



#1

May 2010

REFLECTS

World Federation of Trade Unions

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern - independent!

The future belongs to the working people



The purpose of this publication: the WFTU magazine

Editorial

We live in the age of technology. The communication amongst the unions and the trade unionists is mostly through the internet and the e-mail. These tools are really useful and we ought to make use of them in order for our positions and our activities to quickly reach everywhere. In addition, we believe that the magazines, like the one you are holding in your hands, have not lost their value.

Our age is characterized by the controversy between the capital and the labour. The capitalists have in their possession the mass media, the TV-stations, the newspapers, the websites and the blogs. They organise constant attacks to the workers' minds. They, firstly target the consciousness and secondly the working class' and the new generation's pockets. In such conditions, we need publications such as newspaper, magazines, websites, TV-stations etc. which will promote the positions of the class-oriented trade union movement. This magazine will be published 2-3 times a year.

Our aim is to propagate, in a simple way, the positions of WFTU, the positions of its members and friends; to attract more friends.

Our aim is to trade experience and knowledge between the continents, the branches and the regions; in order to assist the class-oriented struggles.

Our aim is to cultivate internationalism and labour solidarity amongst the workers, the poor farmers, the self-employed.

Our aim is for the 16th World Trade Union Congress to be a great historic event in the interest of the workers. So we are expecting your articles and suggestions!

Let us have a good start!

Index

- 16TH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS [3
April 2011, Athens, Greece
- SWAZILAND - AFRICA A nation in [4
the throes of socio-political crisis!
- CoNEP NEPAL [5
The situation of the working
class in Nepal and the role of CoNEP
- SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES [6
OF WFTU IN 2010
- ACTION PLAN 2010 [10
- CS GAS [11
Breath-taking policies
- 16th UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE [12
Doomed to fail since the very beginning
- SIMON BOLIVAR [13
The Libertator
- CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI [14
Major wound to the long
suffering Haitian people



Painting by Pablo Picasso on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of WFTU in 1955



SWAZILAND - AFRICA

A nation in the throes of socio-political crisis!

By Dr. Sikelela Dlamini and Mancoba Nxumalo, correspondents

Swaziland is known for its colourful traditional ceremonies in which the young King Mswati chooses a teenage wife annually. To the rest of the world this is a picture so common it has turned to

define what the lives of the people of Swaziland is. Beyond the palace walls and out of range of the international media cameras is a story of a people, neglected, suffering and dying of hunger and HIV AIDS.

Bordered by South Africa on the West side and Mozambique on the Eastern side, Swaziland remains the last undemocratic country in the SADC region and the last absolute monarchy in Sub-Sahara Africa. Ruled by an absolute monarchy king Mswati III, known for marrying teenagers, Swaziland was plunged into ever-worsening socio-political chaos since the unlawful abrogation of the independence constitution by then King Sobhuza II on 12th April 1973, by which act he transferred all executive, judiciary, and legislative powers to himself. Since then Swaziland has been subjected to an indefinite and perpetual state of emergency that outlawed peaceful association and assembly alongside the right to freedom of expression. As a result, political parties are allowed so long as they harbour no political power ambitions—they must not contest elections! Formed in 1983, the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO), which has consistently rejected the status quo in favour of a multiparty democracy, remains banned in terms of the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008, under which it is a "specified entity". PUDEMO President, Mario Masuku, who recently won a democracy award from Denmark, became the first notable victim of the Act when he was incarcerated for almost a year for terrorism charges that simply failed to stand in court, resulting in his expected acquittal.

Swaziland's Pro democracy forces unite for democratic change

Adamant and more resilient than ever, the proponents of democracy inside Swaziland, under the banner of the newly formed Swaziland United Democratic Front (SUDF)—which brings together the banned political parties and other civic organisations, have continued to garner and intensify the support of their solidarity partners worldwide. Their efforts resulted in the launch in February, 2010 in Johannesburg South Africa, of the Swaziland Democracy Campaign (SDC) which is a global solidarity initiative, tasked with; inter alia, operationalising the final push for Swaziland's democracy. More solidarity initiatives are expected to be launched around the world, following the establishment of the Swaziland Democracy Watch in Denmark and the Swazi Vigil in the UK.

EUROPE funds dictatorship in Swaziland

Despite condemnation from inside Swaziland and other international human rights bodies, the European Union has continued to fund the undemocratic constitution making process of Swaziland, despite its obviously flawed start with the barring of organised formations, yet in Zimbabwe the EU and other global organs have condemned the same. The people of Europe need to hold their governments accountable in ensuring the promotion of democracy around the world. Without the support of the people of the world, the people of Swaziland will continue to suffer under the yoke of royal oppression, while the royal family lives in luxury.

For more information and detailed accounts contact pudemo. external@exclusivemail.co.za

The World's shameful untold story of the suffering of the people of Swaziland under the yoke of royal oppression...

The lives of the poor in Swaziland get worse

In the last 13 years the life expectancy has dropped from 65 to 31. 28% of the total population being infected by HIV. 120.000 are AIDS orphans (out of a 1 million population). Healthcare has crumbled. 42% of employable youth are unemployed. Budget deficit currently stands at a perilous 13% of GDP. 70% of the 1.1 million population already subsist below the E7 (less than \$1) per day poverty datum line.

The royal Family lives in opulence

King Mswati III has a personal income of \$200 million dollars. The Swazi Royal family collectively lives on over E360 000 per day which is just over \$50 000 per day. For each year in a period of 10 years a sum of E15 Million shall be paid for royal Emoluments and Civil List, which is payment given to princes and princesses from the national budget. budget estimates show that a staggering E503 Million, which is five percent of the national budget for 2010/2011 goes to cover expenditure associated with the monarchy. E25 Million were given the last two years for the rehabilitation, maintenance and construction of state house and E5 million for royal link roads. The cost of Royal travels is more than the budget for primary education.

The situation of working class in Nepal & Role of CoNEP

By Premal kumar khalal, General Secretary of CONEP

The history of the Nepalese workers' movement is a short one. Nevertheless, for 6 decades we have struggled for the welfare of working class people in many ways.

Ever since the inception of CONEP in 1995, it has been heavily involved in various struggles and, to a greater extent, the movement for the welfare of workers and the nation.

We have a plethora of challenges upon us. On the one hand, globalization, privatization and liberalization have curtailed our bread and butter and on the other end, our lives have been more aggravated due to lower wages and the lack of an appropriate working environment. The advent of liberalization, privatization and globalization has increased the gap between haves and have-nots. The destitute are increasing in numbers. Despite the billions of investment made in the private sectors, the lives of the working class people are being severely affected in a negative way. Many private enterprises have emerged with the expansion of economic activities in the service, industry and trading sectors. The

a milieu, for them, facilities of social security, permanent recruitment, pension, provision, medical and other insurance as envisaged by ILO Convention is only a dream for them. For one and a half decades, Nepal has been going through a serious insurgency. CoNEP played an important role in the people's movement in 2006 against the despotic monarchy. As a result, we achieved a great result and Nepal became a democratic republic. Now, we are in the process of institutionalizing the democratic republic and the promulgation of new constitution in accordance with the aspirations of public. We are proactively engaged in ensuring the rights and privileges of the working class people is

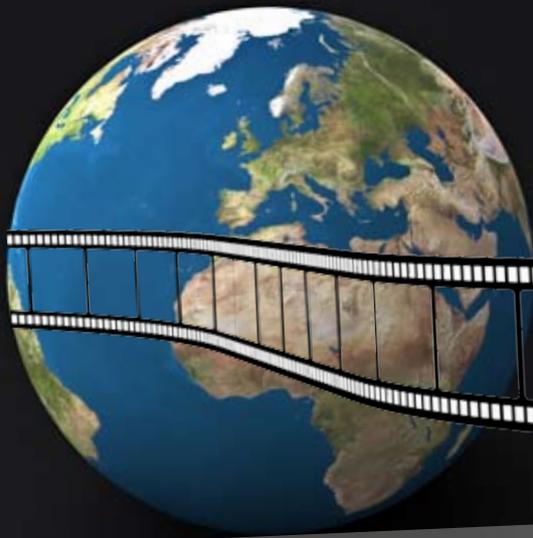
Ever since its inception of CONEP in 1995, it is heavily involved in various struggles

labour relationship with management could never be congenial or friendly due to the non-fulfillment of minimum standards for working class people. With the reinstatement of multiparty democracy in Nepal in 1990, Labour Act 1992 came into being for the organizations that employed more than 10 workers. Hence, workers in small organizations and unorganized sectors are outside the scope of this act. These workers are in serious danger which cannot be addressed by this act. They are expected to be satisfied with wages that are even lower than the minimum fixed by the government. In such

enshrined in the constitution. We have directed our activities towards preserving trade union rights accompanied by political rights for the well-being of working class people. We are confident that success in achieving our goal is inevitable.

In a nutshell, our attempts are focused to amend the labor act from two perspectives. Firstly, to guarantee a decent working environment and a decent live for workers and secondly, the creation of an investment friendly environment through effective labor relationships.





Some of the activities of WFTU in 2010



WFTU International Conference on: "The international economic crisis and the role of Trade Unions" held at the European Parliament in Brussels



Meeting of the General Secretary with the leadership of AITUC India



Meeting of the General Secretary with the WFTU affiliates in India in March 2010



A three-member delegation from the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA) made an official visit to the WFTU headquarters in Athens on January 12-15, 2010



WFTU Seminar on the role of Mass Media in the struggle of the Trade Union Movement with delegations from Africa, April 2010



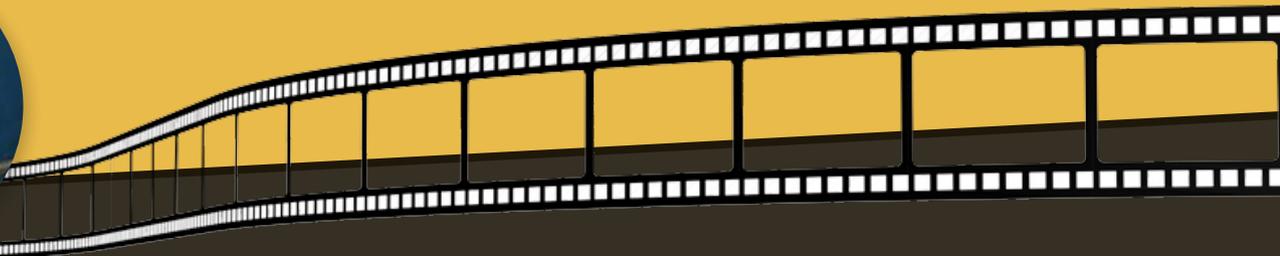
The WFTU organized the European Trade Union Meeting in Athens entitled: "Social Security in Europe and the role of the class-oriented trade union movement" on March 23-24, 2010



Meeting of the WFTU International Coordinating Committee of Young Workers celebrated in Athens, Greece on March 26-27, 2010



The leaders of CTC Cuba and ACFTU China in the WFTU's 65th Anniversary in Havana, Cuba on May 2nd 2010





International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions held on 25-26th February 2010 in Beijing China.



General Secretary meets the leadership of ANTUF, a WFTU affiliate

General Secretary with CONEP and UML Leaders

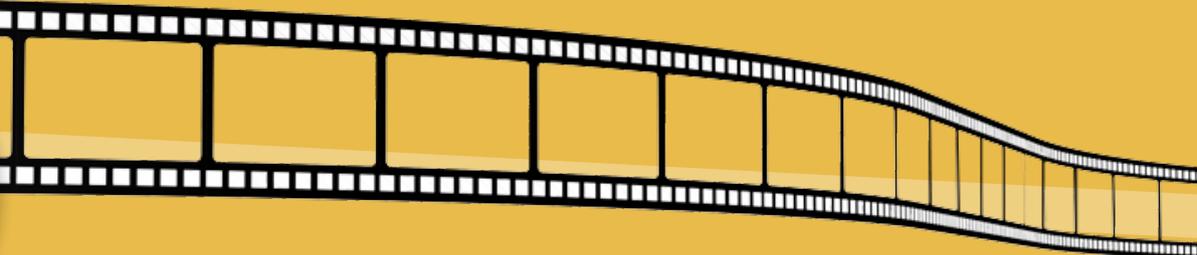


4th Council of WFTU Friends celebrated in Geneva on June 17th, in the framework of the ILO Conference.



WFTU has participated in the bic nationwide succesful strikes held in Greece. Millions of workers demonstrated against the brutal anti-labour measures of EU, IMF and the greek governments under the flags of PAME.





WFTU solidarity actions with the working people in Costa Rica and the Somalian immigrants



WFTU demonstrates under the slogan : "Immigrants deserve full rights at work, salary, social security"



International Conference of Solidarity with the Mexican Electricians Union (SME) organized by the World Federation of Trade Unions was held with great success on March 11-12, 2010, in Mexico City and other places nearby

Action Plan 2010

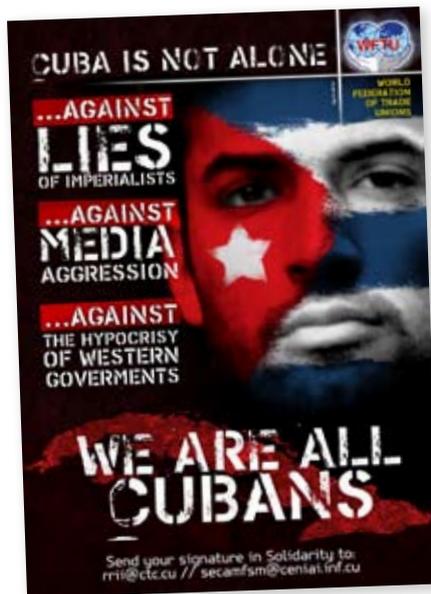
Resolution of 4th Presidential Council Meeting
Ho Chi Minh City-Vietnam, February 22-23, 2010

The year 2010 will be an important year for the global working class. The international financial crisis creates significant problems for workers worldwide. Unemployment and poverty are growing. In 2010 we celebrate 65 years since the foundation of WFTU (1945-2010). This year is also the year of preparation for the 16th World Trade Union Congress, therefore our tasks are major and serious. The Action Plan for 2010, as discussed and

approved in the WFTU Presidential Council Meeting held on 22-23 February 2010 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, is an ambitious and rich plan emphasizing on trade union training with many useful and necessary seminars in all continents. All together, members and friends, we will turn it into action, we will work to materialize it. At the end of 2010 it is more than ever to sure that new friends and new members will join our big family.

International Action Day 2010: Tuesday, September 7th 2010

We must promote the circulation of statements, press releases, posters, memorandums and speeches at workplaces. We need initiatives and struggles also from the Regional Offices and the TUIs. We need all WFTU affiliates and friends to organize concrete initiatives. The positive experience from April 1st 2009 when militant activities took place in 48 countries of the world must be evaluated. The subject of the international action day September 7th 2010 will be announced by the Secretariat on time.



Activity for the 65th Anniversary of WFTU: June 15th, 18.30pm ILO

On June 15th of 2010 the WFTU is organising, in Geneva, the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of WFTU's foundation.

Trade Union Conferences

France Strasbourg: July 6-7, 2010 Conference on "Labour Law and international standards" and "The WFTU in the tresshold of the 21st century".
South Africa, Johannesburg: July 18-19, 2010. Seminar on metal workers
3rd Trade Union Conference "Nuestra America", 22-24 July 2010, Caracas Venezuela.

Activities of WFTU during the 99th ILC in Geneva

Preparatory meeting of WFTU affiliates and friends: Tuesday June 1st
Informal Presidential Council meeting: Monday June 14th .
5th Council of friends of the WFTU: Monday June 14th .

Activity for the 65th Anniversary of WFTU foundation: June 15th, 18.30pm ILO
WFTU General Secretary addressing the Plenary Session (to be defined)
Exhibition of WFTU Posters.

Internationalist Solidarity

The WFTU once more will express its solidarity to the Palestinian people in July 2010 in an International Conference to be organized in Lebanon. It will initiatives for solidarity with the class oriented movement in Colombia, Philippines etc, who are under serious attacks and murders of trade unionists. We will organize a big campaign against the murders and the kidnappings of trade unionists. Joint initiatives with CTC in favour of Cuban people and for the Revolution. Event of Solidarity with Cuba.



April 1st 2009, WFTU International Action Day

In 1928 two American chemists, Corson and Stoughton, discovered a series of chemicals with strong irritating effects in the respiratory tract, including CS. In the 1950s, the chemical industry contacted research into alternative agents, due to the limited "effectiveness" of CN. The British Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment developed CS, which was first ap-

plied by the British during the invasion in Cyprus in 1958 - 59. Following this "successful" application, CS was soon standardized by the US armed forces and was broadly applied during Vietnam War for tunnel denial, where there were many casualties due to suffocation and pulmonary edema. Its use was quite common for military purposes between 1968 and 1969, as well as during the civil

war in N. Ireland. In the USA, after the protests of 1967 in Newark and Detroit, the use of irritating agents gained ground. CR was developed by the British Ministry of Defense, but its use was limited, due to the lack of data regarding its repercussions. OC was first used by the US Police Force during the 1970s and since 1989, it has been massively used by the FBI.

CS Gas

Breath-taking policies

By Niki Chronopoulou, Chemist

The use of tear gas is against the international Law, given the fact that according to the Geneva Protocol (the USA being the only country that have not signed it) and the Chemical Weapons Convention, the use of all types of chemical, bacteriological and biological substances in war is outlawed. Nevertheless, in many countries, their use by the police forces is legal (e.g. CS was used by the Israelis against Palestinian protestors in the Palestinian territory, by the South Korean Government in Seoul, against protestors in Lusaka, Zambia in 1997, against World Trade Organization protestors in 1999 in Seattle e.t.c), while some types of such weapons (e.g. pepper spray) are legalized to be used even by civilians!

In Greece, the Chemical Weapons Convention was validated by the Law 2254/94 and was brought in force by the Law 2991/2002. However, these laws concern the prohibition of chemical weapons intended for use at war. On the contrary, the "aims of maintenance of public order, including also the repression of riots in the State" are considered as "aims that are not prohibited by the present convention" (Law 2254/94, ar.2, par.9).

Results of experiments on guinea pigs have shown that the exposure to such substances is responsible for teratogeneses, carcinogeneses, clastrogenic and mutagenic effects. In the international bibliography, there are various cases of casualties, due to the use of tear gases, both in open and confined spaces (e.g. one person in Ham-

the consequences of the use of such chemicals both to man and the environment, taking into consideration, however, the popular interest and not the

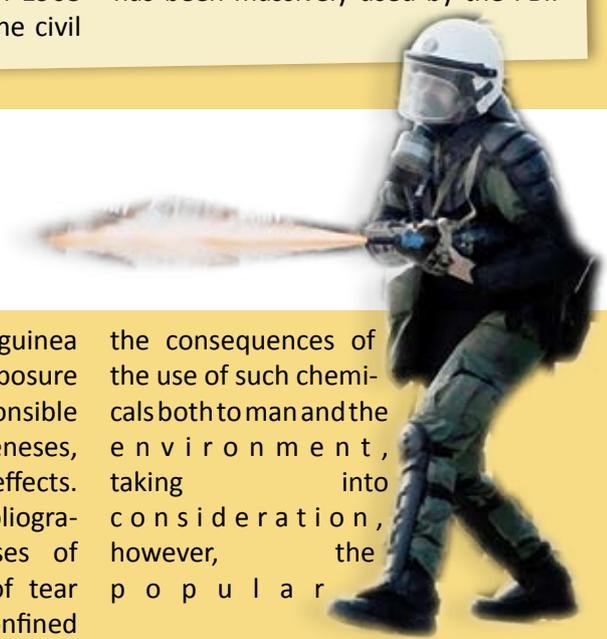
We need to take action and organize our response to these forms of state violence.

burg in 1960, three people in New York prisons in 1975, a young protestor in Brockdorf, Germany in 1986, two Korean students in 1987, and at least 68 people in the Palestinian concentration camps during 1987 - 1988).

The use of these dangerous chemicals as a means of repression of the popular and labour movements is one more example of the way the scientific achievements are exploited within the existing capitalist system and to benefit of the ruling class. We need to take action and organize our response to these forms of state violence. Scientists must take responsibility and investigate in depth

interest of the capitalist system.

In this context, it would be useful that the WFTU organized an international meeting of scientists, in order to thoroughly examine the matter in its full dimension: at medical, political, legal, trade-union level. It is also very important to launch an international effort to raise the awareness of workers and youth, people on the repercussions of the use of chemical weapons use for the repression of labour, popular, youth movements, aiming to further unite and mobilize people, so as to forbid their use in practice, to resist this type of state violence against anyone fighting for his/her rights.



15th Climate Change Conference 2009 - Copenhagen, Denmark

The primary objective of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference was an accord to cut down 50% on the global emissions in comparison to the emissions of 1990 and to maintain the global temperature rise below 2°C in the 21st century. That, however, was doomed to fail long before the opening of the 15th Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark at 7-18 December 2009.

The positions, first of all, of the most important councilors in the matter of the peaking percentage of the national emissions were far apart. China was talk-

Doomed to fail since the very beginning

By Alexandra Liberie, Journalist

ing about a cutting down to 45% (from the existing level of 2005) until 2020, India set a goal for a 24% until 2020, European Union announced a cutting down to 30% in comparison to the emissions of 1990, Japan and Russia proposed a 25% cut down, whereas USA set

It is above all, the proof of the intensification of the inter-imperialist contradictions and the competitiveness for a profitable way-out for the over-accumulated capital, especially due to the economical crisis.

a boundary to a 17% of 1990's emissions until 2020. As a result of the inter-imperialists' contradictions and the fact that the more advanced or advancing the capitalistic economies are, the more they emit, this difference could never be overcome. And whenever that happens, the agreed measures are not targeted to solve the environmental problem and improve the quality of modern lifestyle, but set as a main goal the further profit making of the capitals that will be invested in the "green economy" and the "financing of the developing countries".

Those responsible for the problem, could never be part of its solution

The participation of world leaders and businessmen in such international conferences and meetings is more than a chance to build an environmental-friendly image and to promote the ideology that the pollution of the atmosphere is a universal classless responsibility and therefore class-collaboration is needed for its solution. It is above all, the proof of the intensification of the inter-imperialist contradictions and the competitiveness for a profitable way-out for the over-accumulated capital, especially due to the economical crisis. The competitiveness is also arising from their eagerness to reinforce the imperialist presence of the developed countries in areas of geostrategic interests, first and foremost in Africa. This will definitely consist of a series of capitalist restructuring, that the working class will be called to sustain by bearing further exploitation, more "green taxes", the investments in new low-emissions technology and the "international carbon stock market". Thus, the so called "Copenhagen Accord" was (besides a general verbal agreement amongst "all" the countries

to cut down on the global emissions) an agreement to establish a "Copenhagen Green Climate Fund" which will be financed by public and private sources of the developed countries (approximately with

USD 30 billion for the period 2010-2012, scaled up to USD 100 billion a year by 2020) in order to provide "new and additional resources, including forestry and investments" prioritized for the more vulnerable developing countries. The working people, who are still looking up to initiatives like the 15th Climate Change Conference and hoping for a solution to the threatening climate change, should only believe in their own power and stand up for the protection of the environment combined with the satisfaction of the contemporary needs against the bourgeoisie's strategy and the capitalistic restructuring.



Simon Bolivar

The Liberator

By Kali Patouna



Simon Jose Antonio de la Santisima Trinidad Bolivar Y Palacios as is his full name was born on July 24th of 1783 in Caracas, Venezuela and died on December 17th of 1830 in Santa Marta of Colombia. Simon Bolivar, a leading figure and a scholar of his age, is considered as one of the most important heroes in Latin America.

From his early days, his name was associated with the struggle for Independence against Spain and he, as a commander of the army, liberated the territories nowadays known as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Panama. Bolivar's dream was to create no more than **three large Latin-American states**, powerful and independent, which would have been able to encounter the historic challenges of the era: Gran Colombia, Brazil and the Provinces de la Plata (the current Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay).

According to him, those three countries would have been able to defend their interests more efficiently and to impose themselves in the international scene by pre-

venting the European aggression trying to control the region economically. However, Bolivar never managed to see his dream come true.

Bolivar's ideas and work inspired the political thinking of the whole Latin America, in different ways at different times, depending on the historical moment.

in contradiction to the Monroe Doctrine, which was promoting the dominance of Anglo-Saxon America in the whole continent. In the 20th century the Bolivarian ideal, turn into direct confrontation with North-American imperialism, while nowadays it is still alive in an America that struggles with uni-

As a commander of the army he liberated the territories nowadays known as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Panama

From the late 19th century, **Jose Marti** was already talking about "Our America", a Latin America with its own identity

and cooperation for a world without inequalities, where diversity will not be considered as a weakness but as an advantage.

CATASTROFIC EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

By Alexandra Liberie, Journalist



Major wound to the long-suffering Haitian people

The 7.3 earthquake that struck Haiti, on the night of January 12th, may have caused a tragic catastrophe in terms of infrastructure and human life, but it did not manage to shake off the root of the deeper problems of the Haitian people: the long-lasting oppression of the imperialist interests that keep them bound to poverty, unemployment (over 60%), lack of infrastructure, to misery. There lies the real cause of this tragedy which consists the most cruel and inhuman proof of capitalist exploitation and plunder. The Haitian people need the sincere and practical solidarity of working people worldwide.

The first move of the government of the USA was to send marines and aircraft carriers, in comparison to Cuba who immediately sent lifesaving medical equipment and even more doctors

Yet incalculable damage

The number of the victims, around 300.000, cannot yet be precised. Many more are still suffering from the lack of medical care; many more still are dying because of the diseases that are spreading throughout the country. Hundreds of thousands are homeless and desperate while the hospitals are underactive. The power and water supply system, both have suffered severe damage.

“Natural” disaster caused by human

The result of the earthquake cannot only be considered a natural disaster. It was a prescribed future for the Haitian people, as a result of the underdevelopment which they have been forced into by the USA, France and the local bourgeoisie. The shanty houses of the poor people working in the

clothing industry used to surviving with day to day 1-1,5 euro, were doomed to collapse sooner or later. The earthquake protection measures were absent. The imperialist forces, however, continued, even after the earthquake, with their murderous policy. The first move of the government of the USA was to send marines and aircraft carriers in comparison to Cuba who sent lifesaving medical equipment and even more doctors than they have already been sending to Haiti. This situation has also been approved by Canada, France and other European countries with their interests vested in the next day. The day of the reconstruction. A reconstruction, which will be undertaken violently according to the capitalist development plan prepared at the Montreal Conference.

Absolute necessity for effective expression of solidarity

On the other hand, the countries of ALBA (Bolivar-

ian Alliance for Americas), who have been effectively proving their solidarity to the Haitian people for many years, offering hospitals, doctors and teachers, they were also the first to support Haiti immediately after the disaster. Amongst them Cuba immediately raised the number of the medical staff and the units that are helping since 1998. In addition, hundreds of thousands of working people in every country want to contribute their help to the Haitian people.

The following is a part of WFTU's announcement:

The World Federation of Trade Unions from the very first moment has called upon all trade unions around the world to be activated. Today facing the scale of the disaster and the needs for the poor and proud people of Haiti we begin a campaign of fundraising. We call upon all national and sectoral organizations to contribute with any amount they can and to express practically their internationalism and solidarity. Everyone should give assistance to the people of Haiti.

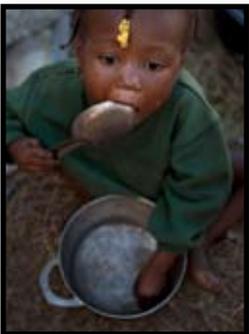
We call upon all national and sectoral organizations to contribute with any amount they can and to express practically their internationalism and solidarity. Everyone should give assistance to the people of Haiti.

A special account has been opened and any amount can be deposited in the account

**BANK NAME : NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE
ACCOUNT HOLDER : TENES XARALAMBOS
GEORGIOS, SIOULA ROUDAMA NIKOLAOS,**

**PERROS GEORGIOS EMMANOUIL
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 146/761816-63
IBAN : GR59 0110 1460 0000 1467 6181 663
SWIFT CODE BANK-BIC ETHNGRAA
ATHENS - GREECE**

After your deposit, please fax the receipt to the number 0030210 9214517 and inform us by e-mail info@wftucentral.org or international@wftucentral.org



REFLECTS
MAY 2010



WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS
6-9 April 2011, Athens - Greece