

Who are we ?

● The International Workers Committee Against War, Exploitation, for a Workers' International (IWC) was set up at the World Conference held in Mumbai (India) on November 19, 20, 21, 2016 gathering delegates from 28 countries.

● The IWC was set up on the basis of the Mumbai Manifesto against war, exploitation and precarious labour which was endorsed by labour activist and trade union and political organisations officers from 46 countries (*)

● Its continuations committee is composed of labour activists from all political/ trade union backgrounds:

Innocent Assogba (Benin),
Alan Benjamin (USA),
Colia Clark (USA),
Constantin Cretan (Romania),
Berthony Dupont (Haiti),
Ney Ferreira (Brazil),
Daniel Gluckstein (France),
Rubina Jamil (Pakistan),
Apo Leung (China),
M.A. Patil (India),
Mandlenkosi Phangwa (Azania),
Sergio Pineda (Mexico),
Klaus Schüller (Germany),
Jung Sikhwa (Korea),
John Sweeney (Great Britain),
Mark Vassilev (Russia),
Nambiath Vasudevan (India).

(*) Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Azania, Belarus, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Korea, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

The International Workers' Committee Against War and Exploitation, for the Workers' International, has proposed to conduct an international working class fact finding survey. This will enable the collecting of the facts that accuse the bankrupt capitalist regime, and will be a call to fight for the independence of the workers' movement, to put an end to the society of exploitation.

The results of this survey will provide the material for the preparation of the second international conference against war and exploitation, for a workers' international (which will be held, in application of our commitments, when conditions for traveling and meeting have returned to normal).

In order to facilitate the circulation of documents (in English, French and Spanish) among the organizations, groups and activists of all tendencies from the 53 countries that have called for the conference, we kindly ask you to limit your contributions to 10,000 - 20,000 characters (2,000 to 4,000 words).

The 8 questions that make up this survey were published in newsletter n° 164 and are available upon request.

Already published:

- 1- Pakistan. Author: All-Pakistan Trade Union Federation (APTUF) - Date: October 5th
- 2- Canada. Author: Activists involved in IWC campaigns - Date: October 12th
- 3- Australia. Author : Australia Asia Worker Links – Date: November 14th, 2020

Report n° 4

INDONESIA

Author: Dian Trisnanti, Chair Person F-SBPI (Federation of Indonesian Unity Trade Union)

Date : November 25th

1. What have the consequences of the health crisis for the population been – especially for the working class? What has the COVID impact been on employment, how many jobs have been lost?

During pandemic of Covid 19, Indonesian government published some policy that against workers right.

In the middle of March, the Minister of Manpower issued circular letter which legitimate the cut of wage and furlough. Many workers that employed with short term contract found it was even worse. They were being laid off without compensation. Besides, based on online survey we conducted at the end of March to early April, 67% workers were still obligated to go to work. However, 25% of them did not received any protective equipment, such as hand-washing facilities, and disinfectants from the factory.

The Ministry of Manpower stated that over 3,5 million workers have been laid off during the pandemic, while KADIN (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce &

Industry) claimed the number reached 6,4 million.

2. Are there any figures available concerning the lives lost of workers in general and particularly front-line workers, including doctors and other hospital staff?

We do not have data on the number of workers in general who lost their lives due to Covid 19. However, for medical workers, at the end of September the IDI (Indonesian Medical Association) stated that 228 medical workers including doctors had lost their lives due to Covid 19.

3. What measures were taken or not taken by the government to cope with the pandemic? Were any wage deductions imposed by the bosses and governments?

The government has implemented a basic food distribution program. However, in urban areas such as Jakarta, this often creates problems. To obtain the food, workers must have a Jakarta ID card. But most of the workers come from other provinces, so it is very difficult to

get the food distributed. The government also implemented Kartu Pra-Kerja (pre-employed card) program. But, this program is very difficult for workers to access, so that the government only wastes the budget. On the contrary, the government provides many easing to entrepreneurs, such as tax relaxation. But, the boss continue to do whatever they want by violating workers Right.

4. What new attacks against workers' rights and democracy were launched by the bosses and governments during this year, as they took advantage of the pandemic?

The Indonesian government, deliberately using public anxiety situations as an opportunity to pass controversial laws that threaten workers' rights, called Omnibus Law on Job Creation. In the name of ease of doing business, this law amended several laws. One of the most controversial is amended the Employment Act No 13/2003. With this new law, the working conditions will be more precarious. Demonstrations or simply discussions held against this law are often get repressed by the police.

5. For years, the number of workers in the informal sector has continued to increase. The fight against precarious labour must lead the labour movement to think about organizing these workers. The workers in the informal sector have paid a heavy price in the healthcare crisis. What has their situation been since March 2020? What reactions has this triggered?

During pandemic, their situation are worse. Garment workers who were laid off, mostly work in small garment factory (its a house that

hired tens to 50s workers) with low wage (under minimum Wage) and in bad condition. Unfortunately, they don't have any choice but continue working in the precarious job. Once they got job in garment factory (formal sector), they will work in short contract (21 days -30 days) with no work no pay system'. Off course, its the part of our program to win their normative rights. Therefore, we organize them and the program to eliminate contract and outsource system' become our priority.

6. Women workers have also been particularly hit. They are the first to lose their jobs, the last to be taken back at their work places when they reopen. They have to take in charge their children deprived of schooling. Domestic violence has increased with the lockdown. What form has it taken? What mobilisations have taken place to defend the rights of working women?

In KBN Cakung, we built Women Workers Help Desk that advocate gender based violence such as domestic violence, sexual harrasment, maternity rights, etc. During pandemic we advocate 2 Cases of domestic violence and many more Cases that were not reported since the fear to speak up.

We have demonstrations to address these issues every Tuesday with Alliance of Women Movement (Gerak Perempuan) in front of Indonesian Representatif House. In addition, in the moment of Anti Violence Against Women Day, we have demonstration with many organizations, including unions. It also happen in Medan, North Sumatera, in which the alliance of women and unions held demonstration on Anti Violence Against

Women Day.

7. With the new technologies, the capitalists dismantle labour relations, restructure companies and destroy jobs. What are the consequences and what are the threats to labour relations in the coming period?

Of course, the labor reserve will increase, so wages will always be low. Therefore, investments targeted by the omnibus law, with the promise of expanding jobs, are finding less and less relevant. Because of this, the union density will continue to decline. Therefore, broad alliances with the people need to be further strengthened

8. What were the positions of workers' organisations and their leaderships during that period? What were the demands? What was their attitude towards the plans designed by the bosses and the governments?

In addition to advocating at the factory level regarding cases of layoffs or wage reductions that have occurred, the labor unions that are members of Gebrak (labor movement with teh people) have a role in mobilizing young people to reject the omnibus law processed by the DPR (house of representatives) in the midst of the pandemic. Of course, what we demand is that the government focus on dealing with the pandemic. We demonstrated countless times with strict health protocols - because the situation is so urgent. However, even though this movement succeeded in generating widespread enthusiasm from the people, it must be admitted that we have not succeeded in competing with the grand plan of the business-government alliance to pass the omnibus law. However, the resistance will continue. ■

HONG-KONG

Call from the Cathay Pacific Airways Flight Attendants Union

November 2020

On 21st of October, Cathay Pacific announced to make around 6,000 people redundant and introduce a new Condition of Service (CoS20) to all remaining Cabin Crew. The new contract includes a permanent pay cut up to 36% and benefits cut, where the devil is in the detail. Further, a new clause "Trade Union Agreement" has been added into the contract, making any agreements reached in the future no longer binding to all Cabin Crew. It is obvious that the new CoS20 is not just for reducing the operation cost, but also to demean the status of FAU.

Cathay Pacific Airways Flight Attendants Union (FAU) represents over 75% of Hong Kong Based Cabin Crew. For the past ten years, we have maintained an open dialogue with the Management and utilised the opportunity of the annual Year End Negotiation (YEN) to review the salary, benefits and

any other topics that concerns Crew Community the most. Each year, after genuine exchange of ideas and thoughts, both Management and Union would come to an agreement on areas that would help improve the working condition of Cabin Crew. Local enterprises will also pay attention to our YEN as they would follow the results including salary increment level. Undoubtedly, YEN is significant both internally and externally.

However, the Company announced to cancel Year End Negotiation and showed reluctance to sign collective agreement with the Union as they believe those traditions may hinder the Company moving forward. We are disappointed that the Company has decided to abandon this tradition and deprive us from the rights to negotiate with the Company on behalf of the majority of Cabin Crew. It is obvious that Cathay

Pacific Airways is trying its best to demean the status of FAU and weaken our collective bargaining power.

This is certainly another example of Cathay Pacific exploiting labour's rights by suppressing the Union after the redundancy and introduction of unfair CoS20. We are concerned that these changes will further suppress the right of collective bargaining and worsen the employment inequality in Hong Kong.

We demand Cathay Pacific Airways to engage in 2020 and promise to carry on this tradition in the coming years to protect our labour rights.

We would like to have your support in this fight and please help us sign this online petition as our first step. No man is an island. We must unite to strengthen trade union and employment rights. ■

*Sign and share this petition to others.

<https://forms.gle/LgAPvsD7iNkJZ1m6A>

*Invite your CX Cabin Crew friends to join FAU membership, and please join your union in your work field to increase workers' bargaining power.

*Subscribe and Share FAU's latest movement (<http://www.facebook.com/faucpa>) and participate in our campaign

*The last and most important, to fight against injustice by actively participating in the Union's affair and don't forget Hong Kong.

We are all in this together.

If it has to be a permanent change, it will become OUR permanent fight.

UNITED STATES

Mumia Abu-Jamal in Great Danger Again!

Donald Trump has scheduled executions of death-row inmates in federal prisons until the very last moments of his tenure, including the use of firing squads and the electric chair. Although he can no longer be executed directly, Mumia Abu-Jamal*, the “voice of the voiceless,” is also in great danger.

Mumia and his supporters have issued a warning about a serious outbreak of COVID-19 at the Mahanoy Correctional Facility in the state of Pennsylvania, where Mumia and 2,400 inmates are being held. Twenty prison guards have tested positive. Inmates are kept in lockdown in their cells, except for showers and emergencies.

Mumia is 66 years old and has suffered years of liver damage, making him extremely vulnerable to the pandemic. Prison personnel are the ones bringing in the virus.

The coalitions in the United States fighting for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal are calling on organizations and activists the world over to urge Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to release Mumia and other elderly and sick prisoners on humanitarian grounds. Wolf has the power to grant “compassionate release.”

The International Workers Committee Against War and Exploitation, For the Workers’ International calls for this campaign to be relayed as widely as possible on an international level. The IWC calls on trade union, political, and democratic rights organizations around the world to demand that Pennsylvania Governor invoke “compassionate release” for Mumia and all aging elderly inmates. Your letters and statements should be sent post-haste to the Pennsylvania governor at the following addresses:

*Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
United States*

Or by email:

brunelle.michael@gmail.com

Please send copies of your statements to:

Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com

And

owcmumbai2016@gmail.com

**Daniel Gluckstein
Nambiath Vasudevan
Coordinators of the International
Workers Committee Against War and
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* Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black activist, member of the Black Panther Party at the age of 14, then a freelance journalist in Philadelphia, PA, was sentenced to death in July 1982 for the murder of a white police officer in a rigged trial. He spent 29 years on “death row.” In 2011 the U.S. Supreme Court commuted his sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.