

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S Section of the International Workers Association

**circular circulaire
zirkular cirkulär**



February 1994 #1

339 Lafayette St., Rm 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

REF NEP.. 94-01

TO ALL I.W.A. SECTIONS AND LIBERTARIAN WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS

Please find an appeal we recently received from the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions. As with the case of the former strikers of the Nepal Battery Co. Ltd., your solidarity and action can help make a difference in this struggle. In the case of the Nepal Battery workers, our action helped to put significant pressure on the employer, which helped to bring about a favorable settlement for the workers.

Please be further advised that GEFONT will be hosting, in November 1994, an International Union Conference, the theme being "Strengthen Pro-Worker Unionism: Oppose Privatization". The conference will take place 15 - 18 November, Kathmandu, Nepal. Participants must register not later than the third week of March. W.S.A. encourages all syndicalist workers organizations to participate.

Topics for discussion: A. Privatization & its effects on the labor movement and economy. B. What is & how to build genuine and pro-worker unionism. C. Trans-national corporations, Free Trade Zones and the exploitation of labor. D. There will be other discussions concerning labor law, contract labor, unemployment, the International Labor Organization and other topics.

For more information or to register contact GEFONT, Post Office Box 160, District Post Office, Lalitpur, Nepal. Phone/Fax: 977-1-411-880.

Eingegangen

09. März 1994

Erledigt:.....

CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

Forty workers Dismissed Illegally

The laborers of the Island Jungle Resort, a resort in the heart of Royal Chitwan National Park-the central southern part of Nepal, had forwarded their 13 points demands to the management of the resort. The demands were discussed at length between the local union and the management. It was decided that the demands be fulfilled and implemented from the 1st of January 1993. Later, not only the demands were not met but also the other facilities previously enjoyed by the laborers were curtailed.

The Union protested for the validity of the signed agreement on 25 March 1993. This issue was discussed in a meeting among the representatives of the management, local Trade Union, the employers' organization the Hotel association of Nepal and the central committee of the Nepal independent Hotel workers' Union (NIHWU-GEFONT)- the national federation of the local union. The following days the management terminated five of their laborers, who were the representatives of the union. It invites the labour disputes and a strike was called on by the laborers from 4TH of April 1993 in an opposition of the illegal dismissal of the their comrades.

It resulted the arrest of five dismissed union representatives by the local administration imposing the false allegation made by the management. The management also hire a gang of hooligans to beat up and the harass the rest of 35 laborers who were in picket line during the strike at resort.

The five arrested were later released from the police custody and the strike continued. Twenty days later of the strike, the unionists were attacked and lathi-charged by the police and the hired 'gangs'. Three of the union representatives namely- Palat Chaudhary, Resham Thapa and Maya Ram Chaudhary were taken into police custody again for four days. Then forty one casual workers freshly employed and the management filed a case against the 16 unionists on false charge of mis-appropriating and looting of the resort's property worth of Nrs.461,600 (US\$ 9,300).

The five laborers who were terminated filed a case to the department of labor (DOL). The DOL, after the pressure of ruled out the management decision of termination of the laborers mentioning it as an unconstitutional and illegal. The management of resort in turn gave a deaf ear even to the decision of the DOL. The issue was then taken to the local labor office but the labor office did not give any decision. The DOL was pressurized second time. The DOL stood with its previous decision and fined to the management of the resort, but still the decision was not implemented. Moreover all the remaining 35 laborers who were in the strike, were terminated on the grounds of absenteeism.

In this context, since one year back 40 workers are facing a extremely difficult condition. You are cordially requested to extend your solidarity and support by economically, morally and what ever you can.

Thus, Please write your protest letter condemning the management's repressive exploitation and demanding immediate reinstatement of the dismissed laborers:

To,
The Managing Director
Island Jungle Resort
POBox: 2154, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: 977-1-2201627/225615, Tlx: 2409 ALPINE NP
Fax: 977-1-223814; Attn: Island Jungle Resort

Write a request letter to the DOL to settle the case properly-

The Director General
Department Of Labor
Putali Sadak, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Please send your copy of the letter to:
The Central Committee
Nepal Independent Hotel Workers' Union
(NIHWU-GEFONT)
POBox: 160, Patan Gate, Lalitpur, Nepal.
Tel/Fax :977-1-411 880.

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S Section of the International Workers Association

**circular circulaire
zirkular cirkulär**



339 Lafayette St., Rm 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

REF: SERB COMM # 1

February 1994

TO: IWA SECTIONS
FROM: NY/NJ WORKERS SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE
SUBJ: SERBIA

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND RECENT STRIKE NEWS FROM A SERBIAN ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST COMRADE.

FURTHER ENCLOSED IS A SERBIAN TRANSLATION OF THE I.W.A. PRINCIPLES. THIS CAN ALSO BE SENT TO CROATIAN CONTACTS SINCE THE LANGUAGES ARE SIMILIAR.

PLEASE SEND OUR COMRADES ANY LITERATURE WHICH YOU MAY PUBLISH IN ENGLISH SINCE THEY ARE IN DIRE NEED OF SUCH MATERIALS.

SEE CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS ELSEWHERE. PLEASE USE PRECAUTION WHEN ADDRESSING ENVELOPE.

Translation of "Principles of Revolutionary Unionism -
- Principles of the Workers Association":

1) Cilj revolucionarnog sindikalizma je reorganizacija socijalnog života na osnovama liberteruskog komunizma što se može postići jedino revolucionarnom akcijom radničke klase same. Samo ekonomska organizacija proletarijata, a ne političke partije, je sposobna to da postigne.

2) Ciljevi revolucionarnog sindikalizma u oslobađanju od klasnih privilegija su u uspostavljanju ekonomskih zajednica i administrativnih organa u fabrikama i na poljima, vođenim od radnika, zatim formiranje sistema slobodnih saveta bez potčinjenosti državnoj moći ili bilo kojoj političkoj partiji. Revolucionarni

sindikalizam zastupa ekonomsku reorganizaciju društva kao alternativu politikama države i partija. Cilj revolucionarnog sindikalizma nije osvajanje političke moći nego oslobodjenje društva od uticaja države. Nestajanje monopola jedne klase na privatno vlasništvo nad sredstvima za proizvodnju mora takodje biti praćeno nestajanjem svih formi dominacije.

3) Revolucionarni sindikalizam u kreiranju samoupravljanja u svim produktivnim i distributivnim procesima objedinjuje svakodnevnu borbu za ekonomski, socijalni i intelektualni progres radničke klase unutar ograničenja zastarelog društva sa revolucionarnim ciljem opšte akcije svih manuelnih i intelektualnih radnika na svim sektorima ekonomije.

4) Revolucionarni sindikalizam je suprotstavljen centralističkoj organizaciji u kojoj su potrebe društva podređene interesu nekolicine, u kojoj je raznolikost zamenjena anonimnom disciplinom. To je zbog toga što je revolucionarni sindikalizam baziran na federalizmu, slobodnoj organizaciji koja deluje od dna ka vrhu ujedinjenjem snaga u odbrani opštih ideja i interesa.

5) Revolucionarni sindikalizam odbacuje sve parlamentarne aktivnosti. To proističe iz toga da i najslobodniji sistem glasanja ne može doprineti nestajanju kontradikcija unutar zastarelog društva.

6) Revolucionarni sindikalizam je internacionalan i odbacuje sve samovoljno kreirane političke i nacionalne granice i izjavljujemo da je ono što se naziva nacionalizmom religija moderne države iza koje se sakriva materijalni interes vladajuće klase. Revolucionarni sindikalizam priznaje samo samoodredjenje i slobodnu federaciju svih regiona.

7) Revolucionarni sindikalizam se bori protiv militarizma i rata zastupajući generalni štrajk kao zaštitu od rata. U slučaju rata, revolucionarni sindikalizam zastupa bojkot svog ratnog materijala, sa izuzetkom zemelja u kojima su radnici u sred socijalne revolucije i u kojima je on potreban za odbranu revolucije. U toku revolucije radničke milicije, kontrolisane od radničkih sindikata, moraju biti zamena za stajaću armiju.

8) Za revolucionarni sindikalizam, direktna akcija (štrajkovi, bojkoti, sabotaže, itd.) je smisao borbe. Direktna akcija nalazi svoj puni izraz u generalnom štrajku koji, u isto vreme, može biti uvod u socijalnu revoluciju.

9) Dokle god je revolucionarni sindikalizam suprotstavljen svom organizovanom nasilju države, dotle će to stvarati sukobe kroz odlučnu borbu između kapitalizma današnjice i komunizma sutrašnjice. Ovako, on priznaje kao osnovu nasilje koje može biti upotrebljeno kao sredstvo odbrane od nasilja vladajuće klase tokom socijalne revolucije. Otudjenje zemljišta i sredstava za proizvodnju može jedino biti ukinuto direktnom intervencijom radničke revolucionarne ekonomske organizacije. Odbrana revolucije mora biti u rukama svih radničkih ekonomskih organizacija i ona nije zadatak vojnih ili kvazi-vojnih tela i treba se razvijati nezavisno od tih ekonomskih organizacija.

10) Radnički revolucionarni sindikalizam je jedina socijalna snaga koja može dovesti do samooslobodjenja radnika od kapitala i države.

This translation is on Serbian language but that can understand also people from Croatia and partly people from Slovenia (coz Slovenian and Croatian languages are similar to Serbian).

9) DOKLE god je revolucionarni sindikalizam suprotstavljen svom organizovanom nasilju države, dotle će to stvarati sukobe kroz odlučnu borbu između kapitalizma današnjice i komunizma sutrašnjice. Ovako, on priznaje kao osnovu nasilje koje može biti upotrebljeno kao sredstvo odbrane od nasilja vladajuće klase tokom socijalne revolucije. Otudjenje zemljišta i sredstava za proizvodnju može jedino biti ukinuto direktnom intervencijom radničke revolucionarne ekonomske organizacije. Odbrana revolucije mora biti u rukama svih radničkih ekonomskih organizacija i ona nije zadatak vojnih ili kvazi-vojnih tela i treba se razvijati nezavisno o tih ekonomskih organizacija.

10) Radnički revolucionarni sindikalizam je jedina socijalna snaga koja može dovesti do samooslobodjenja radnika od kapitala i države.

Strikes news flash (SERBIA AS OF JAN. 1994):

20/10/93 start a strike in radio station "Radio Pančevo". Workers from the radio station are constantly oppressed by city government. Till the 6/1/1994 they don't stop with strike. They have a great help of independent radio stations, newspapers and TV stations. Radio stations, TV stations and newspapers ruled by government and state don't mention a strike.

29/11/93 in a hospital "Studenica" in city Kraljevo start a strike of 1200 employed. Till the 7/12/93 they don't stop with the strikes but I can get more informations coz state medias also don't talk about that strike. Strike is against bad conditions and low wages. Also, strike is against few people who get rich on poverty of the people.

6/12/93 6000 of workers from factorys "Zmaj", "Ikarus GAO", "Teleoptik" and "Teleoptik Žiroskopi" blockade traffic for two hours in Belgrade (capital city). Next day they were strengthened by 4000 workers from "Obuća", "Geomašine", "Insa", "Impa" and "Automatika". Together they blockade traffic for few hours.

24/12/93 start a strike 300 workers in "Zastava nemenski proizvodi". That's a ~~xxxx~~ army factory.

24. and 25/12/93 there was unsuccessful strike of 15000 of railworkers. They have a bad union under state control.

27/12/93 there was in Kraljevo strike of 7000 workers from "Magnetron".

29/12/93 start a biggest strike. Strike of 60000 workers in mines (coal mines) and in power plants. Serbia two days don't have enough of electricity. After 31/12/93 strike continued only miners from coal mine "Kolubara". State try everything to stop this strike. In 5/1/94 they arrest leaders of strike. Nobody knows what will happen.

**CONTACT: MILAN DJURIĆ, M. VELIKOG 12/10,
11300 SMEDEREVO, SERBIA - YUGO-SLAVIA**



PRESS RELEASE

Workers Solidarity Alliance
U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8355

PR 94-01

FEBRUARY 8, 1994

The Bhilai steel plant is one of the six major steel mills in India, built with the Russian govt.'s collaboration in 1955. About a hundred ancillary factories are situated around the steel plant while iron ore, dolomite and lime mines are within a radius of 80 kms.

In 1977 contractors' workers* in the iron mines went on a strike led by officially recognised unions, demanding bonus. The unions soon called off the strike without the demand being met but the workers formed a struggle committee and continued the strike. Police fired on the striking workers and 11 female and male workers died. The strike, however, continued for 4 months and was successful.

- The contractors' workers, which numbered 12,000, formed an organisation which was able, in due course of time, to achieve significant gains: manifold wage increase, job security, paid holidays, educational and health facilities. The organisation was now centred around a charismatic personality, and it participated in national electoral politics.

In 1981, management strategy to mechanise manually operated iron ore mines faced stiff resistance from workers. Through a series of compromises, however, the management was able to implement semi-mechanisation in a phased manner and the number of contractors' workers declined significantly.

Attempts were being made to organise contractors' workers in other areas as well. Significant developments took place in the industrial belt around Bhilai steel plant. For example, in March 1990 contractors' workers in a cement factory struck work. They were able to continue the strike with the help of iron ore mine workers and after 5 months the workers were able to achieve gains like guaranteed work for at least 20 days in a month, earned leave, provident fund, medical facilities for the workers and their families etc.

In the then prevailing situation of allround cutbacks, which has worsened further today, these significant gains enthused the workers in the Bhilai industrial area. Soon, contractors' workers in about 50 of the ancillary factories organised around these demands: wage increase, permanent workers for permanent jobs, improvement in working condition and 20% bonus.

* Contractors' workers are workers employed by a contractor for a principal employer, whether factory managements or the government. The contractor, as mediating power, decides their wage rates and working conditions. This is one of the three main categories of worker employment, the other two being casual and permanent. Casual workers' services are terminated within two months.

A mass meeting which was planned for October 2, 1990, was banned by the govt. on the request of managements, contractors, political leaders and national trade unions leaders.

The workers' upsurge continued and managements retaliated by employing goons. A strike broke out in four factories of the major group operating in the area. Goons were called in from other provinces as well, a warehouse was set on fire and workers were implicated in police cases. These attempts to break the strike, however, failed. The state's involvement then increased: police arrested 800 workers and the wages of iron ore mine workers were withheld by the govt. because they were giving monetary help to the striking workers. In spite of this the strike continued.

The state then arrested Shankar Guha Niyogi, the iron ore mine workers' leader who was also leading the struggle of factory workers in the Bhilai industrial area, on the 4th of Feb, 1991. Demonstrations and strikes against the arrest took place in mines and factories. After two months detention the high court granted bail. The state then began externment proceedings against him.

On the morning of the 25th June a demonstration of dismissed distillery workers was beaten up and fired on by the police. 150 workers were injured and 107 arrested. 2000 workers demonstrated against this attack in the afternoon and workers in 100 factories went on strike in the second shift.

In early September 300 workers from Bhilai industrial area demonstrated in New Delhi, the national capital, 1000 kms from Bhilai.

On the night of 28th Sept. 1991, Shankar Guha Niyogi was murdered while asleep.

On 24th January 1992 a distillery management with the help of a large posse of police dismissed 800 workers. On the other hand the govt. and managements entered into prolonged negotiations with the leaders who were by now actively participating in the politicking of parliamentary parties.

Workers' desperation and discontent pushed the leaders to talk of drastic steps. On 1 July 1992, around 5000 workers squatted on the Bombay-Calcutta rail tracks at Bhilai. Police fired tear gas shells and attacked the workers. Fights broke out. 16 workers and a police inspector were killed and many workers were arrested.

The steel plant workers, who had been keeping aloof from the contractors' workers movement all along, did not protest.

Of the arrested workers, three are still in jail and have been repeatedly refused bail by the courts. At present the workers' movement lies scattered, bogged down in a legal quagmire and its leaders participation in the parliamentary circus.

Protest letters demanding the release of these workers should be addressed as follows:

The Governor,
Raj Bhawan,
Bhopal, M.P., INDIA

This Press Release is based on reports published in the Hindi newspaper "FARIDABAD MAJDOOR". This paper covers the workers' movement in the Bhilai industrial area of Faridabad. They can be contacted as follows:

Majdoor Library
Autopin Jhuggi,
Faridabad 121001, India