

our strength is solidarity

Noel Washington - CFMEU



Motion:

This meeting will ask unions internationally for solidarity for our campaign to support Noel Washington, and for the

immediate abolition of the ABCC. We recognize that this attack on workers' ability to organise is not an isolated case, as workers all around the world face similar attacks.

In particular, we recognise the important struggles for the right to organise of the Construction Union KFCITU-KCTU of south Korea, the KMU labour center in the Philippines, and the FENSUAGRO agricultural workers union in Colombia. These unions face ongoing repression. We will send our solidarity messages and support the international campaigns to defend them.

Quick campaign links:

The KFCITU-KCTU (Construction Plant Workers Union in Pohang) was targeted in 2006 for trying to organise sub contractors in the construction industry, dominated by the Korean multinational POSCO. POSCO is present in Australia. <http://tinyurl.com/5f8bdm>

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) is a progressive trade union federation in the Philippines. Their organisers are targeted by paramilitary death squads. <http://tinyurl.com/6mafto>

The FENSUAGRO union in Colombia organises workers in the agricultural sectors. Since its formation in 1978, more than 500 members of FENSUAGRO have been murdered by right wing death squads. <http://tinyurl.com/6yqu47>



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KCTU Rally



korea

The Korean government is trying to increase the casualisation of the workforce. There have been major struggles, and many workers have been injured in protests, thousands have been arrested and thousands more blacklisted. A number of workers committed suicide and some were killed by police. A recent killing was of construction worker Ha Joong Keun, member KFCITU-KCTU. He was killed in a clash with police during the dispute at POSCO in 2006. New laws have been used to abolish secure employment, privatising state-owned enterprises, making it easier to sack workers, and increasing the power of employers to implement lockouts. The government has also attempted to allow companies to seize the assets of union officials and workers, in order to recover losses caused by 'illegal strikes'. The militant Migrant Trade Union has recently been targeted with the deportation of its leadership.

philippines

Trade union and human rights violations have again worsened in the Philippines. Since 2001, around 80 members and organizers of trade unions and workers' organizations have been killed. They are a part of more than 850 victims of political killings under the present government. Among those killed were union leaders in multinational corporations and local big business establishments, including Diosdado (Ka Fort) Fortuna, union president at Nestle and Ricardo (Ka Ric) Ramos, union president of CATLU. Alongside policies of deregulation and privatisation, the Philippines government is trying to stop all industrial action. Workplace organising was included in the government's war on terror campaign, branding workers as terrorists or 'enemies of the state'. Strikes, and other organising activities have been met with violence and repression from police, army and paramilitary groups.



KMU Rally



Colombian Agricultural Workers

colombia

Since the 1990's, Colombia has been the most dangerous country in the world for trade union activists, accounting for up to 90% of murders and disappearances of labor activists worldwide. In the first 6 months of 2008, over 20 trade unionists were assassinated. Human rights groups believe that almost all of these murders have been carried out by paramilitary death squads, linked to government officials, or acting for employers. Of over 1,100 murders documented between 1994 and 2006, only 56 perpetrators have been brought to trial, and a total of 14 have been sentenced. Murdered trade unionists come from all sectors, whether working for small companies or large multinationals, in the rural or urban regions.

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