hand, by increasing social unrest and mobilizations in the streets and on the other, by the continued anti-labor measures of a government at the service of financial elites and employers with no intention of conceding even the crumbs that allow institutional unionism to justify their role.

CNT has agreed to call a general strike for November 14 and we will do this in our own way, with our own demands. We say that this strike is necessary but is not sufficient and we call for it to go beyond the sterile and frustrating scenario of the institutional unions that people have become accustomed to.

Our challenge will be that this strike strengthen the will to struggle and self-organize of growing layers of the working class, building the ability to push new calls and protests globally and across different sectors.

We call on the strike of 14N with desire for continuity. Convinced that in order to confront the elites and the European financial institutions and their puppet governments, it is necessary not only to promote class unity beyond the artificial boundaries of national borders, starting with the strike of 14N, but to also break with the format of strikes that is far from being sufficient to address these policies.

Our challenge is to be able to go beyond 24-hour strikes isolated in time, beyond the stopping activity in traditional industries and sectors, to find ways to interrupt the whole process of production and consumption, to incorporate the entire working class in the mobilization, a working class which is precarized and divided. Being able to do the most damage to the economic interests of the corporate and financial elite is the main objective of the general strike.



We call on trade unions and anticapitalist social movements to work overwhelm and to give continuity to the strike of November 14. To take to the street.

Making a general strike has become more than a slogan; our goal is that it become a real tool of struggle and on November 14 we have to take the next step to make it happen, with all our strength, because much is at stake.



The CNT Takes Action against Unemployment and Bank Bailouts

For the Confederation, the debate sparked by the renewal of the Preparation Plan, shows the insufficiency of the previous plan, both in the amounts as well as the coverage and the insult to the dignity of the workers that support the reforms proposed in the extension approved by the government, when dealing with allowances and benefits – amounts totally insufficient to mitigate the dramatic situation that mass unemployment is creating and the millions of workers who don't receive enough money to cover their basic needs.

Given this scenario, the CNT called workers to the streets in late August, especially the unemployed, calling on them to organize themselves and to take to the street, making unemployment a social and political problem, demanding a change in the policies that apply from Madrid to Berlin, because "if we want them to treat us like people and that our rights are attended to, we have to strike back, so that they see us, hear us and to demonstrate that we have dignity."



With this goal, the CNT held actions in the public employment offices in dozens of cities: Madrid, Valladolid, Toledo, Compostela, Vigo, Gijón, Donostia, Lasarte-Oria, Vitoria, Miranda de Ebro, Zaragoza, Teruel, Barcelona, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Olot, Girona, Pineda de Mar, Valencia, Elche, Utiel Requena, Córdoba, Jaén, Jerez, Pedrera o Adra, which included pickets, demos, poster, informational banners and even occupations. Also the forming of assemblies of the unemployed were promoted in Córdoba and Teruel.

Shortly after the mobilizations against unemployment, there was a new round of actions to publicize the opposition to the payment of the debt, which the union considered a speculative mechanism of submission which would compromise the possibilities for a decent life for the majority of the society for years. In a similar way, it rejected the approach of the “Social Summit”, promoted by CCOO and UGT and considers the demand for a referendum or social consultation to be useless means that only attempt to derail the social mobilization and stronger methods.

Many unions responded to the call, like those from the province of Barcelona, (Sabadell, Cornellá, Barcelona...) or from places like Olot or Elche, which protested in front of numerous banks. In other places, like in Gijón or the Southern Comarcal of Madrid, parades were held in the center, stopping at different banks. Also worth noting was the activity in Cordoba, where the CNT demonstrated at the Finance Office before marching along the boulevard to Cajasur, the main financial entity in the province.

The anarchosyndicalists demonstrated what is alternatives are, to break the chain of debt, refusing to pay the illegitimate debt, exposing the beneficiaries of the grand scam, to put an end to the complicity of the banks with tax evasion and tax havens, to denounce the complicity of the political parties and the silence of institutional syndicalism, to demand a stop to evictions of workers and an break with the economic and political model at the service of the financial elite, to construct another society where we recover control of the economy.

So that the mobilizations did not stop there, a few days later, the Confederation announced its intention to day a day of struggle on September 26 – together with combative syndicates opposed to the social pact, in solidarity with the general strike in Euskadi and Navarra and trying to spread this to the rest of the country.

CNT in the General Strike in the Basque and Navarre Regions



From the early morning on the 26th of September, the CNT protested in different cities on the Basque region. In Donostia (San Sebastian), members of the union took part in early morning informational pickets about the strike. There were some rough moments due to the presence of the police. The CNT later joined the main strike demonstrations. In the evening, they held their own demonstrations in Donostia, Bilbao, Gasteiz, and Irunea.

In Irunea the CNT organized a picket where they criticized the current socio-economic situation and gave anarchosyndicalist solutions for it. Activists from the CNT in Durangaldea took an active part in the strike, organizing many informational pickets.

The CNT considered the strike to be a success. Thousands of people demonstrated and in some areas, many businesses were shut down.

Solidarity Actions

Throughout Spain, members of the CNT organized and co-organized demonstrations and rallies in support of the strike. The CNT held their own demonstrations and rallies in Compostela, Logrono, Murcia, Salamanca, Santander, Zaragossa and Jaen and co-organized demonstrations in Alicante, Aranda de Duero, Burgos, Valencia, Valladolid, Cordoba, Madrid, Malaga, Mirando de Ebro, Sabadell, Sevilla, Teruel, Huesca, Jerez, Gijon and El-Ferrol.

In Poland there was also informational events supporting the strikers in Spain and in Greece held in Warsaw. A similar event was held in Dresden. Various Sections of the IWA and the International Secretariat also sent their greetings and messages of support for the spread of strike action to the CNT or protests, for example to the Spanish government.



A Victory for Direct Action in Ullastres

On September 25, at 8:00 a.m., a group of around 20 comrades from the Local Federation of Madrid, in solidarity with our comrade



Abe from the Metal Union, made an informational picket outside the ULLASTRES group. Ullastres is a subcontractor for companies such as Gas Natural Fenosa, Iberdrola, el Canal Isabel II, etc. It is a nationwide company which reads meters and inspects infrastructure and installations. The previous night, some comrades from this union went to the industrial park where the company is located to inform about the dismissal of the comrade.

The conflict started with the comrade received a fax while he was on sick leave informing him that he was fired for disciplinary reasons for gross misconduct,

The company, located in the Vallecas industrial park, was visited by a picket. One of the goals of the picket was to get in contact with somebody responsible in the company. They started by handing out leaflets to the workers and to people from nearby companies, shouting ¡ULLASTRES PILLASTRES! (Ullastres, scoundrels!) Reinstatate our fired comrade! Don't play with the CNT! Some bosses and careerists rebuked the informational picket, and wound up calling the national police, which turned up quickly after hearing its masters' voice. The comrades were not intimidated and continued reading the leaflet, denouncing the company and its coercive methods to get rid of workers they are not interested in. The tension was palpable each time that some boss came. They were all jeered and when the workers left the office, it could be seen that some acted like they thought that taking the side of the company would protect them from repression and dismissal. Although some workers' attitude was more not to defend their co-worker with the excuse that "everybody has got to do what they have got to do", thus contributing to the disunity and the destruction of union life that we have been suffering over the last few years. An hour

passed and the picket ended, without having any meeting with anybody responsible. However, some 4 hours later, the comrade received a call from the director for a meeting. At this meeting they tried to regulate the matter by economic compensation but the comrade said that either he be readmitted or the conflict will continue. After this, the company decided to reinstate him and he went back to the same job.

We know that this kind of "Express Reinstatement" does not happen frequently and that a reinstatement or any other conflict requires a lot of effort and sometimes months or years of struggle, so this victory was a breath of fresh air and an incentive for many comrades who saw how direct action can bear fruit.



An Indefinite Strike Caused the Casa de les Monges in Cervelló to Cancel a Wage Decrease



The staff of the Casa de les Monges in Cervelló, a center working with the Department of Social and Family Welfare, is in a conflict with the management of the residence. They are demanding health and safety improvement and a guarantee that their workplaces will be maintained. For now, they have made them withdraw a proposed pay but they will continue the struggle until they achieve all of their demands.

The union section of the "Casa de les Monges" residence, part of the CNT-AIT Sabadell, has been in conflict with the management since September due to the proposed wage cuts for some workers who don't even earn 1000 euros. Given this measure, the union decided to call an indefinite strike. With just this announcement, the workers were able to get the company to withdraw the pay cut, but they maintain the strike as their demands are wider. They seek improved health and safety conditions and guarantees that there will be no job cuts or retaliation for union activity.

International Day of Solidarity with the Drivers of Dominos Pizza



September 15 was an international day of solidarity with the drivers of Dominos Pizza in Brisbane, called by the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation of Australia. These workers, who deliver pizza, are in a struggle against the arbitrary abuse of the firm, which cut their salaries by 19%. The campaign was supported by the International Workers Association and actions were carried out in many countries around the world.

History of the Conflict

The drivers from Dominos Pizza in Brisbane, Australia, including members of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (ASF), have been confronting the company which cut their salaries by 19% since April 9. From that time they have been struggling to regain their former pay. This struggle has been not only with Dominos, but also with the right wing hierarchy of the SDA union, which also includes some Dominos employees. In response to the inaction of the SDA, the drivers formed the General Transport Workers Association (GTWA, connected to the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation) and actively coordinates the struggle to reinstate the salaries on the national level. Other employees of the firm joined the ASF's branch union seeing that the other union functioning in Dominos is conciliatory and does nothing to improve the situation of the drivers.

The union SDA, is one of the main ones in Australia, with approx. 230,000 members. SDA is run by a right-wing Catholic hierarchy (bureaucracy) headed by Joe de Bruyn, who is not against using the union to propagate clerical ideology.

ASF Brisbane organized a meeting with Tim Van Schyndel, director of labour relations for Dominos in its Australia headquarters, demanding to regulate the question of the drivers salaries. But the meeting did not bring results. Then the ASF-B organized a picket at the headquarters, which was warmly received by local residents. They appealed to the ASF Melbourne for support and they unanimously decided to support their comrades and picket every weekend in front of Dominos, supporting the pickets in Brisbane.

The drivers had the following demands:

- 1) The basic wage should not be lower than the official minimum wage set by Fair Work Australia and casual and part-time employees should also be guaranteed this minimum
- 2) This norm should be observed irrespective of the collective agreement
- 3) Workers should be paid for training and meetings they have to attend (in the restaurant or on the Internet)
- 4) All tips from clients should go to the employees in their entirety and under no circumstances should Dominos take any part of them
- 5) All casual and part-time workers should be paid public holiday rates in ratio to those entitlements currently received by full-time, and part-time employees to the extent that by 2014, all casual workers including drivers be paid at the rate of double-time for all hours of work performed on public holidays.

Solidarity Action on September 15

Australia. Pickets and solidarity meetings with the drivers are organized in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

Argentina. The Society of Resistance of FORA in Rosario translated and distributed the appeal of the Australian comrades.

Great Britain. The Solidarity Federation called for people to send solidarity protests through the firms page on Australian Facebook and on September 17 to flood the Australian office with protest faxes and letters of protest, so as to paralyze the company's communications for a while. SF organized protests in front of restaurants in London, Manchester, Leeds, Brighton, Bitterne Southampton and other places.

In Manchester, activists from SF from the city and West Yorkshire, together with members of the Anarchist Federation and other libertarian comrades picketed Dominos near the university. The manager called the police but they did not intervene. The action was successful: during the picket only one group of customers went in. In Bristol, an Australian woman approached the picketers and thanked them for solidarity with Australian workers. She promised

to inform about the action on local radio in Melbourne when she returned home. In New Cross members of South London SolFed delivered a protest letter to Dominos Pizza and spoke with the drivers there; the area was posted with leaflets and stickers supported the Brisbane drivers. A picket in Sheffield in front of Dominos was organized by the Industrial Workers of the World. And in Leeds, members of the IWW and the AFed also picketed.

Brazil. The Brazilian Workers Confederation (COB) organized solidarity actions in Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre.

Germany. Members of the Free Workers' Union (FAU) picketed Dominos restaurants in Bonn, Cologne and Langenfeld. They gave leaflets to the workers, passersby and residents which explained the basics of the labour conflict in the firm. On a placard in Cologne was written "19% wage cut in Dominos! Today Brisbane, tomorrow Cologne?"

Spain. There were different solidarity actions with the drivers of Dominos organized by members of the CNT-AIT in different cities. In Mataro, activists from Premia and Mataro held a picket at a restaurant on St. Antoni St.

In Gijon, a banner was hung on one restaurant and different graffiti against the company was made.

In Cornelia de Llobregat there was a picket in front of Dominos when they have the most customers there. They read a communique a few times and gave out about 300 flyers to passersby, customers and workers.

In Salamanca, members of the CNT (from the CNT union in Telepizza) informed workers about the campaign and called on workers in the branch to follow the example of the Australian colleagues, choosing the path of self-organization. In Elche there was a picket in front of Dominos Pizza which lasted about one hour. The participants gave out leaflets and brochures to passersby, customers and workers and they put up some posters. In Murcia, the CNT also made a similar action.

Canada. A protest against Dominos was held in Vancouver.

Netherlands. The Amsterdam group of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Union made a picket in front of Dominos. The participants explained the situation to pizza deliverers and they expressed sympathy with their Australian colleagues. One of them openly expressed solidarity with them.



Picket in Elche, Spain.

New Zealand. A protest against Dominos took place in Auckland. It was organized by activists from „Action against Poverty” and Auckland anarchists and supporters. Another action took place in the capital in Wellington.

Norway. Activists from the Norwegian Syndicalist Federation distributed leaflets at a Dominos in Oslo.

Poland. Members of the Union of Syndicalists, Poland visited the office of the company in Warsaw on September 14 and delivered a protest. On September 15, then hung banners on the restaurant on al. Jerozolimskie, which drew the attention of many passersby. They gave out leaflets explaining the struggle of the drivers from Dominos Pizza in Australia and about the situation of workers in the food service industry in Poland. The police and manager of the restaurant showed up. He made photographs of the picket to send in to the head office and tried to make an impression by offering the protesters pizza.

Russia. For the international solidarity day, stickers were put up at the entrance of a Dominos restaurant reading „September 15, international day of solidarity with drivers from Dominos Pizza in Brisbane. Shame on the company that lowered wages by 19%! No to exploitation! International Workers Association". Leaflets with a similar text were left on cars, including the ones for delivering pizza.

Slovakia. Since in that country there are no Dominos, Priama akcia sent letters of protest to the company.

USA. Solidarity actions took place in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Long Beach, Cleveland, Providence, Tampa, Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Minneapolis/ St. Paul and other cities. Most of them were attended by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Workers' Solidarity Alliance and

other local activists. Members of the Workers' Solidarity Alliance took active part in the campaign in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Long Beach and Providence (together with the group „Common Struggle“. In Missoula (Montana) there was a picket in front of Dominos organized by the Workers Solidarity Alliance and the Zootown Solidarity Network. In Ann Arbor the action was organized by Lansing Workers' Center.

France. French anarcho-syndicalists held pickets in front of Dominos in Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Paris, Toulouse, Pau and other places. Leaflets were distributed in 4 restaurants in the Paris region (in Nanterre, Besonne, Sartrouville and Enghien-les-Bains) entitled "Why the pizza delivers get only pennies" and they spoke with the workers. They discussed with workers about their conditions and what is happening in Australia. In Toulouse about 200 leaflets were given out in front of a Dominos restaurant and they spoke with the workers. In Caen there was a picket and leaflets were given to residents, customers and passersby. An administrator came out and demanded an explanation and declared that the situation in Australia does not concern him and that he would inform the management of the company in France. In Pau a picket was made and the comrades talked to the workers, asking them to deliver leaflets to the company headquarters.

Activists of the union of retail and services of SUD delivered a protest letter to Dominos on Boulevard Saint-Marcel 40 in the center of Paris.

Mass pickets against workfare in Brighton



On September 22, the Liberal Democrat party conference was in Brighton. Following a protest march, there were simultaneous mass pickets of firms using workfare across Brighton. Rather than simply 'having our say' and being ignored by politicians, the idea was to disrupt a high profile coalition policy - the forced, unpaid work schemes known as Workfare.

Workfare means unemployed people being forced to do unpaid work for their benefits. Workfare is a state

subsidy to private businesses, providing free labour and undercutting the minimum wage. The government's own research found that in countries that introduced workfare it could actually lower a jobseeker's chances of finding a job. Where previously these roles would have been filled by paid staff, employers get to take advantage of a growing pool of jobseekers they won't have to pay.

Two Poundland stores, Primark, Superdrug and Argos were picketed. We had lots of conversations with passers-by, many of whom were unaware of the schemes. 2,500 leaflets were distributed in under an hour. The pickets were jointly organised by Brighton Benefits Campaign, Brighton Solidarity Federation, and Brighton Uncut.



October 20: SolFed Protests against Austerity, Takes Action against Exploitation

On October 20, a large union demonstration against austerity measures was held in London. An anarchist contingent of several hundred people gathered for the big march into central London, with more red and black flags than ever and plans to totally ignore the bureaucrats telling us that we (meaning they) are "being heard" and asking nicely for slightly less austerity.

Despite a large escort of police and a helicopter assigned specially for us (we had a chopper above us from about 11am to 5pm) we weren't deemed a major target for the most part, and made it to Trafalgar Square with little incident and a lot of happy folks taking copies of our papers, leaflets etc. At the square we made a sudden breakaway to head up and join Boycott Workfare as part of our ongoing campaign to bring down a piece of legislation which sees companies and charities using free labour from the unemployed to undercut low-paid workers' conditions.

Between 50 and 100 people came along with us as we headed to a number of businesses participating in Workfare. We started with McDonalds, where we blocked off the doors with chants such as "Noooooo wages? Oooooooutrageous!". This was followed by



The Salvation Army, then on to another McDonalds, where they took the bizarre decision to lock their own customers in for a while. It's a bold way to increase business, for sure. M&S, just down the road, was next, where we chanted "You say Workfare, we say unfair!"

Primark was fifth on the list, largely shutting down the road nearby as a combination of protesters, badly-parked police vans and shoppers totally filled the street, forcing drivers to listen to explanations of precisely how Workfare is stripping claimants of their dignity while putting hundreds out of work.

We finished up with a third McDonalds.

It was notable that more people participated in our actions than last time, despite a serious decrease in numbers for the TUC rally as a whole. So we see that the number of people who are prepared to go on an anti-cuts march from point A to point B so they can listen to some union bureaucrats is shrinking. The number of people who are prepared to directly confront businesses and force change through direct action is on the rise.



Newcastle SolFed distribute latest Catalyst



Over the past year Newcastle SolFed members have been shifting thousands of the SolFeds national paper, Catalyst at metros, bus and train stations, as people head to or from work.

Our regular street presence has been well received by passing commuters, with regulars stopping to chat. Newcastle will continue to build on their high profile street pitches for 2013.

The Activity of KRAS Summer- Autumn 2012



During the summer and at the beginning of autumn, the Russian regional section of the

International Workers' Association took part in a number of protest and solidarity actions.

On June 1, a group of activists from KRAS attended a rally against the commercialization of education, to show its full support of the struggle for free education and resistance against the attacks of the rich and powerful against our social rights. We do not take part in political actions and campaigns which revolve around who will rule us, out of principle. But just as principally we take part in protests which have a purely social nature and we call on workers not to believe politicians and bosses: only the self-organized struggle of people for their rights can lead to victory. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2202>)

On the same day, members of KRAS took part in a rally in memory of the workers of Novocherkassk, whose strike was violently repressed by the ruling pseudosocialist regime in June of 1962. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2203>)

On July 6, activists from KRAS took part in a picket of "alternative" unions at the office of the Russian branch of the multinational corporation "Unilever" in Moscow. We, anarchosyndicalists, are divided in many ways from the unions which exist in Russia (the "official ones" as well as the "alternative"), but we could not fail to express our solidarity with a worker activist from Omsk, which the company wanted to fire, in revenge for her participation in a strike. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2266>)

On August 10, anarchosyndicalists took part in a solidarity picket with the workers activists from the far eastern port of Nachodka. The action went past the Moscow offices of the company administering the port. The boss started a criminal case against an activist from the port and on August 10, solidarity actions took place in different cities in Russia. Characteristically, although the picket in Moscow was organized by „alternative unions” from the Russian Confederation of Labour, members of KRAS made up half of the participants. This showed once again the low mobilization capabilities of the bureaucratic unions in Russia.

On September 15, as part of the international day of solidarity with drivers from Dominos Pizza in Brisbane (Australia), stickers were put at the entrance of one Dominos in Moscow which said „September 15: International Day of Solidarity with drivers from Dominos Pizza in Brisbane (Australia). Shame on the company that cuts workers wages by 19%! No to exploitation! International Workers Association". Leaflets with a similar message were put on the windshields of the pizza delivery cars. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2408>)

On September 22, members of KRAS took part as a separate block in the rally in Moscow in the framework of the "United Day of Action against the Destruction of Public Health Care". Representatives of the Russian section of the IWA went to express their protest against the neoliberal offensive. The paper "Direct Action" was given out and the principles of anarchosyndicalism and the particulars of the daily work of KRAS-IWA was explained. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2422>)



On October 7, activists from KRAS took part in an "alternative" trade union rally against the social and economic policies of the government. In contrast with the activists from political parties and organizations, and also in contrast with the "alternative" unions, which called for a "social state", the libertarians present tried to bring its vision of solutions to the problems to those gathered, namely the necessity of creating a workers' movement independent from politicians, which would lead the struggle against both capitalism and the state. Members of KRAS-IWA distributed leaflets explaining its positions. (<http://www.aitrus.info/node/2451>)

Besides taking part in street action, anarchosyndicalists showed informational support to the inhabitants of one of the Moscow regions which struggle against the closure of a children's hospital. They also carried out active anti-clerical agitation, in connection with an offensive of clerical and nationalist reaction in the country.

Activities of Priama akcia (August-October 2012)

August

Solidarity appeal in support of Ewa, activist from Warsaw Priama akcia informed about her accident and appealed to website readers to send solidarity donations. PA and several individuals sent their donations.

September

Education sector warning strike More on the topic in two interviews with a member of PA working in the education sector

<http://www.priamaakcia.sk/Warning-strike-in-the-education-sector-in-Slovakia---two-interviews-with-a-member-of-Priama-akcia-IWA-Slovakia.html>

Solidarity with ASF in their campaign against Domino's Pizza As there is no Domino's branch in Slovakia, we sent at least protest faxes and e-mails to the headquarters.

19th Congress of PA

Numerous matters were discussed. Among the most important ones is the kick off of campaign aimed at precarious student work; improvements in rotation of tasks in the organization; classification and systematization of the conflicts PA was involved in historically; improvement of the schema explaining how PA proceeds when someone contacts us and asks for support; edition plan of our Breakpoint Press for the next few months, including pamphlets published originally by WSA (about SeaSol), SolFed (Workmates, Fighting for Ourselves), some IWA related matters, etc.

October:

Ideš na brigádu? (Are You Going to Work via Student Contract?) campaign We have started a campaign related to precarious student work. Main aims are: to spread information on possibilities of how to defend and organize ourselves against employers; to get in contact with workers who have/had problems while working via student contracts and support them in finding a solution; to inform how other students managed when they had problems; to publish experiences from this type of work; a "contest" for the worst employer regarding student contracts and handing out of the "prize". Information in Slovak can be found at <http://www.priamaakcia.sk/kategoria/brigady/> and <https://www.facebook.com/IdesNaBrigadu>.

Protest of PA-Bratislava in support of ZSP member fired from Roche Polska
<http://www.priamaakcia.sk/Protest-of-PA-Bratislava-in-support-of-ZSP-member-fired-from-Roche-Polska.html>

Report about the mobilizations against the austerity measures in Portugal



After two years of austerity measures and a year of implementation of the agreement with the IMF/European Central Bank/European Commission, the effects of this policy on the Portuguese economic and social situation are clear to all. Portugal's economy faces an uncontrollable recession and the social problems affecting the most exploited layers of the population are growing. It is now clear to everyone that the effects of the austerity measures in Portugal are identical to those produced in Greece, launching a large part of workers into misery.

In August, major changes to labor laws were implemented, resulting basically on the reduction of wages, increase in working hours, facilitation of dismissals and reduction of unemployment compensation. It was the second package of changes in the labor law against workers' rights applied this year only.

The average depreciation of real wages will reach 12% in 2013 compared to 2011. And for the first time in the last 14 years, even the nominal wages have begun to decline.

Unemployment continues to rise, reaching 16%, according to official figures. We know that these numbers are much higher, since the State uses schemes such as training programs to withdraw the unemployed from the official statistics and many workers have already given up looking for jobs through the Job Centers. Likewise, emigration, which in 2011 affected at least 100 000 workers, continues to avoid that the official unemployment rate gets even higher.

So far, the opposition to austerity measures in Portugal had been relatively moderate and peaceful. Despite the holding of three general strikes in the past two years, most of the protests have remained under the control of bureaucratic unions and left parties, which struggled to contain any potential radicalism.

We can say that in the last month this situation has changed substantially. Following the announcement by the government that workers' contributions to social security would be increased, causing a drop of 7% on all wages, while the contributions of the companies would be reduced, hundreds of thousands were mobilized and expressed their discontent on the 15th of September.

The September 15th demonstration was convened mainly through the Internet and exceeded all expectations, constituting the largest demonstration in Portugal since the 1st of May of 1974. It is estimated that 500 000 people demonstrated in Lisbon and 100 000 in Porto. Simultaneously, there were demonstrations in more than 30 cities in Portugal. In Lisbon, tens of thousands eventually converged to the National Assembly where clashes with the riot police occurred.

Since then, demonstrations have been held almost every week, with variable size, but much smaller than those of the 15th of September. In several of these events there were attacks against the police, who received orders not to react openly. The arrests of protesters have been carried out mainly by plainclothes agents at the end of the demonstrations away from the television cameras.

On September 29th, the main bureaucratic union CGTP also held a demonstration in Lisbon that has gathered about 300 000 people. The same trade union called a general strike for the 14th of November.

The Portuguese Section of the IWA considers it to be quite positive that large sections of the population, including a vast majority of workers, have lost their fear of speaking up, starting to massively resist the successive attacks on their living conditions. We also consider positive that these are not just occasional protests, but continuity exists between demonstrations.

However, there are aspects of the mobilizations that deserve some critical comments:

- There is a danger of these struggles being directed towards political objectives, particularly a mere fall of the government and consequent early elections, which is the intended purpose of the left parties;

- There is the danger of nationalism, as a sector of the protesters insists on using a nationalistic rhetoric of opposition to the austerity measures as something that is imposed from abroad, intending to retrieve "national independence" and forgetting that we are facing a global social war that threatens the living conditions of workers around the world;

- There is also the danger that these manifestations will remain only as a pressure movement, not coming out of it, as we hope, the growth of a social movement for the self-organization of struggles, with prospects for radical economic and social change.

Given these contradictions present in this movement, our position, that we try to convey with our presence in the demonstrations, goes towards affirming that we are not only against the government of the "troika" and the austerity measures, but against the class society and against an economic and social system based on the exploitation of wage labor and environmental destruction.

The Portuguese Section of the International Workers Association participates in the protest movements against austerity measures and calls for the participation of all workers. The AIT-SP calls for the participation in the general strike of the 14th of November and makes an appeal to the workers in Europe and the world to support this strike which will occur simultaneously in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Malta and Cyprus.

For workers self-emancipation!

IWA - Portuguese Section
24th of October 2012

ZSP Continues Actions against Fictitious Self-Employment and Labour Precarity



On Oct. 10, a suit against Roche Polska was scheduled to begin in Warsaw. Unfortunately it has been postponed. Our comrade is suing the company to be reinstated at work and receiving all benefits he lost while being fictitiously self-employed at the corporation.

The case relates to IT workers at Roche Polska who were not given regular employment contracts.

Instead, they were falsely hired as "independent contractors" or through businesses not licensed to operate as work agencies. However, they had to work as regular employees, therefore, we are claiming that a work relation actually existed with Roche, even though they deny this. By denying this working relationship, the workers were also denied benefits such as paid vacation, sick leave, maternity or paternity and social security benefits.

Roche Polska's lawyers defend the company with some incredible claims, such as that nobody forced them to work in the office, they could leave or take off whenever they wanted and, if somebody came in from 9-5, it was only because they themselves decided that.

Earlier in the year, Roche also announced that it would outsource IT work in Warsaw and Madrid. More recently, the company announced drastic pay cuts, up to 30% for some workers.

Although some unions now speak of trash contracts and try to do something about the false use of specific work contracts, none of them have yet said or done anything about the falsely self-employed, or those hired out by third parties which are not licensed as agencies. ZSP is thus bringing this problem to public attention and debate with this case.

We had no notice of the postponement on Oct. 10, and pickets were planned, so they went ahead as scheduled. There was a picket at the court. There we explained to passersby why we were fighting. There was also a harsh criticism made on both the attacks on the labour law and the problems that workers have bringing their cases to court - a perfect example of which we faced that day.

Afterwards there was also a leafleting action at Roche headquarters where our comrade used to work. This time we found the better reception than previously and lots of workers from other companies in the building wanted to talk about the case.

There also was a picket in front of Roche's office in Poznan. Although not as effected as the Warsaw office by recent decisions to outsource work, some people have lost their jobs there as well.

Pickets, leafleting and other actions took place in other cities such as Berlin, Bratislava, Oslo and near Paris. We are still receiving reports of those actions. Thanks to everyone for the support!

More information about some other ZSP activities in the last few months can be found on our webpage, including articles in English, Spanish and other languages. zsp.net.pl

Strike in the Madrid Metro

Note: we unfortunately do not have an update on this news. We only know that the CNT union continues struggling and pressing for its demands. We present two reports, published in August.

Report One

Since July 16, the 100 workers from EULEN cleaning the Madrid Metro trains have been on indefinite strike to defend their jobs and their rights. After 15 days, the strike value as a positive impulse, which 100% of the workforce has been supported.

On July 23 there was a workers' assembly that examined the first week of the strike, its pros and cons. At this meeting it was concluded to go ahead, with all the consequences. There was a proposal about what to do in case of layoffs, deciding unanimously not to give up the fight under any circumstances if these occur.

During these 15 days, both the company and Metro have used various illegal and dirty strategies to weaken the workers and to undermine their legitimate right to conduct a strike. From day one they have infringed the decrees of the Community of Madrid in terms of minimum service terms, ordering cleanups that do not have to do, threatening the workers with drastic measures if they didn't what they're told (like giving them double shifts or refusing to give them any days off) and evening asking for the IDs of the comrades, as if they were policemen during a raid.

Metro also noted that simple stains or accumulation of debris such as paper or sunflower seed shells had to be cleaned for health and safety reasons and sent cars to employees of the stations and diverted trains on the affected lines so that cleaning could be done.

These and other tricks that they can think of, are not sufficient to make anybody abandon the struggle, because the staff is aware of the situation and is not willing to give in to the greedy and pretentious whims of the company. Metro intended to begin, or rather continue, historic cuts in the cleaning staff of the Madrid Metro. In May they started with employees on the track and warehouses, reducing the workday by 43% and leaving more than 20 people unemployed by various tricks. Now a cut of 45% with the train cleaners that's next? How many families will be left without support? How many are going to ruin even though still working, but with precarious employment?

The terms and excuses will vary, but all companies and all workplaces will be affected, ALL without a doubt. It is a small battle won in their favor that of about 300 cleaners in the three facilities affected by the cuts so far, only 100 (those from EULEN) have stood up to fight and have shown the clients. It is an example for the other more than 1000 colleagues in the Metro cleaning to imitate us. It would be much easier to make a hard and long war with Metro and its mercenaries, the companies contracted.

NOT A STEP BACKWARDS IN OUR DEMANDS!

Report Two

Today, August 16, we already are in the 32nd day of the indefinite strike in EULEN-METRO.

The past July 13, it was decided again, by a general assembly of the workers, to continue the struggle against these minions of the State and Capital.

The struggle at hand, is not on this occasion to claim social or economic rights, that are legitimate but we have not won yet; it is to conserve the rights in the concrete workplaces and in Metro cleaning in general, which had been gained through more than 20 yers of hard effort and struggle. It is possible that EULEN colluded with Metro to cut back 45% of the workforce to balance their books, something that should have been done before bidding on the contract because they knew that the expenses would far exceed the cost they gave in the tender. (According to our calculations, they could loss about a million euros per year.)

But what it really is is a full-scale assault on the staff and, therefore, the entire working class. It is a continuation of the classic „let the workers pay for our excesses and abuses”. That is what this is, not mistakes made in an attempt to lift up the country, as they claim to the public. It is one of the eternal lies of those in power and it is sad that the majority of the workin class believed this and because of this, we are in a general state of lethargy. WE ARE MODERN SLAVES and the only way to abolish this slavery is to rebel against the State and its vultures in the form of companies.

The time has come to act as workers in search of the conquest of liberty, and not as we normally do, in the base of cases, to react to the attacks of the authoritarian power that oppress and squeezes us through the existence of social classes. We have to fight reaction and not be part of it.

100% of the staff continues to support the strike, something that hasn't happened for at least 7 years in Metro cleaning. It is our opportunity to continue to have dignity. The strategies of the company, which are getting more and more brutal, such as making deductions as a repression for using the right to strike or making threats towards the workers, show us without a doubt that the path we have chosen is correct. The rest of the cleaners in the Metro, including those employed directly by the Metro of Madrid, should think about joining our struggle, since we have to understand that it is a common struggle, because after the summer they are going to start, or better continue, the cuts in the other workplaces. There is only one struggle, the struggle of the workers.

10 years of ASI: it's not a time for celebration, but for struggle



On this day, ten years ago, on October 19th 2002, the founding Congress of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative was held in Belgrade.

In previous ten years ASI has intensively supported the organizing of revolutionary libertarian workers' movement. Apart from direct participation in workers' and student strikes and protests, we are regularly publishing our weekly bulletin "Direktna akcija" (Direct Action) and sustain active publishing activities. This year, as it has for the past eight years, our publishing-research body — Center for Libertarian Studies (CLS) will be participating in The Belgrade Bookfare with the intention to make the theory and history of the workers' movement accessible to people, as well as to confront commercialization of culture, and support spreading and strengthening of progressive thought and radical social critique.



In June 2010 we have again filed for registration of Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative as a union organization, but because of the bureaucratic obstructions of the state this process is still ongoing. Since it's founding ASI has actively participated in the international workers' movement, and in 2004 it became a Section of The International Workers Association (AIT-IWA).

We can all feel on our own skin what the social conditions are like. Record breaking unemployment, minimal wages and spiraling rise of prices on one side, and unbelievably lavish life style of bosses and politicians on the other, is a picture of present day Serbia and the world. Because of this we are not inviting the workers to an anniversary party, but calling them to an organized class struggle! This struggle can not rely on yellow unions and political parties. It has to be without intermediaries, based on direct action against the interests of the bosses and the state, and direct-democratic — based on assembly decision making, without bureaucrats and unrecallable delegates, because only through such kind of struggle can fundamental improvements of the position of the workers be made, and foundations for a truly free society can be laid.

We continue the struggle today, the struggle which we have started 10 years ago, with the same zeal. It is a struggle for the improvement of the working class position, for the creation of workers' movement based on the principles of direct action and direct democracy, and a struggle for revolutionary transformation of society — which means getting rid of capitalism and state. We call all those without rights, workers, students, unemployed and pensioners to join us in this struggle, for a life worthy of a human being. For stateless self-managed communism. For anarchy!

**In Belgrade,
Secretariat of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative,
Section of the International Workers
Association**

On the USI Centennial Days in Milan

On September 21-23 celebrations and a party for the centennial of the founding of USI were organized by the comrades from the section in Milan, near the Cox 18 social center in Conchetta St. The place, as many comrades know, is an space occupied for about 30 years. There was a local and national mobilization when some time ago it was evicted. The structure, which also houses the Primo Moroni library, continues with alternative cultural activities. There was a three-day program. On the afternoon of the 21, there was an inaugural buffet, with good participation. This was followed up in the salon above by a well-attended analysis of the libertarian syndicalist press since its beginnings, conducted by Franco Schirone, who showed the numerous production of publications over the years, some of them unknown. This was followed by the talk by Paolo Masala which, in relation to the present, illustrated the function of Class Struggle (Lotta di Classe), the USI newspaper, its anarchosyndicalist line, open to information on the self-organized conflicts of the workers in the workplace or on the territorial level, on experimentation in the county and self-management even today. Later, in the big hall, there was the concert of Alessio Lega, with songs from the libertarian tradition as well as modern ones, self-produced, accompanied by his meticulous comments. In the afternoon of the 22nd, Franco Schirone spoke, illustrating some of the principle people in the history of USI, recalling the most significant episodes, like the internal clashes over certain topics, the occupations of factories, the important conquests realized by the workers under the guidance of USI that occurred throughout its history. Then there was the talk of Sergio Onesti which, starting from the historical experience of USI, signalled the demands of the organizational aspect which the libertarian syndicate has to assume today. Pino Petita spoke on the important task of the coordination of the struggles in the hospital sector, at the end of the 70s, which mainly converged in the end in USI to become its most important sector. After a pause, other talks were focused on the current presence of USI. Angelo Mulè informed of the grace attack that the workers in the San Raffaele hospital are suffering on the part of the new owners that intend to annul all the previous work agreements and fire 450 people.

On the part of the workers, where USI is the union with a relative majority, there was a response, with a

compact struggle, with initiatives inside and outside the hospital, looking for the mobilization and the coordination of the hospital sector, which has come under heavy attacks, with the aim of reducing public services. Also the talk by Gianni Santinelli from the San Carlo hospital has riveted the attack on the health sector on the part of the national and regional government and the necessity for a coordinated response. A documents from the workers of Leroy Merlin from Carugate, part of USI, was read about the brief and intense journey that the organization had internally where the company immediately tried to stop the growth of the union, resorting to harsh forms of repression, which obtained the opposite result, also thanks to the support of USI in Milan.

The talks were concluded with one by Enrico Moroni, the secretary of the organization, on the current situation of USI one hundred years after its birth, the validity of its anarchosyndicalist line, which, besides fighting for the improvement of work and living conditions, pursues a society without masters and servants. In the immediate future, USI is developing a struggle as united as possible on the part of the workers for an adequate and egalitarian pay increase, unifying all the categories, in light of the rising costs of living, for the reduction of working hours, for free public services, for employment for all without the blackmail of the precarity of work, for the elimination of military expenditure and for experimentation with forms of self-management as push in the direction of a society where exploitation is abolished.

At night, after dinner, the duet "Bernozzo-Bonvicini" took the stage, and accompanied to the sound of the harp, they sang songs of struggle from the anarchist tradition. Then "Coro Ingrato" with rebel songs up til today.

On the 23 of September, there was an organic food market in Cox 18, starting at 11 and lasting the whole day, promoted by the "Libertarian Project Flores Magon" and "Lands of Movement", involving a numerous and interested public. Lunch was organized with products from the market. In the afternoon there was a meeting with international syndical associations present from the IWA: CNT (Spain), FAU (Germany), Solfed (England), USI (Italy) which spoke of their experiences in those countries and the responses to the uniform political repression from the governments, the affinity existent between the various syndical organizations present, promoting the need for more coordination between the initiatives at the international level.

In the afternoon, after the dinner, Marco Rovelli read parts of his book "Il contro in testa", set among workers in the marble quarries of Apuania, with libertarian songs from his repertoire. Then there was the performance by the "Voci di Mezzo" choir, that involved all present singing songs in the anarchist and rebel tradition. Thanks to the technology available during the exhibitions, images of the struggles of the health workers and mobilizations in defense of the seat of USI in Bligny St. were shown during the music. The initiative of USI Milan for the centennial was undoubtedly a success, with the participation of hundreds of comrades, the importance of the arguments treated and the initiatives developed.



Festivities for the Centennial and the IWA Plenary

On November 23-25, the USI and its local section in Modena will organize 3 days to celebrate the Centennial of the foundation of USI on 23-25 November 1912 in Modena. In addition to hosting the IWA Plenary for 3 days, on Saturday the 24th, there will be a procession in the center of Modena with a rally in the main square.

On 23-25 November 1912, there was a national congress in Modena of Direct Action. The syndical traditions of anarchism and revolutionary syndicalism converged in USI. During the debate at the Congress, criticisms emerged of reformist syndicalism, characterized by politicking, concentration of power, authoritarianism, bureaucratism, corporativism and idolatry. Since its inception, USI proposed a revolutionary syndicalism which was based and is based on principles such as decentralization and autonomy, party neutrality,

libertarianism, anti-bureaucracy, combativity and class solidarity. For the self-management of the struggles, a political sensibility of the workers matured and new shock techniques were developed. "The union in a new libertarian optic is an instrument of diffusion anarchistic principles amongst the workers. The strike – each time more extended, acquires a new meaning – it brings together workers and integrated with other methods, becomes the principle arm of struggle."

In November 1912, 87,710 workers belonged to USI. Celebrating our Centennial means not only remembering our history, but also it is a optimal occasion to advance the importance and potential of anarchosyndicalism and direct action as opposed to the authoritarianism of the State and the exploitation of Capital. In this moment, of harsh attack that the economic, financial and state powers are carrying out against workers and the exploited, on the economic level or against their rights, it is necessary to advance the class struggle for an anarchosyndicalist change of the whole society. Besides discussion and debate, we guarantee good food, also vegan, and moments for party and socializing. We are expecting many people and we are convinced that all of the IWA will have many possibilities to speak and spread their practices and vision of the world.

USI-AIT, Modena Section



Conference for the 90th Anniversary of the Founding of the IWA

On Jan. 5- 6 2013, a conference on the past, present and future of the IWA will be held in London.

We invite those interested to attend. Write to intec@solfed.org.uk. for more information.