

Dead & Injured Workers Remembered

28 April ‘Commemoration Day’ Is Beacon For Change

- Paris, 27 April, 2006

Asbestos and HIV/AIDS is the main focus for the 28 April ‘*International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers*’.

Trade union leaders report that at least 8 million people will hear from workers and unions through some 12,000 activities organized in 115 countries or territories. The country-by-country summary of activities is available at: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpH_3c.EN.pdf (please check for periodic updates).

ICD figures from the UN’s International Labour Organisation (ILO) show that more than 2 million workers die each year as a result of occupational injuries and work-related diseases, with some 160 million new cases of work-related illness annually.

The General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Guy Ryder, emphasized that the unprecedented level of mobilization has taken place because asbestos alone kills over 100,000 workers every year and nearly 37 million people involved in productive work are HIV-positive; two problems that will get worse if unchecked.

John Evans, the General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) where the main organizing for 28 April took place says he expects this year’s activities to spill-over into ongoing major international campaigns to stop the trade of asbestos and to stem the tide on HIV/AIDS.

28 April Spills Over To Global Asbestos Ban Campaign

He said that Global Unions would now step up international efforts to stop the trade of asbestos in the following countries:

Algeria	Angola	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Belarus	Belize	Bolivia
Botswana	Bulgaria	Cameroon	Canada	China	Colombia	Cuba
Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	India	Indonesia	Iran	Kazakhstan
Korea (North)	Korea (South)	Indonesia	Iran	Morocco	Oman	Pakistan
Panama	Romania	Russia	Senegal	Serbia	Sri Lanka	Swaziland
Syrian Arab Rep	Tunisia	Turkey	Turkmenistán	Uganda	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates
United States						

Call for G8 HIV/AIDS Working Group To Intensify

Evans said Global Unions would strengthen calls that emerged from 28 April activities to convince the G8 to create a high-level permanent Working Group on HIV/AIDS. He said such a group was needed because HIV/AIDS is a workplace issue, affecting livelihoods, enterprise productivity and socio-economic security and that more effective follow through of promises made from one G8 to the next was needed. He said that trade unions in many developing countries had succeeded in obtaining the support of Civil Society and business and that trade unions intended to step up efforts over the next three months to build more support by governments and the public.

For more information, contact

Lucien Royer
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
15, Rue Laperouse - 75016 paris, France
Tel (331) 5537 3737 Fax 4754 9828
royer@tuac.org