



IWA EXTERNAL BULLETIN

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**Secretariat of the International Workers Association
Boks 1977, Vika 0121 Oslo Norway**

**Contact to the IWA: secretariado@iwa-ait.org
Website: www.iwa-ait.org**

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Editorial

The IWA Plenary in Warsaw on October 28, 29 and 30 decided that the IWA should have an External Bulletin. Prior to that, various Congresses had treated the issue with the same wish. You are now reading the first issue. The editor responsible is the IWA - Secretariat, but it is made by excellent compilation of the IS of the ZSP.

It shows the activities and actions of the IWA this last winter and this spring during the serious and hard times we are living in of today`s Capitalism.

The IWA was (re) founded 90 years ago in Berlin. Since then we have seen the state communist dictatorships vanish, the Social Democrats are in the forefront of the interests of the capitalists, the Trotskyists show themselves as electoral politicians etc.

The IWA is an unique organization in this vast ocean of organizations which are integrated into the system, and the material in the bulletin shows actions that are run by the affiliates in organizations that do not receive any subsidies from the state and/or capitalists and that do not class collaborate!

Oslo, April 29 2012
IWA- Secretariat

First of May 2012: Against Capitalist Austerity Measures, Exploitation and Oppression - for Workers Self- Emancipation!

This year`s May Day has special significance as it marks the 125 Anniversary of the murder of the Haymarket Martyrs by the government of the United States in 1887. In 1886 an international campaign was launched in support of the 8 hour day. As part of that campaign a strike was called in Chicago on May 1st 1886. On May 4th during a demonstration called in support of the strike, a provocateur bomb exploded. The state sought to blame the anarchist who had been at the forefront of the campaign.

The government arrested 8 Anarchists, Parsons, Fischer, Engel, Spies, Lingg, Schwab, Neebe and Fielden. Though clearly innocent, Parsons, Fischer, Engel and Spies were hanged November 11 1887 and Lingg died in prison. The murder of the four men, who become known as the Haymarket Martyrs, sparked a massive international protest and led to May 1st being declared International Workers Day. A day born out of the brutality of the state and the heroic struggle of the workers and one that belongs to the international proletariat.

On this May Day we are yet again seeing capitalism and the forces of the state attacking the working class. The world is in the grip of an economic crisis resulting from the inherent instability of capitalism. Globalization has set capitalism free from the constraints of national borders and the oppression of the state is increasing and is being used by governments to attack working class resistance in the interest of international capitalism.

But though today we face remarkably similar conditions to those faced by workers at the time of the first May Day, thus so far there has been a different response by the international working class. The early workers movement turned its back of reformism and sought to build revolutionary unions and launched a powerful fight back against capitalism. Today workers are mainly organized in reformist trade unions that are unable and incapable of coming to terms and resisting the changing nature of globalised capitalism.

To succeed workers must reject reformism and electoral politics and once again turn to internationalism, solidarity and direct action as a means of organizing as a class to directly confront the capitalist economic dictatorship. A dictatorship that is now being clearly revealed across Europe and especially in Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain where vicious austerity measures are being imposed on workers.

That these Southern European economies are under attack is not surprising. A powerful group of Anglo-American financiers agreed in November 2009 that a diversionary attack on the euro, centered on the weaker Mediterranean economies, would be an ideal means of relieving pressure on the battered US dollar, then at a record low. This was followed by media attacks and coordinated financial speculation targeting the so-called PIGS countries: Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain.

These attacks have been met with growing workers resistance which the IWA has fully supported. There was lately a General Strike on March 22 in Portugal as reported by AIT – Portugal and the USI-AIT is active in the protests against the hard austerity measures in Italy. The protests have been, and are going on in Greece, and the workers at the Kilikis hospital showed the path by occupying the hospital. It was a General Strike on March 29 in Spain, and further mobilizations are initiated by the very active CNT-AIT against the government massive onslaught on workers conditions and rights!

Over the last year the IWA has also been involved in countless, international campaigns and solidarity actions in support of workers worldwide. On March 29, 30 and 31 the IWA also organized a successful Action Days against Capitalist Austerity Measures, Exploitation and Oppression. It is through such campaigns and solidarity actions rather than just words that the IWA is expanding.

The IWA consist of older and newer Sections which the commemorations this year show: The USI-AIT is 100 years, the NSF-IWA is 95 years, the young and vital IWA Section, ZSP-IWA is 5 years. Besides this, in the end of this year, it is 90 years commemoration of the IWA and it`s (re)founding in Berlin!

On this May Day 2012 our message to the workers of the world remains the same as at the time of the Haymarket Martyrs: Capitalism has and always will remain a system based on exploitation and oppression. It is a barbaric system that results in human misery, ecological disaster, unemployment, fascism and wars.

As such capitalism cannot be reformed. Reformism is used by capitalism to undermine and weaken workers self-organization, struggle and emancipation. The only path to emancipation for us as workers is to take control of our own struggle: A struggle that is directed against and outside of class collaborationist structures and that through Direct Action and Solidarity confronts and defeats the Capitalism and establishes Libertarian Communism!

For Workers Self -Emancipation!
Long live the IWA and Anarchosyndicalism!

Oslo, April 28 2012
IWA- Secretariat

IWA Action Days

On March 29-31, the IWA organized international action days. Below is the initial announcement of the action days by the IWA Secretariat, a summary of the actions and some descriptions of particular actions made by the Sections.

IWA-Action Days on March 29, 30 and 31

The International Workers Association (IWA) organizes Action Days on March 29, 30 and 31. The Actions are international and against Capitalist Austerity Measures, Exploitation, and Oppression with focus on global, regional and local issues/ work conflicts etc.

The IWA -Actions coincide with the March 29 General Strike in Spain. The Spanish CNT-AIT has made a call for General Strike and Sections and the IWA- Secretariat will show solidarity with our Spanish sister organization.

We are receiving information about participation in the IWA Actions Days, and so far from: ZSP (Poland), SF (Great Britain), CNTF unions (France), KRAS (Russia), AIT- Portugal and NSF (Norway). The IWA- Action Days also coincide with the European Day of Action against Capitalism on March 31 (M31), partially organized by FAU (Germany), USI-AIT (Italy) and CNTE (Spain).

The International Workers Association (IWA) is convinced that workers must fight against the Capitalist Austerity Measures, Exploitation, and Oppression by Direct Actions and International Solidarity. The IWA Sections are run by the workers themselves and without paid "functionaries", they do not class collaborate and won't receive financial subsidies from the capitalists and the state.

Workers will never be truly free from exploitation and oppression until the workers of the world organizes and fights with the goal of substituting the present capitalism with a system run by themselves that can provide real social and economical freedom for the workers!

Long live the IWA and anarchosyndicalism!

Oslo, March 12- 2012

IWA – Secretariat

The CNT calls for a General Strike on March 29

Against the Labor Reform, Cuts and Attacks against the Working Class.

The CNT rejects any negotiations over rights already won and demands the repeal of the Labor Reform.

The Confederal Committee of the CNT has agreed to call 24-hour general strike on March 29, extending the call already made in Galicia and Euskadi, a call that will be formalized in the coming days.

CNT rejects any negotiations on the rights won by the working class struggles in years, so it calls this strike calls with the main objective of immediately repealing the labor reform approved by parliament yesterday, which it considers a frontal assault against the rights and the living conditions of the working class, continuing the measures taken by the previous government, such as the labor reform of 2010, the lowering of wages in public administration or the cuts in pensions and public services that the current government is deepening.

CNT calls for an end to economic policies designed to make workers pay for the crisis of the banks and employers, which has led to an intolerable number of unemployed, which continues to grow and to the impoverishment and worsening of the living conditions of the working class.

CNT also calls the strike against the cuts, the day before a State Budget will be implemented, constituting a brutal attack on public services and social rights.

CNT rejects the Agreement for Employment and Collective Bargaining reached by CCOO and UGT and the CEOE last February, in addition to the amendments proposed by these unions to the parliamentary process of reform, rejecting them as being no valid alternative, as it shares the spirit of reform and assumes the logic of the employers and the government, assuming that the output of the crisis must be determined by assignments on the rights of workers, starting by placing the working class in a position of weakness. The same logic brought these unions to accept the extension of the retirement age to 67 after the general strike of 29S.

For the CNT, the strike of March 29 should be just the beginning of a process of increasing and sustained mobilization, to incorporate the whole of the working class and those most disadvantaged and affected by the capitalist crisis, to curb the constant dynamic of aggression against our rights, laying the foundations for the recovery and conquest of new social rights in the context of a profound social transformation.

All these reasons have led the CNT to make its call for March 29. With this call, the CNT wants to cover all those who are committed to real, sustained confrontation, to return the attacks against the working class with the same degree of forcefulness we are receiving, along with all those labor organizations that share these objectives and reject the politics of the pact and social peace.

For CNT, the frontal rejection of the politics and model of trade union bureaucracies of CCOO and UGT, discredited with large sections of workers, should not turn into an excuse against the mobilization and struggle but should spur it on, to reinforce it through a different form of unionism, through direct action, autonomy, and mutual support. Given the magnitude of the attacks we are suffering, the unity of the workers is fundamental, a unity that has to be manifested from the bottom, from assemblies in the workplaces and neighborhoods, demonstrations and pickets to mobilize against those responsible and the beneficiaries of this situation: employers, banks and the government, an unstoppable process that raises a barrier against the temptations to turn everybody's rights into anyone's currency.

It is time for all workers, employed or unemployed, retired, illegally employed, students, or precarious workers to say: enough! Let us take the street, not abandon it, to enforce our strength and our demands.

On March 29, all to the streets, all on strike!

**Permanent Secretariat of the Confederal Committee.
National Confederation of Labour - CNT**

IWA Days of Action Worldwide

The IWA Days of Action coincided with a general strike and were marked by campaigns against capitalist exploitation in concrete workplaces and by protests against capitalism, austerity measures and other attacks against the working class. Actions of different sorts took place in many countries. Below is a summary of different actions which we have received accounts of. Some of these actions are described in more detail in separate articles in this bulletin.

Day One: March 29

Without a doubt, the most extensive action held that day was the general strike in Spain, called by the CNT-AIT. (See the separate news on the strike in Spain)



Comrades from dozens of cities took part in blockades, pickets at workplaces where the CNT have conflicts, offices of political parties, municipalities and other places. Some unions held their own demonstrations, some went as blocks in joint demos. There were many successful blockades of scabs and closures of some businesses for the day, there were clashes with police, there were actions day and night.

Solidarity actions were organized internationally, in Lisbon, Warsaw, Berlin, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Nurnberg and Oslo.

Some other actions were organized on March 29 as well. In Bratislava, Priama Akcia took part in solidarity actions at Roche, called for by the ZSP. The ASF in Melbourne protested at Roche and the NSF in Oslo made a leafletting action. In Madrid, Roche was also picketed during the general strike.

In Brazil, the COB held a demonstration against capitalism and the global crisis in Porto Alegre.

It was in Madrid the Local Federation of the CNT-AIT demonstrating during the General Strike and in support of the IWA Days of Action.

Day Two: March 30

In Brazil, COB held a demonstration against capitalism and the global crisis in Araxa. COB in Florianopolis and Altosertao-Sergipano also did postering, leafleting and other actions during the action days.

The ZSP protested against raising the retirement age in Poland at the Parliament, together with other unions. It later organized a protest against the privatization of some school cafeterias, which means, among other things, the liquidation of workplaces.

The NSF had pickets in front of metro stations and in working class areas against austerity measures, temporary work and against plans of massive deportations of Ethiopian asylum seekers.

Day Three: March 31

Most of the IWA Sections chose Saturday for their actions.

The SolFed, in its ongoing campaign against the Workfare Scheme, where young unemployed people are expected to work for free, picketed establishments using these scheme in many cities in Great Britain.



The Global IWA Action Days also coincided with the European Day against Capitalism (M31). The FAU took part in a large anti-capitalist mobilization together with many left organizations in Germany which took part in Frankfurt / Main. Other international demonstrations coincided with this mobilization, which was a European Day against Capitalism. There were clashes with police and repression during this demonstration that wanted to go to the building site of the ECB to protest its role in capitalist oppression and austerity measures.

Some Sections of the CNT took part in the European Day against Capitalism. There were also references to both the IWA Days of Action

and M31. There was a demonstration in Toledo and rallies in Badajoz, Murcia, Castro Urdiales, Zaragoza, Aranjuez and Bilbao. The CNT made other actions that day, in Leon and Guipuzkoa. The ZSP held a demonstration in Warsaw against austerity measures and capitalism.

KRAS held a similar rally in Moscow.

The USI-AIT participated in the European Day against Capitalism by organizing a rally in Modena. It also participated in an anti-government demo in Milan.

The AIT-SP held rallies in Porto and Lisbon. In Porto the comrades also protested in support of a self-managed school which is threatened with eviction.

CNT Strikes in Spain on March 29

The CNT-AIT called for a general strike against the Labor Reform and held direct actions and mass rallies and demonstrations all around the country. The extent of the actions were so vast and the actions so varied that it would take a whole bulletin to list them all. In many cities, the comrades went around all night, many starting their actions on March 28 or midnight March 29. Many workplaces where the CNT has current conflicts were visited.



In Madrid, the comrades, starting at midnight, visited many workplaces like the Post Office, Indra (which outsources IT workers), the National Library, the Complutense University, Roche, Carrefour, Atento, RTVE, Telecinco and others. In the evening a large demonstration of the CNT was held. The CNT-Comarcal Sur visited an industrial poligon, some local bus companies, the municipality, Riva Madrid TV station, Humanus and other places before joining a demonstration in the south of Madrid.

In Barcelona, the CNT-AIT blocked the doors of RACC, with which they have a conflict. The CNT also has conflicts in areas like medical emergency services, so they picketed at the Department of Health.

In Zaragoza, the comrades protested at various supermarket chains so that they would not stay open during the strike. There was a picket at FCC, which does waste collection and where there is a conflict. Protests occurred at the headquarters of the Partido Popular, at banks and the Corte Ingles department store and then a common demonstration in the city.

In Salamanca, the comrades started with a rally the night before. In the morning they went to the wholesale market, Mercasalamanca, to promote the strike. The CNT joined various pickets,

for example in the Villares industrial poligon. It picketed at the University, Carrefour and the Corte Ingles store.

In Granada, the CNT visited Mercadona and other workplaces that intimidate workers against striking. In the afternoon, its demonstration protested workplaces like supermarkets and restaurants which were open.

In Valencia there was a picket at Instituto Misericordia, where CNT has a union.

In Cordoba, there were pickets and blockades at MercaCórdoba, AUCORSA bus company and supermarket chains like Mercadona, Piedra, Día and Deza. The comrades also visited some banks and took part in a demonstration.

In Valladolid, there were pickets at the Argales and San Cristobal industrial poligons, the Boecillo Technological Park, Mercaolid, Michelín, the Post Office, AUVASA buses and other places, including pickets at offices of various media, at El Mundo, El Norte de Castilla and the Promecal Communication group. Members of CNT took part in a student picket. In the evening the CNT took part in a demonstration.

In Compostela, the comrades went to the bus company to block the buses from operating during the strike. In Ferrol and Vigo there were similar actions. In Vigo, there were blockades at an industrial poligon, including at Citroen where one shift was blocked. In Compostela, the comrades visited the industrial area of Tambre and a couple of people were arrested in actions. In Ferrol there was a blockade of Alcampo.

In Aranjuez there was a picket at the Tajo Hospital, where the CNT has a union which is being repressed by the private company running the hospital. The CNT also visited OTAI, where it has a conflict for non-payment of workers. Other actions were held at the industrial poligon, Unilever, Indra, Mercadona, Fosters Hollywood (a restaurant where CNT won a conflict recently) and other places. The comrades from the CNT went to a joint demonstration in the south of Madrid later on.

In Sanlúcar de Barrameda, comrades blocked and closed down a BP gas station, the Super Sol supermarket and some cafeterias. There was also an action at Dia supermarket and some other places. In the evening there was a rally.

In Tenerife there was a picket at the Post Office and some arrests for another direct action against scabs. The CNT has a conflict at the building site of a cathedral where they made a picket also.

In Toledo the comrades of CNT blocked buses at Unauto. They held a rally and then headed to various places which were working like McDonalds and others to make actions.

In Bilbao the comrades did informational actions and visited industrial sites in Durango and Barakaldo.

In Xixon comrades picketed at Mercadona, make informational actions and raised barricades in the city, having some confrontations with police.

In Sevilla, the comrades made informational pickets, including at the Corte Ingles department stores and took part in a demonstration.

In Santander, the CNT went to supermarkets like Día, Mercadona, Lupa and joined protests at other workplaces, ending the day in a joint demonstration.

In Almeria, the comrades from CNT went to supermarkets and restaurants which were open like Mercadona or Carrefour. In Adra, the comrades picketed in support of striking cleaners. The comrades participated in a joint demonstration.

In Jaen, the comrades took part in pickets to block the Olivares and Valles industrial poligons. They picketed at Mercadona, Lidl and supermarkets, made a protest at the Partido Popular, the Confederation of Entrepreneurs and other places.

The comrades in Elche demonstrated in their city in the morning, making special stops at places like Mercadona. They joined the demonstration in Alicante in the evening.

This is just a brief (and incomplete) account of the actions of the CNT during the strike. There were dozens of other actions held around Spain, so many that it is difficult to name them all! The CNT in general considers the strike to have been a success and a good first step for future, hopefully more extended mobilizations.

International Support of the Strike in Spain

Many Sections of the IWA sent solidarity messages and otherwise supported the strike in Spain. The AIT-SP went to the Embassy in Lisbon with a picket and handed out informational leaflets. The ZSP also visited the Embassy in Warsaw and the FAU went to the General Consulate in Frankfurt. The ZSP later held a demo, as did FAU in Berlin, Stuttgart and Nurnberg. Other libertarian organizations also held solidarity actions with the strike.



IWA Days of Action in the UK

In support of the IWA Days of action in the UK, the Solidarity Federation called for campaign of direct action against workfare. The idea was to use the IWA 3 Days of action to launch a concerted campaign to put an end to unpaid work. This is in support of the ongoing Boycot Workfare campaign, that is being organised in conjunction with numerous other groups and organisations.



At a time of unprecedented youth unemployment in the UK , which now stands at over 22%, the government is subsidising businesses by sending the unemployed to work for them without pay and with the new Youth Contract it intends to expand these schemes even further.

The decision on which company to target was left to just before the Days of action to ensure that the company chosen were not alerted to the planned demos and pickets. After discussion within the Solidarity Federation it was decided to target the company Holland and Barratt a major high street chain of shops selling health products. The SolFed decided to target Holland and Barratt because the company

intends to take over 1000 people on work experience this year and with a workforce of around 4000, unpaid workers will comprise a significant portion of their staff.

On the 29th & 30th March SF groups and supporters around the country distributed information to Holland & Barrett staff explaining basic workplace rights. A leaflet was also distributed to customers and passers by. A copy of the leaflet can be downloaded at : <http://www.solfed.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/workfarehb.pdf>



On the 31st March Holland & Barrett shops in over 20 cities and towns across the UK were picketed. In some places several Holland & Barrett shops were picketed on the same day. For example in Brighton SF members came together with Brighton Benefits Campaign and others to form two pickets at the North Street and London Road branches of Holland and Barrett. With the North Street picket attended to by around 20 people and the smaller branch at London Road picketed by about a dozen, both were well attended and succeeded in turning away a considerable number of potential customers and raising the profile of the anti-workfare campaign.

The Pickets in general were well received with thousands of anti-workfare leaflets distributed. For example in Kilburn one member of the public stopped by for half an hour to help us do some leafleting. Others took the opportunity to go into the store and express their dissatisfaction directly to the Holland and Barrett manager on duty at the time. Similar stories of public support were received from numerous pickets.

In a couple of places the pickets managed to close down stores. In London one local Holland & Barrett store closed as 20+ SLSF and comrades chanted, sang and dished out leaflets. In various places Holland & Barrett made feeble attempts aimed at trying to counter the effectiveness of the pickets. In Halifax Holland & Barrett had a member of staff on the door to "welcome shoppers." These pathetic counter measures only served to show just how worried Holland and Barrett were about the impact the pickets.

The Solidarity Federation hopes to build on the success of the Holland & Barrett pickets and aims to join with other campaigning and anarchist groups to step up the pickets on the companies using the workfare scheme. On Monday April 2nd a picket of the headquarters of the reformist Communication Workers Union was held to protest over their support for workfare. The first of many more pickets we are determined to mount until the government is forced to withdraw the whole of the workfare scheme.

Further accounts of some other pickets are available on the Workfare pages of the SolFed website: <http://www.solfed.org.uk/?q=campaigns/workfare>

ZSP Participation During IWA Days of Action

March 29

When the government announced the day that they would discuss raising the retirement age, unions big and small decided to protest. A tent city was set up at the Parliament. There we raised a banner saying that „The strike is our best weapon” and gave out radical leaflets, including information about the general strike in Spain. We spoke for a long time with the rank and file members of mainstream unions about how their unions do not support the idea of general strikes and many of them agree that decisive action is necessary in situations like this, where the government is raising the retirement age to 67. Many sent greetings to comrades in Spain who were on strike and said that it should be that way in Poland.

After that we went to the Spanish Embassy for a picket against the labour reform. During the picket, we also spoke to some employees of the embassy that supported the strike.

Unfortunately we had heavy rain showers on and off during the day and that was the weather right before the next action. Despite that, a couple of dozen people, from ZSP and Spanish exchange students who were involved with the M15 movement in Spain made a demonstration in the center of Warsaw, giving speeches, singing songs and chanting slogans in both Polish and Spanish.

March 30

We participated in the morning in the protest against raising the retirement age in Poland. A few thousand people took part in the protest, with lots of noise and pyrotechnics.

In the afternoon there was a protest against the privatization of school cafeterias and against the firing of cooks.

Due to several reasons, some cooks and others wanted to demonstrate the next week, so we made a smaller action at the city hall, giving out leaflets to the rush hour crowd nearby. We will go again next week to protest at the city authorities. We returned back to the Parliament where the mood was getting more radical and some small disturbances were occurring.

March on March 31 - Capitalism is Cannibalism!



On March 31, we marched in Warsaw against various anti-social nightmares created by the capitalist disease. Despite the mixture of rain, hail and snow throughout the day, and despite rumours in the papers that we'd start a riot and occupy key government offices which scared away some of the people, a few hundred people marched through the city, stopping at various locations to talk about problems such as eviction, reprivatization of buildings, militarism, the high cost of education, poor working conditions, anti-union repression, corruption in the government and the role of the police, etc. etc. etc.

Chanting slogans such as "throw out the government" and "the city is for people, not for profit", the demonstrators started off under the King's Palace and headed down the most expensive street in Warsaw. Since the demo was called by the ZSP and Tenant's Defense Committee, and since the government made it easier to evict people starting the day of the demo, many speeches and slogans about evictions were made. People carried portraits of the "Queen of the Slums" (a reference to the President of Warsaw) and shouted "off with her head".

Different issues came up if something appeared in the streets. Next to the starting point, there was a huge banner advertising a conference on shale gas, so issues such as this and even GMOs were mentioned.

The first stop was under a house managed by the infamous slumlord Mossakowski, most famous for being the landlord of the murdered tenant activist Jolanta Brzeska. This house, along with another about 100 meters away, has been empty for a long time since the tenants were harassed and then kicked out.

The demonstrators pointed out the effects of this real estate speculation, that on the most famous and expensive street in the heart of Warsaw, there are dozens of vacant buildings, just gathering our posters. (Hopefully this somehow brings down the value of the real estate.)

Next stop was the presidential palace, where lots of noise was made and anti-government slogans chanted. After the palace, we made our way to the University. There our comrade spoke about her difficulties with surviving her studies, since she has to work in crap jobs and cannot afford the rents. Activists pointed out the class implications of the commercialization of education and that the experience of our comrade was unfortunately much too typical.

After speaking about working conditions of students, there were lots of slogans about workers' rights. When we got to the next corner, we stopped at the Brave New World Bar, where we had picketed about the use of trash contracts last year. (Apparently, after much bad publicity, they have stopped this practice.) People told this story yelling that temporary work is permanent exploitations and that we want work contracts without any manipulations. (A reference to the fact that many employers in gastronomy manipulate and give the wrong type of contract illegally.) Next we stopped in front of Starbucks, where there was more talk about working conditions and about the anti-union activity of the firm against the IWW and the strike in Chile.

Further down the street we mentioned several things, like the illegal reprivatization of one building or the working conditions in the bookshop chain on the corner, where ZSP is beginning to take action against various violations of workers rights.

Passing some buildings connected with banks and the economy, and approaching the Ministry of Economy, people started chanting that the end is approaching for the bankers and the bourgeoisie. There were different speakers talking about the economic crisis, the effects of the government's policies and other matters.

Next we headed towards the American Embassy where people complained about US policy and some Americans on the march started yelling "General strike! May Day is ours!" In reference to the monument to Ronald Reagan near the embassy, our comrade pointed out that he was not the "liberator from communism" that he is made out to be in Polish history, but rather an enslaver to neoliberal ideology.

Next there were some hard condemnations at the Ministry of (In) Justice. Housing activists pointed out the role of this institution and of the police in helping to carry out illegal evictions. The police in general were criticized, as were the courts, who usually bend over backwards to find weird interpretations of the law to help maintain the lawlessness of property reprivatization and mass evictions.

Passing by the statue of the fascist idol Roman Dmowski, we were surprised to see that it was in fact the single most protected object along the route - much more than the Presidential Palace, the American Embassy or the Prime Minister's Office. People pointed out that we are against his nationalist ideology and that nationalism is used to keep the working class divided. We also pointed out that both traditionally and presently, several Polish extreme-right groups support the elites in various ways. And it could be mentioned that they organized the week before a demo under the same name as ours, trying to confuse people. The initiative to do that was made by a right-wing activist who also is a scummy landlord.

Finally we ended at the Prime Minister's Office, where we let out with a general criticism of the neoliberal government.

With a hailstorm starting to hit us, we ended the demo but reminded people that demos are not enough and that they need to organize everyday. We also thanked people from other organizations who joined us: the Warsaw Tenants' Association, the Anarchist Federation and a couple of individuals from the Indignants and Young Socialists (the normal faction :-)).

The demonstration was part of IWA action days and also coincided with other international protests against capitalism. It also occurred on the 5th anniversary of the founding of the ZSP.

Photos are here: http://cia.media.pl/fotki_z_dgs

31.03.2012: Rally-picket in Moscow

On March 31, a rally-picket was held in Moscow as part of global protest days against anti-social policies and austerity measures at the call of the International Workers Association (IWA). The action was organized by the section of the IWA in Russia (KRAS-IWA).

It was attended by a total of about 40 people: representatives of various social organizations (KRAS-IWA, Autonomous Action, Committee of 19 January, trade union "Teacher", civil initiatives, etc.). The rally was held on the square "Krasnopresnenskaya zastava" with the monument to the heroes of the revolution of 1905-1907. Dozens of passing people stopped to listen to the speakers. The newspaper "Direct action" of the Russian section of IWA was distributed. The action covered by the public television network (SOTV.RF).



Opening the meeting, the representatives of the organizing committee stressed that this action is a part of international action, which began on March 29 with a general strike in Spain against the new labor law: the strike organized by the CNT-AIT (Spanish section of the IWA). The comrades of the section of the IWA in Russia talked about the difficult social situation of workers in Russia (low wages, pension reform plans, lack of rights of employees in the workplace, harassment of independent trade unions, layoffs of protesters and malcontents, strikebreaking, destruction of public education and medicine through the Law 83, etc.).

An activist of the independent trade union "Teacher" spoke about the problems of education and the fact that Russian law severely limits the right to strike. He called for an active struggle for social rights of workers, expressing the hope that this action will be only the beginning. Another comrade friend spoke in detail about the problems of housing, about corruption and abuse in housing and communal services and the upcoming regular tariff increases.

The teacher of one of Moscow universities said that workers don't care about which political party or clique in power: all parties are in favor of the same social policy in the interests of the powerful, businessmen, bankers and policymakers.

Sociologist Alexander Bikbov spoke about new law, enacting the "ban on the profession" for critical minded people in the field of teaching. He noted that absolutely everything and even the members of this meeting can be labeled as the "extremists" in Russia. Another friend of the Russian section of the IWA talked about the pressure on activists of independent trade unions, in particular, on the employee "Euroset" in Ufa Karen Kudashev who was illegally fired in connection of fabricated cause. He calls for a boycott of "Euroset".

The last of the speakers conveyed greetings to the striking workers of automotive industry in Kaluga, to the participants of the general strike in Spain and to struggling workers in Greece. He read the final resolution and announced that this event is only the beginning, and that the organizers are willing to tie contacts with all the independent initiatives to further public awareness and fight for the proposed requirements. At the end of the action, the revolutionary song "Varshavyanka" was sung.

The picket-rally was held without incidents.

Source and some photos: <http://www.aitrus.info/node/2057>

(KRAS-AIT) IWA- Action Days: Rally! Hands off Social Rights!

The struggle for power between different political groups, as expected, didn't give solutions to the most pressing social problems of workers in Russia. Elections come and go, but our situation isn't changed for the better.

We obtain the lowest wages and pensions in Europe. The prices of essential commodities and of all necessary services (housing and communal services, transportation etc.) rising continually. The "law of the state-owned institutions" (FL-83) is introduced which finally takes the health, education and child care on a commercial ground, and makes them more and more unaffordable for ordinary workers and pensioners. The "single state examination" at the end of school study, due to overall corruption, favors students whose parents have fat wallets. The workers in enterprises and institutions are completely powerless: the 8-hour workday is, in fact, canceled in many enterprises and institutions; the right to organize trade unions in a large part of firms simply does not exist; the ability to strike is reduced almost to zero, and the workers and social activists are persecuted for their convictions and dismissed for attempts to defend their interests (the practice of "ban on the profession"). The migrant workers are completely deprived of any rights at all.

However, this is not enough for the authorities and capitalists. They are preparing new anti-social measures. Some new reforms are proposed: a pension reform (with rising of retirement age in spite of a low average life expectancy in the country), a reform of labour laws (with removal of restrictions on working hours, freedom of layoffs, etc.). The sphere of paid medicine and education extends even more. Our social rights are being cut every day, every hour!

The attack on workers goes on all fronts. It is not by chance coincides with the global attack of governments and businesses on the working people for forcing them under the banner of "austerity" to pay for the crisis of the current system: in Spain and Greece, France and Italy, Portugal and Britain, Kazakhstan and Belarus ... The rulers of all countries and companies not only climb into our pockets. They infringe on our human dignity. Instead, they cynically offer us even more work for them, simultaneously tightening debt noose around our neck with the help of banks.

From 29 to 31 March 2012, the International Workers Association (IWA), the global association of independent self-governing and militant workers unions, organizes days of action against the capitalist austerity measures, exploitation and oppression, with an emphasis on global, regional and local issues, labour disputes, etc. These manifestations coincide with a general strike in Spain on March 29, with the day of action and solidarity with a comrade from Union of Syndicalists of Poland dismissed from the "Roche Poland" and with the European day of action against capitalism, March 31 (M31), organized by the militant workers unions in Germany, Italy and Spain.

The members of the section of the International Workers Association (IWA) in Russia informed the Moscow government about the intention to organize on March 31 a protest rally against the social and economic policies in Russia from 15.00 to 16.30 at the metro station "Ulitsa 1905". We encourage independent community-based initiatives and social movements to participate in the rally to speak on it, and to tell about the experience and perspectives of resistance against the attack on our rights. The rally is open to workers, pensioners and students. We ask to abstain from any political, electoral or party's campaigning and party's flags and slogans during this rally (the flags of social and community initiatives, trade unions, etc. are allowed).

NO TO SOCIAL CUTS!

RIGHT TO LIFE! NOT A RIGHT TO PROFIT!

ONLY IN UNITED MASS STRUGGLE WE CAN OBTAIN OUR RIGHT!

Organizing Committee of rally March 31

Support to the General Strike on March 29 called by the Spanish CNT- AIT!

The CNT-AIT and the Spanish working class are involved in a bitter fight and call on the support of the international working class.

The so-called Labour Reform is a direct attack on the workers rights, pay and working conditions. In 2010, the "socialist" government introduced a round of measures which slashed public sector pay, drove down pensions and cut public services. The new right wing government is carrying on where the old government left off. They are embarking on yet another round of austerity cuts which will further drive down the conditions of life of Spanish workers and it aims to crush or/and weaken the ability of workers to organize and fight.

The current attack on Spanish workers and on the worldwide working class has one sole objective, to secure the economical dictatorship of the capitalists. The price of freedom and security for the capitalists is slavery for the working class. This is the nature of capitalism. The only path to emancipation for us as workers is to take control of our own struggle: A struggle that is directed against and outside the class collaborationist structures and that through Direct Action confronts and defeats the evil that is Capitalism.

The Secretariat of the International Workers Association (IWA) sends its support to the General Strike on March 29 called by the Spanish CNT-AIT and the mobilizations and workers Direct Actions that are so strongly needed further to fight the Capitalist offensive!

**Long live the CNT-AIT and anarchosyndicalism!
Long live the AIT!**

Oslo, March 21- 2012

**Anarchosyndicalist greetings
from the IWA-Secretariat**

The SF-IWA will be launching a campaign against Workfare as part of the IWA-Actions on March 29, 30 and 31!

As part of the International Workers Association (IWA) days of action against austerity, exploitation, and oppression, the Solidarity Federation will be launching a national campaign against Workfare. On the 29th & 30th March, Solidarity Federation Locals will leaflet companies using the Workfare scheme advising workers of their rights. On the 31st March one national company will be targeted with coordinated nationwide pickets and a communications blockade with the aim of forcing the company to stop using Workfare. The name of the target company will be announced a few days prior to the 31st March to ensure the company cannot prepare against the planned actions.

The Solidarity Federation is launching a national campaign against Workfare as the scheme amounts to little more than a modern form of slave labour. Under the government's various Workfare schemes unemployed workers are made to work for free for up to 6 months with no guarantee of a job afterwards. They are forced to work on these schemes or risk losing welfare payments.

The government claims that Workfare provides people with valuable workplace experience that will make it much easier for them to find permanent employment. But this is just lies. Even the governments own research found that Workfare schemes made it harder not easier for jobseekers to find work.

A UK Government study into Workfare in the USA, Canada and Australia found that Workfare can reduce employment chances by limiting the time available for job search and by failing to provide the skills and experience valued by employers. The same study also found that Workfare is particularly ineffective at leading to work during periods of high unemployment.

Rather than providing real paid training that will help jobseekers find permanent jobs, the workfare scheme is a massive source of free labour for some of the biggest companies in Britain. The government intends 250,000 workfare placements which amounts to millions of hours forced unpaid work which companies use to replace permanent staff.

For example the British company Holland and Barrett recently announced that they would be taking on over a thousand people through Workfare schemes. This will mean that unpaid staff is set to make up a huge percentage of the company's total workforce which was last year was estimated to be 3,586 people strong.

The Government is planning to extend Workfare to ensure that the unemployed can be used to replace public sector workers. They are currently piloting a new scheme, the Community Action Program, which will enable Local Councils and Government Departments to begin taking on the unemployed under the Workfare scheme. Due to government austerity cuts it is predicted that there will be 500,000 public sector job losses over the next five years. It is clear that the government intends to use Workfare to replace the gaps left in public service by these massive job losses.

The government hopes to refer some 850,000 people to the various Workfare schemes by the end of this year. The aim of the Government is to use the estimated 6 million unemployed as an unwaged reserve army, it can utilize to drive down the pay and conditions of the working class as a whole.

But the Government's Workfare scheme is being met with growing opposition. Already coordinated direct action has forced a number of retail giants, such as Tesco, to pull out of the Workfare scheme.

The Solidarity Federation is aiming to use the IWA days of action against austerity, exploitation and oppression to launch a campaign that will build on the successful actions already taken against Workfare. Over the coming months we hope to build a campaign of direct action that will force increasing number of companies to withdraw from Workfare, leaving the government with no choice but abandon it's attempt to use unemployed workers as slave labour.

International Secretary of the SF-IWA

IWA International Mobilizations and the European Day Against Capitalism M31 in Spain

CNT-Madrid: On the 29th of March they made a demonstration with 4000 people during the General Strike, related to the days against capitalism promoted by the IWA. All the workers and students, in a union of equals, without leaders or professional unionists, without workers' parties or vanguards, all shouting in unison against the labor reform and the system it imposes. The demo ended with a rally.

CNT Badajoz: On March 31, from 12:00-14:00 there was an open rally in the Plaza de San Francisco for the European Day against Capitalism M31.

CNT Murcia: On March 31, the different unions of the Murcia Regional of the CNT rallied in the Plaza de Europa in Murcia for the international day against capitalism. Doznes of members of the union and sympathizers rallied for some hours in the plaza. A manifesto against capitalism was read and there were anticapitalist slogans.

The day went without complications, with the exception of a father with his kids who started to insult us, without more arguments, probably due to his intellectual level. There was also the invaluable assistance of the national police which, for our security, guarded all the exits to the streets and had five police vans available against us, for whatever could occur and so they could disperse us quickly.

This regional will continue the active struggle against capitalism, clearly responsible for the situation we find ourselves in. We will try to inform the people about who is responsible and that there is no future unless we start to change the system. If we do not fight, the only road left for us is the road to slavery.

CNT Leon: Rally called by the CNT on Saturday, March 31 in Botines at 19:00, European day of action against capitalism, as part of the international call of the IWA against the capitalist austerity measures, exploitation and oppression.

CNT Zaragoza: On March 31, in the framework of the European Day of Action against Capitalism, march31.net, the CNT rallied in front of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs in Zaragoza, a group of bosses, the only beneficiaries of the Labor Reform, who were acting beligerently against the Strike of 29-M with all the means at its disposal. That political parties are serving employers and we focus the day of struggle 31-M around the general strike has not made us forget those who appropriate the fruits of our labor everyday, who use all kinds of tricks to circumvent the labor law, pressure and persecute active trade unionists, practice "creative accounting" to evade their tax obligations and, ultimately, with their inability and greed are those primarily responsible for the situation the working class is facing. They now call themselves "entrepreneurs" but they have been the bosses all along with the same methods inherited from Franquism. Now they call themselves democrats and have modernized their language, but it is the same we have been fighting against forever.

A few dozen syndicalists, despite the police pressure in attempt to disband the rally before it happened, were there to remind the bosses that the organized working class does not want them nor need them.

CNT Castro Urdiales: Information tables in the small town of Castro, explaining from the point of view of the CNT, IWA and M31.

CNT Aranjuez: Rally en Aranjuez (Madrid) called by the CNT. We read various statements of M31 and against capitalism. The atmosphere was militant, right after the general strike. We gave out leaflets explaining M31 and the IWA.

CNT Toledo: On Saturday the 31 of March, this union returned to the streets for the international day against capitalism. More than 150 CNTistas in the street declared that the real problem we are living through currently is capitalism, which is a permanent crisis for the working class and that only one day in the street is insufficient to get rid of this situation. The demonstration went through the streets of central Toledo, without stopping to denounce the system of domination we are chained to, as well as the politicians and unions which make deals that sustain it. In the plaza de Zocodover, different comrades spoke, denouncing the lies



of this supposedly democratic system, which in reality is on its knees before the great financial elites of the world, the real shadow government. The comrades encouraged all those present to organize themselves and fight for a future together with their peers, organized in the CNT. After a meal, more than 30 people went to the event planned by the CNT Aranjuez for that day. The comrade David Ordonez of CNT Jaén gave a talk "How to defend yourself against the new labor reform". Before a packed house the comrade debinked the farse of the current economic crisis step by step and why we are being attacked on the basis of social cuts. After this first part he went on to dissect the current reform, which has left one path, which is one that the anarcho-syndicalists often take, that is to say, the only path left is direct action. In short, the video of the talk will be available. After the talk there was an interesting debate, which ended in day of struggle, also supported in Toledo by comrades from Ciudad Real, Puertollano,

Argamasilla, Jaén and Aranjuez. Only remember that the 29 and 31 are isolated days. The working class must recuperated the class consciousness and organize without leaders in popular assemblies, to coordinate a devastating and effective response against capitalism. The CNT will continue on this path. Will you too?

Secretary of Press, Culture and Propaganda of the CNT AIT Toledo

(EHKL-Euskal HerrietaKo libertarioak): 31 March. Rally from 12:00 to 14:00 in the plaza Circular de Bilbao. Against the labor reform and in coordination with the European action day against capitalism, M31.

CNT Guipuzkoa: Actions against the bank. A group of members sealed off two branches of the most criminal banks in the Spanish state, because there are serious indicators that they are robbing people. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=nyPCO-DMFP4>

More actions:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hCG0oNJmDg>

OTHER COLECTIVES

(GLAD- libertarian collective of Madrid) Cultural days where they explained the M31 initiative and detailed the cause and consequences of capitalism.

<http://grupolibertarioacciondirecta.wordpress.com/2012/03/23/31m-desmontandocapitalismo/>

Occupied Center Kike Mur: An anticapitalist popular dinner and a reflexive day against capitalism, supporting M31

<http://okupa.noblezabaturra.org/2012/03/28/31-m-dia-europeo-de-accion-contra-el-capitalismo/>

Secretary of International Relations, CNT-AIT

About the M31 meeting in Modena on March 31st 2012



On Saturday march 31st an anticapitalist protest meeting was held in Modena, organized by the local USI-AIT section. Some forty activists attended, involving the people around with several speeches. The banner said: "Capitalism is the crisis - State and Government are the executioners - Self-magement is the solution", signed USI-AIT - Libera (a local libertarian group that includes

USI members). Some people stopped to tell their current experiences with personal economic troubles and many speeches were applauded when talking about attacking the bureaucrats in the government, in the political parties and in state's unions. A lot of information was spread (leaflets, booklets, stickers) and the protest turned out to be very satisfying to us. This is only the beginning.

Modena, Italy

USI-AIT - Local Section of Modena

International Solidarity Campaigns

EULEN/ ABB Strike and International Solidarity Campaign

On Nov. 28, 2011, workers at the ABB factory in Cordoba, Spain, employed through the EULEN agency, went on strike, which lasted about 100 days. The strikers, many of whom had been working in ABB for many, many years, had been in conflict for a while. The wrong collective agreement was applied to them, this was proven and the workers were making claims for the difference in salary. The workers in the CNT-AIT also faced union repression through dismissals. With the workers fighting, ABB wanted to change the contractor and get rid of the organized workforce.

The strike was called, ABB decided to replace the workers with ones from EUROCCEN (part of the ADECCO group). EULEN started to dismiss the strikes, ABB to use scabs. And the IWA sections started international solidarity campaigns.



The ZSP organized protests throughout Poland and also visited the corporate headquarters of both ABB and Adecco in Switzerland. Members of FAU Switzerland, FA and FL also took part. There was an

action at ABB headquarters in Warsaw and three actions at Adecco offices in Warsaw, a blockade of Adecco in Opole and pickets in Krakow, Lodz, Gliwice, Sosnowiec and Bielsko-Biala.

The ZSP also produced bilingual educational material for Spanish and Polish students which included information about the strike and the conflict of the workers at the National Library in Madrid.



In Great Britain, the SolFed organized a series of actions in many cities in the last weeks of January and beginning of February. Pickets were held in front of Adecco in places like Newcastle, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, London, Wakefield, Brighton, Glasgow and the Warrington headquarters of ABB was visited with a protest.



In Germany, comrades from the FAU picketed ADECCO in Frankfurt, Berlin and Halle.

In France, the comrades also picketed ADECCO in a couple of cities.

In Slovakia, the comrades of Priama Akcia went to ABB and ADECCO offices in Trnava, Zilina and Bratislava a couple of times. They also encouraged people to send protest letters via an on-line form.



The NSF produced and distributed leaflets in Norway various times.

KRAS held a picket at an ADECCO office in Moscow.

FORA in San Martin held a picket and informational action.

COB in Araxa also showed their solidarity.

Other actions also came from outside the IWA, from Chile,

Netherlands and Switzerland.

Of course in Spain, many solidarity actions were made, too many to name them all. In Cordoba itself, hundreds of people demonstrated in a couple of large demonstrations and there were other actions. In Valladolid, the offices of Adecco were occupied by the CNT. Pickets were held all over Spain.



Unfortunately, the courts did not uphold the workers' right to strike and thus, in March, the strike ended. This is being appealed and the workers are still fighting in court against various violations of their rights and for compensation. On May 8 they will be in court trying to be reinstated in their work, because the workers were illegally outsourced to ABB by EULEN and then ABB switched the jobs from EULEN to EUROCCN.

Below is the first call for solidarity from Cordoba and some reports from the Sections about their Actions.

Comrades,

The CNT of Cordoba remains from more than two years organized a trade union section in EULEN, especially active in the workplace of the multinational Asea Brown Boverly, SA (ABB).

These comrades have spent more than two years fighting for better working conditions, especially through the struggle for the implementation of the collective agreement and basically they deserve the recognition of the employment relationship which binds them to the parent company ABB.

In this situation ABB has decided not to renew the contract EULEN, turning to a new company to provide the functions hitherto carried out in EULEN comrades. This is EUROCCEN company, a division of Adecco Group, which specializes in outsourcing of logistics processes.

Given this and the CNT workers have called an indefinite strike from 28 November to end the illegal employ transfer situation, and ensure the stability of the workforce and ultimately the passage of all comrades at the new company. This is a struggle for mantaining their jobs. ABB is using several illegal to try to minimize the strike, preventing access to the facilities of the strike committee, drawing on other contracts to practice scabbing, use and maintenance safety excuses to try to resume work, trying to win time until January 1, 2012.

The strike is being especially hard on the comrades, camped for 18 days at the gates of the factory, in a makeshift camp, demonstrations are taking place and events across the city and other ABB and Adecco delegations in Spain.

We encourage sections of the AIT to extend this solidarity campaign to headquarters and offices of ABB and Adecco before 1 January 2012. We know the business impact of such actions. Also ask the Secretary of the IWA, dealing within their possibilities, contact the CEO of ABB and Euroccen- ADECCO to facilitate a solution.



Actions in Slovakia

Priama akcia would like to inform about solidarity activities with Eulen/ABB workers on strike in Córdoba which happened in Slovakia in the last few days.

TRNAVA

On Thursday, 2nd February, leaflets about the strike were distributed near the ABB branch in Trnava to workers finishing the morning shift (some of them were from ABB, others from other companies in that area).

This week, stickers have also been placed around ABB and Adecco in Trnava as well as around the buildings where the temp workers from Adecco are accomodated.

PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

We also asked people to send more protest e-mails to the company branches in Slovakia and Czech Republic. Actually, we got a reply from the Czech headquarters in Prague, threatening one of our members with ridiculous criminal charges if he does not stop sending protest e-mails.

BRATISLAVA

On Friday, 3rd February we visited the ABB headquarters in Bratislava, handed in protest letters (one for the organization, others for sympathizers who came to support the action). The managers were not there again (this happened also during the first visit in December), the secretary already knew about the problem and promised to pass the protest letter to her boss.

We also distributed some leaflets behind windscreen wipers of the nearby cars.

On Friday, we also visited Adecco in Bratislava and handed in protest letters (for the organization and sympathizers) to a secretary. We were told that all the managers were away except for one, who was in the middle of a conference call. The secretary already knew what it was all about. We asked for a reply to our protest letter and also that the branch inform Spanish headquarters about the protest. We were told that there was already some communication with Spain.

ŽILINA

On Friday, activists visited the ABB branch in Žilina for the second time. However, there was apparently no one present in the company at around 3:00 PM, they were not able to hand in the protest letter, so they left it in the door. Workers from nearby companies got leaflets behind their windscreen wipers.

Day of Actions against Multinationals in Switzerland

On March 8, the FAU from Switzerland and the ZSP from Poland organized protests at three multinationals headquartered in Switzerland: ABB, Adecco and Roche.



At the ABB headquarters, many employees took leaflets and asked about the conflict. A few already knew about it and asked about developments. We made a speech describing the whole story of the problems of the workers in Cordoba: how they were temporary workers for years, had the wrong collective agreement applied, how they had organized, the company replaced them and they were eventually fired. We said that the employees still have claims in court and international solidarity will continue.

The situation looked at little different at Adecco headquarters. Representatives of the firm claim that they „just provide services” and „do a good job” and they threatened to call the police on us and demanded we get off their property. We stayed and handed out leaflets to employees and passerbys.

Finally, we moved from Zurich to Basel, to visit the Roche global headquarters. Again there was much interest in the picket and some people working there came out to ask for more information. A few speeches were given in German and English about the reason for the picket and lots of people stopped to listen. (Roche has several buildings next to one another.) We also said that Roche should expect more protests in relation to their practices in Poland.

IWA Protests against Ryanair´s Practices

Solidarity Federation called for actions against Ryanair. Below is the call and some descriptions of the actions.

SF-IWA: Support the Ryanair Don´t Care Campaign`s International Week of Action

The Ryanair Don´t Care Campaign is calling for a Week of International Action against exploitation and recruitment scamming by Ryanair, starting on March 12.

Ryanair Don´t Care was started by John Foley after his daughter was sacked as a flight attendant mid-flight and abandoned abroad without any money. This led to the exposure of a cynical and highly exploitative recruitment scam by Ryanair.

Ryanair current policy of “recruitment-for-termination” is part of the massive exploitation of young people who apply to work for the company. As it stands potential cabin crew have to pay a fee of 3000 euro through an agency to undergo training for Ryanair. As many as 60 are sacked at one time after this initial training period with up to 200 people a month losing their job. All those sacked lose the money they have paid out for training. There are 11 Ryanair cabin crew training courses already underway, to end at the end of March which gives you some idea of the amount of money Ryanair is making out of the “recruit-for-termination” scam.

Rynair target young people who are then based away from home to make it easier to pressurise and exploit. The day before being sacked a Ryanair supervisor tried to persuade John´s daughter, Sarah, to resign. If she had resigned the company would have charged her 200 euro the standard amount charged to all those staff who resign. After being sacked she requested a flight home but was told by the company that she was not eligible for a flight as she was no longer a employee of Ryanair. With no money to get to her home to Liverpool her parents had to travel to Dublin to collect her.



Those who survive the initial training period are put on a 12-month probationary period on a lower rate of pay than normal cabin crew and Ryanair pocket the difference-as much as £20 million per year. Pay in the first year can be as low as 520 Euro after stoppages, such as the 25 Euro charged for the uniform, are deducted.

Working conditions are no better, workers are expected to work 2 standby duties each week, one a Home Standby, lasting 11 hours for no pay and an 8 hour Airport Standby, for which 30 Euro is paid, working out at 3 Euro an hour after tax. Workers are also only paid for the time they are in the air. As one Ryanair worker noted:

"You only got paid for your time in the air. You didn't get paid for the 45-minute pre-flight briefing or while the passengers were boarding. My flight from Alicante was once diverted to Blackpool and we didn't get paid for the three hours while it was sent on to Liverpool"

The Ryanair Don't Care campaign is getting increasing media attention in the British media after a number of high profile protests by John Foley, the latest of which was to handcuff himself to the goalpost during a football match being screened live on national TV. Help keep the pressure on Ryanair by supporting the week of protest.

The Ryan Don't Care Campaign urges people to:

- Support the call-out for an International Week of Action against Ryanair, on the 12-18 March
- Hold pickets of airports where Ryanair put on flights, offices of Ryanair and agencies / recruitment fairs through which they hire staff
- Picket the Cheltenham Festival, which Ryanair sponsors, and particularly the Ryanair Chase on Thursday 15 March
- Phone, fax and email Ryanair to complain about exploitative recruitment practices

End recruitment scamming! End the exploitation of workers at Ryanair! Support the week of action against Ryanair!

Below are the easiest ways to contact Ryanair to complain

Phone: +353 1 812 1212

Fax: +353 1 812 1676

Email: <http://frd.ie/complaints/?language=en>

More addresses and phone numbers can be found at:

<http://customercarecontacts.com/contact-ryanair-phones-of-ryanair-office...>

More information about the campaign can be found at:

<http://ryanairdontcarecrew.blogspot.com/>

IWA Actions in Support of the Campaign

Many IWA sections published and spread information about the campaign, sent faxes, emails or called Ryanair. There also were pickets held in Great Britain, Germany, Spain, Slovakia in Poland. In Norway there were leafleting actions and in Portugal faxes and solidarity were sent.

On March 18, the comrades from the CNT unions from Elche and Alicante protested in the airport in Alicante, informing the passengers.



<http://www.cnt.es/noticias/piquete-informativo-en-el-aeropuerto-de-el-altet-alacant>
(Spanish) <http://internationalworkersassociation.blogspot.com/2012/03/informational-picket-in-el-altet.html> (English)

In Poland, members of the ZSP picketed at the airport in Warsaw and in Poznan, hung posters and distributed leaflets in buses and trains. <http://zsp.net.pl/support-ryanair-dont-care-campaign>
<http://zsp.net.pl/ryanair-dont-care-solidarity-poznan>



In Slovakia, Priama Akcia called the company, encouraged people to call and write letters and leafleted at the airport in Bratislava.

<http://www.priamaakcia.sk/International-week-against-Ryanair-practices-in-Slovakia.html>

In Germany, the FAU Nurnberg informed people about Ryanair's practices and had a picket at the airport:

<http://faunbg.blogspot.de/2012/03/19/ryanair-dont-care/> The Construction and Technical union of FAU Berlin also had a picket in Berlin-Schönefeld airport.

http://www.fau.org/ortsgruppen/berlin/art_120318-175234

The section calling for the actions, Solidarity Federation, of course organized various pickets and informational events in Great Britain.

Liverpool SolFed picketed with John Foley,

initiator of the campaign, at the airport <http://solfed.org.uk/?q=liverpool%2Fryanair-dont-care-campaign-picket-of-liverpool-john-lennon-airport>. They also had some other informational actions in the city and pickets at a bank and at solicitor's office, which were involved in the recruitment scam. <http://www.solfed.org.uk/?q=liverpool/direct-action-against-allied-irish-bank-and-daniel-silverman-solicitors> and <http://www.solfed.org.uk/?q=liverpool/international-week-of-action-against-ryanair-leafleting-in-liverpool> Northhampton SolFed went to the airport in Birmingham <http://solfed.org.uk/?q=northampton%2Fend-ryan-air-recruitment-scam>, Placards were also made for postering and use at pickets.

ZSP and Priama Akcia also sent the following reports to the IWA:

SUPPORT FOR THE RYANAIR DON'T CARE CAMPAIGN

The ZSP has made some actions in support of the Ryanair Don't Care Campaign. We have:

- written and published an article about it on the internet
- made leaflets and posters which people could print out, poster and distribute themselves (and people from various cities have said they've done this)
- sent a protest to Ryanair and encouraged people to send nasty emails through their webpages or to phone
- gone with a banner and leaflets to the airport in Warsaw, in the bus and some trains and in the main square in Poznan

We hope that many people found out about the problems in Ryanair in this way and we send out solidarity to John Foley and all those who are putting pressure on the company.

International week against Ryanair practices in Slovakia

18/03/2012

Priama akcia – IWA Slovakia joined the International week against Ryanair practices in several ways. We published [an article about the company scam](#) on our website together with an appeal

to send complaints and other possibilities how to express discontent with Ryanair practices – sending faxes, calling Ryanair and spreading the information as much as possible. We have also found several negative experiences of Slovak Ryanair workers on the Internet.

E-mail complaints and a fax

Part of the article about the whole issue – which we published on 9th March – was a model e-mail anyone could send via official Ryanair complaints form. So far, we have only received an automated reply saying that the complaint has been forwarded to their HR department. As Priama akcia, we also sent a protest fax on Thursday 15th March.

A call to Ryanair HQ

On Friday, we tried calling the headquarters, but only reached the reception. We said we are spreading information in support of the campaign in Slovakia. However, the receptionist refused to take any message to the management saying it is not her duty.

Leafleting at the airport

On Saturday, Priama akcia members and supporters went to M. R. Štefánik Airport in Bratislava and distributed flyers in Slovak and English to people at the airport ([PDF](#)). It was a nice coincidence that both the arrival and the departure flights were from/to Liverpool. These were the last flights of the day and we distributed around 150 flyers and around 50 were put behind windscreen-wipers of the cars at the nearby parking lot. In the end, we wanted to reach Ryanair staff at the airport and present a protest letter for the management but found no one (the check-ins were closed and there is no Ryanair customer service or similar at the airport).

Our solidarity goes to the Ryanair workers and Ryanair Don't Care Campaign organizers and supporters.

International Solidarity Actions against Roche

ZSP has been fighting with the pharmaceutical company Roche, since our comrade was fired and because of its practices of using fake self-employed people and outsourced workers in Roche Polska. These people are denied many benefits. Our comrade, who was trying to regulate his employment, is suing Roche, demanding reinstatement and compensation for a few years of work without benefits.

Some time after we began a campaign against this form of employment, we learned that Roche would be eliminated these jobs entirely and outsourcing them. This concerned both workers in Warsaw and in Madrid.

Sections of the IWA sent protest letters and the people at Roche mentioned that they had received many protests. There were also several solidarity actions. On March 8, people from ZSP protested with the FAU from Switzerland at Roche global headquarters. On March 29, during the IWA action days, the comrades from Priama Akcia visited Roche (report below), as well as the comrades from CNT in Spain, who went there during the general strike. On April 17, the comrades from KRAS also made an action in Moscow and distributed many leaflets to workers!



The ZSP thanks the comrades for their support!

Actions in Slovakia

29/03/2012

Today, Priama akcia-Bratislava organized a protest visit to two branches of Roche in Bratislava, Slovakia. It was the third day of March solidarity activities called by ZSP in support of their sacked member Jakub. During all three days we informed about the development of the struggle and provided people with an easy way to send protest e-mails via web. We also sent faxes to Roche branches in Poland, Switzerland and Slovakia.



The first of the two visits today was at the headquarters. One of the two workers at the reception told us that no one from the management is present at the premises, which was most probably true. She already knew about the case. Our members and other supporters of Jakub's struggle handed in protest letters and requested that the branch in Poland and the headquarters in Switzerland be informed about this action. We were asked a funny question: whether we plan to protest in Poland. We said that the ZSP, the initiator organization of the campaign, is taking care of it there. The worker tried to continue in the same logic with a question related protests organized at Roche Switzerland, to which one of us said: "We have friends there, too." In the end, we stressed that we expect an answer to our demands, since Roche has been ignoring faxes and e-mails, and we promised to come back if we don't hear from them.

Next, we visited the second Roche branch located nearby (Roche Diagnostics Division Ltd.). There, we also handed in protest letters, and asked for a response to the demands.

Priama akcia – Bratislava

February 4 - Day of Solidarity - Conflict with the National Library of Spain

In September 2010, the CNT of Madrid started a conflict with the administration of the National Library for its illegal outsourcing of more than 400 subcontracted workers who are being repressed and fired for denouncing their casualization. Our comrades Begoña and Sara, from the Music Department, and our comrade Marta, from the Area of Institutional Relations, were the first to be repressed for informing about their irregular contracts. They had been dismissed and transferred to the offices of the INDRA company where they remain sequestered until the resolution of the court case.

At this stage of the conflict, many comrades have brought court cases concerning their situation of being illegally outsourced. There are 18 cases against the National Library for this reason, including the most recent ones of our comrades Aurora, from the General Hall, and Raquel, from Periodicals.



In the context of the vindication of labour rights, in the summer of 2011, the administration of the National Library announced a policy of mass dismissals which started with the sacking of 16 people from the Music Department. Amongst them was our comrade Lidia, fired after 9 years of work in a clear situation of illegal outsourcing. These dismissals of external staff, whose work has proved necessary for the development of the basic functions of the institution, is being translated into an absolute neglect in the duties of the National Library concerning the cataloging, preservation and distribution of the materials in its custody. It has burdened the publicly employed staff with the tasks which were performed by the outside workers who were fired. Subcontracted labour costs 40% more than if this work was carried out by somebody employed directly.

By supporting this policy of privatization and retaliations, the Director of the National Library appears as an agent of mercantile interests that has spent years trying to take over our lives, culture and heritage.

In this sense, we have made a request for solidarity for the coming 4 February, a day when the sections of the IWA-AIT will be in front of libraries in their countries against the cuts in public libraries, in solidarity with the defense of our workplaces in the National Library of Spain and for a fair allocation of the budget for the employment of staff in all the libraries in Europe. Our demand for direct permanent employment of the external staff would reverse the policies of privatization of these public institutions that house our common heritage.

The union section of the CNT-AIT Madrid has been working for the reinstatement of the dismissed comrades and for the need to organize the workers at the National Library of Spain. Since the conflict began, besides having informational pickets in solidarity with our comrades outside the doors of the National Library, there have been many workers' assemblies held in which the attendance and participation is growing. Now, what began as a demand to reinstate our comrade Marta has now turned into a struggle by a consolidated union in the National Library that, thanks to the solidarity of the rest of the comrades of the Confederation, has the respect and confidence of the workers in that institution who were at first hesitant about our anarchosyndicalist proposals. Our continuity in this struggle has allowed us to inform people about our way of organizing ourselves as equals, with the necessity to guarantee the horizontal nature of the organization of workers, with the assembly as the only center of decision making and without participating in the games of representativity and subsidies like the other unions. And it has been this long-term dissemination of our ideas that has allowed us to grow amongst the workers of the public libraries – both in terms of confidence and the number of workers ready to struggle together with their peers for their workers' rights and for a transformation of the system that we must build.

Union of National Library of Spain Staff of CNT-AIT Madrid

<http://www.facebook.com/NOprivatizacionBNE>

Contact: personal.bne@cnt.es

International Solidarity with the CNT in the National Library

The ZSP in Poland and KRAS in Russia made solidarity actions with the workers from the National Library. KRAS made posters which it hung in the Foreign Literature Library in Moscow. In Warsaw, ZSP made posters, leaflets and educational material (bilingual text for Spanish lessons) which it distributed at some educational institutions, including the Cervantes institute. Some teachers used the educational material in lessons. Some time after the action day, ZSP went to an event co-organized by the Spanish Embassy and Cervantes institute, with speakers from Complutense University (where CNT also has a conflict) and dropped a banner at the entrance and handed out leaflets about the conflicts there and in the library.



From the IWA Sections

5th Anniversary of ZSP

On March 31, 2012, ZSP celebrated the fifth anniversary of its founding. An article about with a brief outline of its history can be found here: <http://www.zsp.net.pl/5th-anniversary-zsp>

[FAU] Where strikes are forbidden, there is no right to strike!

Hereby we declare our solidarity with the striking colleagues of the air traffic controllers' union (GDF) at the airport of Frankfurt am Main.

The prohibition of strikes, decided by Frankfurt's labour court, initiated by Fraport and Lufthansa, make quite clear to everyone that there is no right to strike in Germany at all. This so-called constitutional right has been constantly breached by minor labour courts in the interest of companies.

The labour court in Frankfurt prohibited the strike of the GDF because of formal matters. Two details of their claims do not fulfill their duty not to engage industrial actions. This is why the GDF had to stop their strike. And yesterday, the same judge forbade a solidarity strike of air traffic controllers by declaring it "disproportionate".

But in fact, the people in Germany are deprived of fundamental human rights, as it is their right to build unions in their own interest. What good is it to have the right to „organise“ for your interests, but the means to realise them are forbidden?

An employers' spokesman made it very clear on television this morning. It cannot be that a small forceful union is able to achieve higher wages because then, many members of Verdi would leave their union, to fight for better wages on their own, he said.

The topic of the "unity of collective agreements" [Tarifeinheit] - which means that only the collective agreement of the biggest union inside a company is valid - is one of the favourite political wishes of employers' organisations. Ursula von der Leyen, who is Germany's Secretary of State for Employment, did fastly react by saying that she is going to do everything possible to cut down the power of small unions. They might be allowed to negotiate but they are forbidden to fight for their rights.

The FAU-IWA has been afraid of attacks against the right to strike for a long time. Yet concerning the freedom of unions, Germany is a developing country, in which fundamental rights like the ILO conventions 87 and 98, are kept back from the workers.

The refusal to work is a human right although and part of our personal self- determination; it is a fundamental human right although it is only effective in a joint effort. This right should not only include economic struggles or collective agreements, but also so called "political strikes". The FAU-IWA does not only stand for the freedom of trade unions but also for the comprehensive and untouchable right to strike for all workers - whether they are organized in a union or not.

Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union, Right to Strike Workgroup.

FAU-IAA Internationales Sekretariat
Mühlgasse 13
60486 Frankfurt/Main
Germany
is@fau.org
<http://www.fau.org>

Report on the March 22nd General Strike in Portugal

A new general strike was held in Portugal on the March 22nd, the second in four months, this time convened only by the major union CGTP. The strike had a lower adhesion than the previous one but was marked by an intensification and radicalization of protests.

The Portuguese Section of the IWA (AIT-SP) has marked its presence in Lisbon and Porto, before and during the strike, with a campaign for workers' self-organization and direct action and participating in the demonstrations that took place in both cities.

This general strike was held two months after the last congress of the CGTP, where a new general secretary, Arménio Carlos, was elected. Unsurprisingly, Arménio Carlos is also a member of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party.

The socialist run UGT did not join the strike this time, after having signed the agreement on social peace with the Government and employers, accepting historic attacks on workers' rights, imposed by a neoliberal government following the austerity plan of the IMF and EU.

The strike came at a time when the effects of the austerity policies are taking their toll on workers. Unemployment continues to rise sharply, standing now at 15% according to official figures (35% among young workers) and emigration reached values similar or even superior to those of the 1960s.

The call for general strike found the vast majority of workers disoriented or paralyzed by fear. Predictably, the adhesion to the strike was lower than on 24th November last year.

There was strong policing throughout the country, controlling the pickets and demonstrations that took place in several cities. In some pickets there were confrontations with the police.

In Porto there were arrests at a demonstration that expected a visit of the Prime Minister to the University.

In Lisbon, the control paranoia of the CGTP reached a new peak when its security service tried to prevent a movement of precarious workers, influenced by another leftist party, from joining the demonstration in front of the parliament. Another demonstration organized by an "indignados" movement also made its way to the parliament, but this time a few hours later. This demonstration was also joined by an autonomous march, with the motto "for the blockade and occupation of the streets", which had previously traversed the streets of Lisbon, throwing eggs at financial institutions, including the Bank of Portugal, and chanting anti-capitalist slogans. The demonstrators were successful for several times at preventing the detention of protestors by the police, but on the central and touristic neighbourhood of Chiado, the arrest of a demonstrator caused clashes with police, resulting in several injured.

Although the strike was obviously weaker than the last one, the Government, for the first time we can remember, didn't advance any estimates of the adhesion, refusing to claim a victory. Instead, it commended the peaceful and orderly nature of the initiatives of the CGTP, whose new general secretary made a statement on national television on the night of the strike condemning "all acts of vandalism".

The CNT mobilises across the country against labour reform

Statement from the Secretariat of the CNT on the recent demonstrations and protests against the government's new labour reforms.

The Confederation believes that the demonstration against the labor reforms of the People's Party should be only the first step of a widespread social response which would lead to the calling of a general strike.

There is nothing to negotiate and the only option to defend ourselves against the Labor Reform of PP is its removal.

Since February 10 there have been constant protests against labor reform in different cities. Protests will continue in the coming days, and hundreds of thousands of workers have taken to the streets, especially over the last weekend. If the CCOO and UGT raised this mobilization as a question about the will to fight of the working class or as a thermometer to assess the call for a general strike, the answer is clear: the struggle is the way forward and it is necessary to call for a general strike.



For the CNT, the important social response, continuing last year's demonstrations against cuts and economic policies initiated by the PSOE government, and deepened by the current PP government, highlights the need to continue the fight in the streets against these measures, and highlights the timid response so far by CCOO and UGT and the detrimental policies of constantly surrendering the rights of the working class practiced by these unions in recent times.

The agreement for the cut in salaries or the recent II Employment Agreement to wage freezes are only recent examples of these policies that we reject and that have brought continuous setbacks for labor rights and a total offense of the bosses and bankers against social rights in all fields.

So CNT believes that the only option for workers should be the immediate withdrawal of RD 3/2012, An attack like this on the working class cannot be reformed, the labor rights at stake are not negotiable and it is only continuous mobilizations on the street can defend them and lead to new victories for the working class.

CNT considers that it is not the time to retreat, It has mobilized and will continue advocating mobilizations like those it has been conducting in recent months, both in mobilizations called by the CNT, as in those carried out with other militant unions and social movements, and also in the demonstrations like those called by the institutional trade unions last weekend, where it participated, very critically.

The refusal of the CCOO and UGT to call a general strike, and the latest statements of its leaders, trying to reform and negotiate the measures taken by the government, raises fear that there will be a new surrender of all rights by a type of unionism that would thus definitely have shown its inability to face the offensive of a government that has assumed the maximum program of the bosses and the bankers.

The CNT calls on all workers to encourage continued and growing mobilizations, building another form of unionism, to increase conflict in the workplace to counter the launch of the Labor Reform and to achieve its withdrawal.

Moving towards a general strike call with the ability to reverse the attacks on workers is the challenge the working class and the trade unions must consider, so we can see that rights are not surrendered, but defended and won.

Secretariat of the Confederal Committee
National Confederation of Labour - CNT

USIS-AIT National Federation statement about occupied Kilkis Hospital

The National Federation USIS - AIT (Health Care workers) expresses its full solidarity and full support to the struggle of workers and colleagues at the hospital in Kilkis. The statement released by the assembly of workers is the highest expression of selfmanagement in the workplace and as USIS will support strongly their struggle. Workers at the General Hospital are responding to fascism of the government occupying their public hospital and placing it under their direct and complete control. As USIS we also want to emphasize that the greek government is not fulfilling its financial obligations to the hospital, so the workers will be forced to denounce all relevant authorities to public opinion. However, if their demands are not met, they will address the municipalities, to the local communities an so forth, to get support of any kind to help their efforts to save the hospital and protect public health, to overthrow the government and any neo-liberal policy.

In these days thanks to the appeal of unions greek people's struggle has intensified again. Thousands of people flock to the streets to demonstrate against the new austerity measures decided by the government. Thousands of people who strongly oppose against dismissal in the civil service, against the cut in the minimum wage and against the reduction of pensions. Workers and the greek people, and especially the colleagues of Kilkis, a true example of the current struggle against the powers of European banking, are demonstrating against the real savagery of capitalism there is no other solution than self-management of the means of production and society.

Florence, 8th february 2012
On behalf of USIS-AIT
Corrado Lusi – Careggi Hospital, Florence, Italy

Belgrade Six case (BG6): Appeal of ASI-IWA for International Solidarity Actions – February 6th, 2012

We would like to inform you that on the 8th February 2012, there will be a renewed trial against four members of the Serbian Anarcho-syndicalist Initiative (ASI) as well as two unaffiliated Belgrade anarchists, as part of the fabricated legal case of the Belgrade Six (BG6).

The six Belgrade libertarians have been accused of inciting, assisting in and executing an attack on the Greek Embassy in Belgrade at the end of August 2009, in solidarity with a hunger-striking Greek political prisoner. Soon after the attack on the embassy, BG6 (Tadej Kurepa, Ratibor Trivunac, Ivan Savic, Ivan Vulovic, Nikola Mitrovic and Sanja Dojkic) were arrested and held in custody for the next six months charged with 'international terrorism'. Thanks to a mass mobilisation of support, both globally and locally, they were released early before their trial date. In June 2010, they were finally fully acquitted at a High Court in Belgrade, which decided that there is no basis for a guilty verdict on any of the charges.

The prosecution filed a complaint, but the Court of Appeals failed to respond until a moment when suitable political reasons emerged. Only days after antimilitarist protests against the NATO summit that took place in Belgrade in June 2011, at which Ratibor Trivunac was arrested, the Court of Appeals granted the prosecution's complaint and ruled on a renewed case against BG6.

Currently, there are criminal proceedings against seven members of the Belgrade local group of ASI and they are all politically motivated. The renewal of the case against the BG6 can only be seen as the continuation of state repression against those who stand up to pillage and exploitation. Bearing in mind that Serbia is a peripheral banana-state, ruled by a layer of compradorial bourgeoisie, it has been shown that in this phase of the struggle, the greatest force against the state repressive apparatus is international solidarity.

Therefore, we are calling all comrades and compañeras, anarcho-syndicalists, revolutionary syndicalists and class struggle anarchists everywhere to join in an international day of solidarity with BG6, organised on the 6th February globally in front of the embassies, consulates and cultural institutions of the Republic of Serbia. The protests should carry a clear demand for the ending of all legal proceedings against the Belgrade libertarians and the dropping of fabricated charges.

The freedom of our comrades depends largely on the activities of the international libertarian movement and we are convinced that international solidarity will once again show its strength.

Freedom to the BG6!

Death to the state and capitalism!

The International Secretariat of ASI

Statement of the USI-AIT (on the police raid on the squat where USI has its headquarters)



Firenze: This morning at dawn the police cleared the squat of via Conciatori n.4, seat of Unione Sindacale Italiana (USI-AIT), of the Circolo Anarchico Fiorentino and of the "Progetto Conciatori"

Some comrades opposed to this clearing climbing the roof, trying to resist as long as possible, while in the street there were other comrades demonstrating against the clearing. The Unione Sindacale Italiana condemns the police

attack to the seat of a worker union and remarks the high level of repression that this kind of action reveal, above all because it has been required by a politician whose party state to be on the workers side.

The Mayor of Firenze has never accepted the proposal of a project of self-recovering of the building by the "Progetto Conciatori", preferring the private speculation.

With this clearing, Firenze loses an experience of autogestion that has offered many important cultural initiatives and also a political and unionist project unique in its struggle to defend free social spaces, the surrounding region and all of the exploited workers.

Once again the Unione Sindacale Italiana has been hit by the speculation that is always attacking our seats, exactly as happened in 1925 when the fascist regime requisitioned all of the USI seats, those seats that were never given back by the Italian state after the war.

Segreteria Nazionale and Commissione Esecutiva USI-AIT would like to express to the comrades of Firenze and of Tuscany the solidarity of USI and also to affirm a real support to all of the initiatives that those comrades will decide to carry out.

They express a likewise solidarity to all of those groups that were present today inside the building in Via dei Conciatori n°4 in Firenze.

Segreteria Nazionale and Commissione Esecutiva USI-AIT

The ILO Urges the German Government to Guarantee Trade Union Rights

Following complaints of FAU Berlin, the UN workers' organisation, the ILO reinforces the rights of minority unions.

In its report from November 2011, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) demands the German government to ensure that the Freie Arbeiterinnen und Arbeiter-Union (FAU) could represent the interests of their members, in accordance with Conventions 87 and 98. The Committee on Freedom of Organization of this UN organisation in particular defends the right of free speech for FAU Berlin, the right to access premises in any companies they have members in and the right to participate in workers' councils, if the number of members is representative on the company level.

To safeguard the interests of so -called minor unions, the German government has been asked to inform the ILO as soon as the legislative initiative against multiple collective agreements within one company gets taken up again. The German government has officially declared the end of this initiative.

The ILO reacted to a complaint by the FAU from April 2010 (Nr.: 2805, FAU against the German government on compliance with Conventions 87 and 98). This demand was a reaction to two court decisions of the higher labour court and the higher court of Berlin, in which the local FAU syndicate had not only been denied the right to continue a labour conflict but also to call themselves a union.

As a result, FAU Berlin was not only pushed aside as a possible partner for collective bargaining, but also denied participation in council and staff meetings. Several union representatives have been confronted with orders to stay away from the company in current and older labour conflicts. They have been accused of a breach of domestic peace two times.

"We welcome the decision of an international committee as the ILO. It not only strengthens our position in present labour conflicts but also the position of all those who fight for the establishment of militant base unions in this country", said Andreas Förster, secretary of the FAU Berlin.

ILO Report in English:

www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_168206.pdf

FAU-IAA Internationales Sekretariat
Mühlgasse 13
60486 Frankfurt/Main
Germany
is@fau.org
<http://www.fau.org>

Urgently: Protest against "Bloody Friday" in Kazakhstan!

December 16, 2011 Kazakhstan authorities shot down in the Zhanaozen (a West Kazakhstan city) the rally of striking oil workers. The strike of about 1,500 workers with the requirements of higher wages and better working conditions began in May, but was banned. Oilfield of Karazhanbas, where conflict broke out, is being developed by the company, which belongs to the Chinese concern China International Trust Investment Company and the Kazakh company "KazMunayGaz".*

The scale of repression have been increasing steadily: during the conflict, hundreds of workers were laid off, an union activist, Zhaksalyk Turbayev, was killed by unknown persons, fire to the house of another activist, Aslambek Aydarbayev, was set, and trade union lawyer, Natalia

Sokolova, was sentenced to 6 years in prison for "inciting social discord." Leading trade unionists Akzhanat Aminov, Kuanys Shisenbayev and more as 30 other unionists were also arrested and sentenced.

The regime of President Nazarbayev is largely known for his brutal suppression of workers movement and for his authoritarianism. He declared the theory of "Eurasianism" (actively promoted by the Russian "new right" ethnographer Lev Gumilev) the official ideology.

Now, by the repression of the rally, many workers were killed: 11 people, according to official data, and 70 people, according to unofficial data. The workers informed that hundreds of people injured. The city is now in state of emergency and curfew. The regime put army in the city and cut it off from the rest of the world.

In the nearby towns, there are rallies and actions of solidarity with the workers of Zhanaozen. The authorities again opened fire, and there are new victims.

We call for the immediate protest to stop the massacre of workers in Kazakhstan. Please send letters of protest to the Embassy of Kazakhstan and to the company CITIC, hold pickets and demonstrations. We also offer call for a boycott of goods from Kazakhstan.

International Secretariat of KRAS-IWA

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CITIC_Group

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KazMunayGas>

Solidarity with the dismissed worker Icaro and the workers of FF Mercantil!

Since the firing of Icaro in March, the struggle has been continuing in the factory. A group of six workers went on strike but were fired. Other dismissals are being carried on as well; in November, the factory fired 40 people and threatened to close its doors. Now Icaro is being charged with defamation against the company, which is a criminal charge in Brazil. His trial will be on Wednesday, December 14 in Minas Gerais, Araxá.

The IWA received this information from the COB-AIT in May 2011:

"FF Mercantil, a company from Araxá-Minas Gerais, responsible for products of the Brazilian brand Finta and the Italian brand Lotto, keep their employees in a regime of extremely precarious work conditions and use different means to prevent them from organizing to resist their exploitation: the workers don't receive extra money for working in unhealthy conditions, they are exposed to excessive heat, they receive less than the minimum wage and many are the victims of humiliation, persecution and blackmail.

The latest manoeuvre to persecute by the bosses occurred on March 22, with the dismissal of Ícaro, member of Sindivários Araxá, belonging to the Workers Federation of Minas Gerais, who was struggling together with his comrades to fight for their rights. The workers who did not surrender to the bosses are still being repressed. "

The workers of FF Mercantil are demanding an 8 hour working day and a 5-day work week, better health and safety measures in the factory, extra payment for work in dangerous conditions and the right to organize. They need all the solidarity they can get in their fight for better work conditions- and against repression!!

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE FF MERCANTIL WORKERS
BOYCOTT FINTA AND LOTTO. NO TO EMPLOYERS EXPLOITATION.
DON'T BUY PRODUCTS MADE WITH SEMI-SLAVE LABOUR!
FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF ÍCARO POLETTO!
FOR UNION FREEDOM!**

Roche Actions

In December, our comrade was suddenly fired with no written explanation from his job in Roche Poland. He had been trying to regularize his employment and was expecting to be on a regular, permanent contract from the beginning of the year. He was told to leave the office immediately.



He, like other IT workers, had been denied regular employment by the pharmaceutical giant which uses many fake self-employed workers, and people outsourced through individual companies, not regulated by the law on temp agencies. As a result, the people are denied social security payments, sick leave, paid vacation, maternity and paternity leave and other benefits.

The firing was published directly after a large article with ZSP and the comrade was in the paper and it was thought that it might have been connected to this and the fact that he was urging people to push for contracts. Later it came out that the company decided to conduct mass dismissals and cut about 200 jobs in Warsaw and Madrid, outsourcing the work.

ZSP, in relation to this, has organized a number of pickets in Warsaw, in Poznan and at the corporate headquarters in Switzerland.

More information about all the pickets can be found on the ZSP page: zsp.net.pl

Below is information about the last action, which took place on April 19:

On April 19, Roche corporation held an international meeting in Warsaw to announce „restruturing plans” which will mean mass firings and outsourcing of about 200 IT jobs in Warsaw and Madrid.

Representatives of the corporation from different countries came to the Hilton Hotel conference center. One member of ZSP went into the conference hall with leaflets denouncing these actions and calling on workers to take mass action against the company. Some IT workers who would be affected were also present. Outside was a picket in a place right below the windows of the conference and, with excellent acoustics, this was heard very well.

ZSP is advising the workers about to be fired about how to claim benefits that they were denied when they were falsely employed as „entrepreneurs”.

XX Congress of USI

From Friday March 23 - Sunday March 25, 2012, the XX national congress of the Italian Syndicalist Union, USI-AIT took place near the self-managed space „Free Factory“ in Modena. Dozens of delegates took part. They represented sections from Modena, Bologna, Trieste, Parma, Reggio-Emilia, Florence, Livorno, San Vincenzo, Trento, Ancona, Brescia, Carrara and Sarno.

International greetings were given from the Secretariat of the IWA by Rolf-Petter Larson (Secretary of the IWA) and Einar Nyomen. The Free Workers' Union from Germany (FAU) also gave greetings and wishes for successful work from the comrades present, Lars Rohm and Julia. The work of the congress, as always, was highly intensive, broad and open for discussion.

The Congress unanimously adopted a series of statements and resolutions, which are printed below.

Statement on the call to demonstrate in Novara

“The comrades from the USI-AIT, gathered in Modena, in order to hold its XX congress and to celebrate its centenary, sends its solidarity greetings to all who yesterday, today and, we are convinced, tomorrow, will be committed to the antimilitarist struggle and in particular, the struggle against the purchasing of F35 fighter aircraft. We express our closeness with all the comrades who are going to demonstrate today and we support future initiatives.

We also send a solidarity greeting to comrades participating in the struggle against the destruction of the environment and the military occupation, with the suspension of all rights in the name of the profits of capital, as in the case of the highway in Val di Susa.”

Resolution Nº1. On the self-managed Ateneo of anarcho-syndicalist training

“The Congress confirms the formation of the “Self-Managed Ateneo of anarcho-syndicalist training” with its center of coordination in Milan. Each section and branch should give instructions to prepare one or two personal candidates by the end of April in order to hold the first national meeting at the end of May.

This meeting – in the form of a seminar – will be dedicated to a critical study of pension and labor reform (developed by the present government and the minister Fornero) and it will take place in Milan”.

Resolution Nº2. Discussion about the social-economic situation, the participation of organizations in protests and the self-managed perspective in response to the social-economic situation

“Taking into account that the crisis of the capitalism and the state are irreversible and that the tendency is leading to the inevitable destruction of the planet and that the only answer it offers is death, hunger and deprivation, the XX Congress of USI-AIT (Modena, 23 – 25 March 2012) declares that the Italian ruling classes, in accordance with and at the request of the international ruling classes, gave birth to the “worst possible government”, which interprets and implements the capitalist ideology, bringing it to the extreme liberal position. The extension of the retirement age, encroachments on the income of pensioners and workers, higher taxes only on the poorest layers of society, the increase in the cost of living, the continued privatization of public goods and services, imposing instability on instability – these are only some of the most obvious consequences. The severe offensive carried out through the new pension “model 11” and the reform of article 18 of law 300/70 (Workers' Statute) on the part of the government and the parliament, serves as a symbol of what kind of trade union relationships the ruling classes would like to have: none. These reforms and actions are only a poor disguise for what is the real goal of the neoliberal manoeuvres: to make more serious cuts in pay, seen as the only variable they can have influence over after the adoption of the Euro, which made it impossible to use classic means in conditions of economic crisis – monetary inflation.

The goals which our union intends to pursue to get out of the dead-end of the neoliberal plan are:

- A breakthrough on wage freezes;
- Adopting structural measures against the growth of the cost of living, for example a return to such forms as wage indexation (as it was during the so-called “sliding scale”);

- A general cut in working hours while maintaining the same wages;
- A struggle to a victorious end against precarity by changing contracts and simultaneously liquidating all forms of non-standard employment. These strategic objectives will be realized by joining public services workers and the users of these services. The funds necessary for this will be obtained by cutting military expenses and expenditure on unnecessary, unwanted and harmful «major projects». We consider that in questions of employment it is necessary to reject the logic of exchange, reducing the use of integration funds and increasing unemployment benefits;
- USI considers that new subjects of social conflicts must appear, the subject of the self-organized unemployed, precarious workers and immigrant workers in order that they can deploy their forces to achieve their demands for the right to work and can rebel against the institutions at all levels;
- We consider it absolutely necessary to develop social activity in connection with actions to achieve demands, using direct action, including the use of reappropriation. It also requires the development of useful projects and not harmful work, aimed at development in accordance with the criteria of social needs and interests. In addition to these intermediary goals, USI intends to oppose the state by forming a society based on self-management and the values of solidarity.

Therefore USI is a union which is for the liberation of the exploited. We consider self-management to be the main instrument to achieve this, by a complex development and actions of the Union and in the daily life of the trade union. We understand any manifestation of the ideas of solidarity and responsible self-government as the basis of social action to fall under this project. In perspective, the society which we want. In this sense, the project cannot exist in isolation from practice, otherwise this would be just an ideology.

Union life should be guided by the principles of self-management, that is the direct and responsible participation of members and supporters in union life. We understand this as:

a) activity in the workplace, opposition to the bosses and in propaganda in amongst colleagues and other unions, carried out in accordance with the responsibilities and competencies defined in our statutes;

b) activity both in the internal relations of national and local structures and between national and local structures:

1) the general meeting is sovereign (meetings of members of the local section, delegates of the National commission of delegates or responsible members of a statutory organ), within its competencies, in order to develop and regulate union life at all levels;

2) nobody can act individually in his or her own name without having a clear and valid mandate from a general meeting, competent in this sphere of activity. For example, the national secretary cannot name delegates or representatives of the Union on his or her own initiative, but only after consultation and approval of the Sections at a national committee of delegates or correspondence consultations, whose legitimacy is recognized unanimously;

3) avoid concentration of tasks in one section or in the hands of one person;

c) active spreading of knowledge about the union amongst the exploited and establishing roots among them – by giving out leaflets, having public meetings on concrete topics, manifestations, exhibitions, parties and festivals for socializing and self-financing, for the use of the union or its publications and to experiment in the sphere of self-managed labour, markets, crafts and non-commercial services to the public;

d) to develop activity in the sphere of self-managed labour

In all of these aspects we consider that self-management is a necessary common denominator, the correspondence between our principles and actions, a way to avoid disintegrating internal conflicts, guarantee the union the possibility to grow in the direction of serious and consistent ideals and, above all, unite the exploited in a structure in which they can feel like active and significant participants ”.

Resolution N°3. Analysis of the trade union movement and the role of anarcho-syndicalism

"The Congress notes the deep crisis which runs through the historical experience of the union movement which is an alternative to the relations of the conciliatory model expressed by CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL. This crisis manifests itself in the degradation towards a hierarchical and ideologized model that mimics the party secretariats of the XX century.



The Congress notes and stresses the relevance and specific nature of anarchosyndicalism as a powerful and successful expression of the model of opposition to the State and Capital. The Congress gives its mandate of the new executive organs to explore the opportunity to begin a process which, under the circumstances, would lead to joint initiatives in the trade union and social panorama that could share with us our own fight for our goals and strategy.

Such initiatives, without any vertical agreements and in the course of exploring the social movements on an economic basis, arising from the proletarianization of the social structure, would have the goal of declaring a national general strike if it is possible and the real expression of the will of the working class. The goal of this process is to create a synergy with these movements in order to spread the consensus around the themes raised by USI-AIT.

Together with this, the congress confirms the necessity to act in all concrete real situations in which daily work goes on, to have an effective education campaign and to expose the lies of the enslaved media, regarding the real meaning and dramatic consequences of the manoeuvres which are effecting the most vulnerable layers of society.

We again confirm the the complicity of the comprising trade union movement, including FIOM-CGIL, which plays a key role in creating the current state of affairs".

USI in Leroy Merlin in Carugate (Milan)

Last year a worker from a Leroy Merlin in Carugate joined the USI-AIT. In the course of a few months, more people joined and the workers decided to create a union section, and Mauro B. was called upon to act as representative. The union opposed changes in the shifts and tasks made by the company and distributed a leaflet. The company responded with a disciplinary sanction against Mauro – 10 days suspension without pay. This sanction is being fought.

At the beginning of February and March there were a couple of leafleting actions and on April 21 there was also an action in Carugate. Faxes were sent from IWA sections to Leroy Merlin condemning their actions against the union.

Leroy Merlin has not responded to USI-AIT and is ignoring the fact that three-quarters of the staff have signed a call for electing union representation.