



30<sup>th</sup> March, 2006

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To: Trade Union Bodies in Countries Facing Possible HIV/AIDS Crises  
c.c. National contact points for ILO, UNAIDS and WHO

From: Alan Leather, Chair, HIV/AIDS Global Unions Steering Committee

Re: **Your HIV-AIDS Letter to G8 Embassies in Your Country**

Dear Colleagues:

On 28 February, Global Unions launched an HIV/AIDS Campaign as part of the 28 April “*International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers*”. This campaign will aim to convince the Heads of State at next July’s G8 Summit in Russia to create a permanent high-level G8 working group on HIV/AIDS. The G8 is composed of governments from the following: *Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States.*

For details see the Global Union statement at:

English only at: [http://www.global-unions.org/ohsewpT\\_8.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/ohsewpT_8.EN.pdf)

I am writing to ask you to help advance this campaign by **mailing or hand-delivering an appropriate version of a draft letter** (see below) **to at least one G8 government embassy in your country** (see table below) **prior to or on 28 April, 2006.**

Our first steps in this campaign have already been taken, as trade union bodies in the G8, non-G8 industrialised and countries that are heavily affected by HIV/AIDS are now in the process of planning for the delivering of their own version of the same letter, which also asks the G8 to establish a permanent working group on HIV/AIDS.

Now we ask you and other trade union bodies from countries with initial signs of a potential AIDS crisis (i.e. % adult infection rate) to deliver a letter to G8 embassies in your own country. It is important that you help us in this action, as AIDS does not respect borders, gender, race or age. AIDS is a global crisis where the problems of heavily affected countries can easily migrate to those in which it does not currently appear as a crisis.

Your message will underscore the unity and solidarity of trade unions in calling on G8 countries to fight this disease. Promises are made all of the time, but sadly, they often lack follow-through. A permanent high level G8 working group on HIV/AIDS is one way to hold the world’s richest nations accountable, in this regard.

We therefore ask you to deliver a letter to at least one G8 Embassy in your country, **prior to or on 28 April, 2006.** A draft letter is available at:

English: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_7c.EN.rtf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7c.EN.rtf)

Français: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_7c.FR.rtf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7c.FR.rtf)

Español: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_7c.SP.rtf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7c.SP.rtf)

As a minimum, we ask you to formally send this letter through the post office. However, we would like you to also consider organising a more significant public gesture. Now is the time for mobilising your unions on this issue by, for instance:

- a) organizing a delegation to deliver your letter (perhaps with other organisations) to your designated G8 embassy and alerting the media of your plans;
- b) mailing a slightly modified version of your letter to all or any of the other G8 embassies in your country (whatever you find possible or realistic); and
- c) issuing a news release or some other public statement about its delivery.
- d) some unions are organizing a rally on 28 April with allied groups to spotlight trade union demands, including universal access to treatment and the development of an AIDS vaccine.

Prompt delivery of your letters will help us to take the next steps for follow up lobbying by trade unions in other countries and at a number of international meetings in May and June of this year. Your activities and communications will arm trade unions in northern countries with more arguments as to why we must reach our goal.

**Please locate your country in one of the columns of the table below. The embassy identified for your 28 April action is located on the top of the same column:**

	Embassy Canada	Embassy France	Embassy Germany	Embassy Italy	Embassy Japan	Embassy U. K	Embassy U. S.
<b>G8 Letter delivery from or- ganisa- tions in the fol- lowing countries:</b>	Armenia	Algeria	Bolivia	Argentina	Bahrain	Bangladesh	China
	Azerbaijan	Lebanon	Brazil	Chile	Hong Kong	Brunei- Darussalam	El Salvador
	Belarus	Maurita- nia	Egypt	Colombia	Kyrgyzstan	Fiji	Israel
	Bosnia Her- zegovina	Moldova	Iceland	Costa Rica	Laos	India	Kazakhstan
	Bulgaria	Morocco	Indonesia	Ecuador	Mongolia	Malaysia	Korea
	Croatia	Romania	Iran	Paraguay	Nepal	Papua-New Guinea	Nicaragua
	Cuba	Senegal	Oman	Peru	Pakistan	Turkey	Panama
	Macedonia	Tunisia	Turkmeni- stan	Uruguay	Tajikistan	Singapore	Philippines
		Vietnam	Uzbekistan	Venezuela	Yemen	Sri Lanka	Syria

\* Please note that the G8 Country of Russia has been left out of this process for important strategic reasons

After we hear from you and other trade unions in industrialised countries, we will issue a short News Release that you might in turn post as a follow-up, or distribute to your own trade union affiliates. **It is also very important that you let us know that you agree to carry out this task by contacting Winston Gereluk at [winstong@athabascau.ca](mailto:winstong@athabascau.ca) as soon as possible.**

Looking forward to a successful campaign, I remain,

Yours in solidarity,

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For information on HIV/AIDS in your and all countries,  
see the trade union country profiles at:

English: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_4a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.EN.pdf)  
Français: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_4a.FR.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.FR.pdf)  
Español: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT\\_4a.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.SP.pdf)