



International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles
Red Sindical Internacional de Solidaridad y de Luchas
Réseau Syndical International de Solidarité et de Luttes
Rede Sindical Internacional de Solidariedade e Lutas

2nd INTERNATIONAL MEETING JUNE 8-9, 2015

STATEMENT

The International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles, founded in March 2013, during our international meeting in Saint-Denis (France) is the product of years of exchanges and joint work between several of the founding organizations. Thus, grounded on shared guidelines and labor action, we have been able to gather labour Unions and caucuses in many countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Two years later, in June 2015, we held our second international meeting in Campinas (Brazil) when we collectively addressed the positive developments of our network, particularly its expansion, and all the way to go in order to gather all labour forces that claim and carry out a militant, anti-capitalist, self-management orientated, democratic, environmentalist and internationalist labour that is both independent from employers and governments and against all forms of oppression (sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia). We also share workers' democracy and self-organization as references in common.

Capitalist System Crisis and the Consequences for the Whole World

Economic, financial, ecological and social crises are intertwined and in interaction. This global crisis of capitalism shows the impasse of development models based on the increasingly unequal distribution of wealth, of financial deregulation, of free trade and the widespread disregard of ecological imperatives. **For the benefit of shareholders and employers, to ensure the future of banks and global institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, etc.), governments and employers increasingly target labour and people's rights.**

The current political and economic system carries out the plunder of many countries, forcing the displacement of millions for survival.... And then denies any rights to them under the pretext that they are immigrants.

The destruction of public services, social rights backlash, union-busting, casual labour, unemployment.... These are the same methods carried out in all countries to put pressure on the workers and the people.

In order to achieve their ends, all means are employed: criminalization of social struggles through the courts, arrests and police brutality, military occupations, obstacles of all kinds to collective and individual rights. Repression is one of their weapons against those who resist, oppose, and build alternatives. Our solidarity beyond borders is one of our answers.

We stand for a labour movement that do not compromise with the powers in office to endorse antisocial measures. Labour must fight back internationally in order to build through the struggles the necessary social change. We want to build a system based on common interests in both public services and natural goods, in the redistribution of wealth among those who generate it, ie man and woman workers, founded on the rights of workers and on ecologically sustainable development.

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We demand the end to the privatization of public services (education, health, transport, energy, water, housing, etc.) together with their extension, democratization and social appropriation. The free movement for the people and equal social and political rights for everyone, regardless of nationality, origin, gender are part of our common goals.

Understanding Capitalist Changes to Fight Back

The attacks on wages, working conditions, social insurance, public service and democratic freedoms are part of a strategic plan of capitalism aimed at lasting and fundamental change of the balance of power between the ruling class on the one hand, wage-earners and popular classes on the other. This project falls within the framework of a globalized capitalism, an economy that does not meet social regulations, labour laws, working conditions and schedules bringing an increasing labour casualization.

Health and safety at work on top of general conditions related to living conditions for wage earners and the poor are critical issues for struggles and demands.

In countries held in underdevelopment, obviously through colonialism and the ever living imperialism, those situations condemn human beings into starvation and migration en masse, often at life risk, to countries where they are subjected to strong discrimination.

The economic situation is not the essential element that justifies the strategy of the ruling classes. Capitalism strikes permanently living conditions, wages and labour contracts, using its own crisis to reinforce social backlash.

Financial capitalism, rapid globalization, austerity, the policy of "foreign debt payment" indicate the prominence of global market orientation as the key to a new distribution of wealth and power always unfavorable to the working classes. Economic and financial policies supposed to resume demand seem not able to ensure a strong and lasting economic recovery.

Nevertheless these policies do not challenge in any way austerity, wage attacks, degradation and privatization of public services. In other words they do not have any strategic engagement in order to, for example, implement Fordist regulation as done along part of the twentieth century in part of the world (on the expense, of course, of workers over exploited in the so-called Third World).

Proposals for a new social compromise as formulated by sections of the Labour movement have as their first weakness a deliberate ignorance of what should be the struggle and the balance of power so that they could begin to take place, ensuring a new "reformist" way. The essential issue is not just the injection of public funds to revive the economy but rather to radically address the distribution of wealth and power and development models.

Likewise, labour policies whose aim are institutional positions at State level in order to achieve a major social commitment involving all classes through the classic instruments of public power and within the institutional framework created to serve capitalism seem illusory.

Brazil is a good example. Current economic policy, focused on guaranteeing huge profits for big business and small concessions to the poor, is exhausted. Current administration, like the previous ones, is committed to the "diktats" of international capital and the Brazilian bourgeoisie, is placing the burden of the crisis on the workers' back through fiscal adjustment and outsourcing.



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The fragility of the international system in general, the evolution of the balance of power between political and economic blocs are joined by radicalization of the social and ecological struggles in general and the struggle between the workers and the system of domination in particular.

Strengthen Labour To Break With Capitalism

The independence of militant labour is the key issue of this period. Our goal is to fight back the strategy of global capitalism that seeks to impose a historical regression to workers through the destruction of their autonomous organizational skills and actions eventually leading to the disappearance of the labor movement in favour of a top-down unionism.

Our unionism combines the defense of the immediate interests of workers and the will for deep social change. It is not restricted to economic demands. It stands for the right to affordable housing, land, ecology, for equality between men and women, against racism, homophobia and xenophobia, for anti-colonialism, etc.

The interests we defend are those of the working class (workers in activity, retired, unemployed or youth in training) together with the peoples from all regions of the world. We oppose the employers, governments and institutions that serve them, and we claim our autonomy from any political organization.

There is a diversity of labour organizations and networks based on professional or geographical areas. Our labour traditions and affiliations are diverse across the world. Nevertheless we share what is essential: we are determined to move forward in coordinating militant labour internationally.

We want to share our experiences, learn from the resistance and achievements of all and each one, stand for unity across borders, building workers' international solidarity. Facing the crisis affecting the peoples of all countries for what capitalism is responsible, it is necessary to coordinate and unify our struggles. We call all labor to join us in order to unite our actions to fight back social decline, achieve new rights and build a different society.

We have not struggled to move backwards; Indeed, the attacks on the working class are very strong and sometimes in new fashion. But capitalist exploitation is not new. We need to break with it to build a social organization based on people's needs.

We need to carry out this struggle step by step uniting militant labour that do not see the capitalist system as the ideal way of organization for our societies and that strives for a change built through daily collective struggles and reflections on the society we want.

For a stronger and broader network of offensive, militant, anti-capitalist, democratic, autonomous, environmentalist and internationalist labour that is independent from employers and governments, and stands against all forms of oppression (sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia)

- We have specific goals and shared commitments for this international meeting which we will decide upon and carry out collectively:
- We work for **international solidarity** particularly against union-busting and repression against labour struggles. We stand against all oppression: sexism, racism, homophobia and xenophobia.



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- We will coordinate **support for the struggles and international campaigns** reaffirming the right of the oppressed peoples for self-determination.
- **We reinforce and will extend the international work among professional sectors** (transport, education, call centers, plants, trade, health, etc.) and for interprofessional issues (rights of women, blacks, LGBT, migrants, housing, ecology, health and jobs...).
- We pursue **intellectual reflection on critical issues of the capitalist system and alternatives to it.**
- We will employ the **necessary material means for our joint projects**: websites, e-mail lists for exchange, professional sectors coordination, etc.
- We will setup **regional coordination for member organizations of the network**: South America, Europe, Africa...
- We call for a **week of international action** in October, 2015 from 9 to 25 against austerity plans, for labour rights, stating that the workers shall not pay for the crisis. Each organization will decide upon the actions to be carried out in each country.