



Scottish delegates engages International Work at the National Delegates Conference 2012 ...

By Sam Macartney

Chair Scottish International Committee

The members of Scottish International Committee, Branch International Officers from many Scottish Branches and delegates attending UNISON National Delegates Conference this year, once again confirmed UNISON status as the union that is committed to international issues and developments. The involvement of Scottish delegates with all aspects of the international agenda helped in highlighting the work carried out in Scotland, by our activists and members.

At conference issues around the continuing struggle of the Palestinian peoples for recognition and to put an end to the injustices they have faced for decades, were debated again with a resolve that UNISON will continue to highlight the plight of Palestinian peoples.

And UNISON shall fully support the boycott and divestment strategy, as agreed by the Scottish Trade Union Congress. Also the proposal to ensure solidarity with the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions was fully supported too.

The conference was also committed to the on-going fight for justice by our Cuban comrades, the Miami five and their continued struggle for political recognition against the false arrest and internment in the US, Elizabeth Palmiero spoke passionately about the on-going struggle faced by the wives and families of the men, Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, and Rene Gonzalez who were falsely accused of espionage by the US government in 2000 and jailed in Miami, even now the families are denied



Standing ovation for the wives of Miami Five. Photograph: Steve Forrest

regular visits to see their loved ones! THE CAMPAIGN Obama give us 5 was fully supported by the conference, more information is available from the Cuba solidarity campaign.

Carmen Mayusa a Colombian nurse and a leading trade unionist told conference of the on-going issues faced by trade unionist in her country and the fact that every three days on average one trade union activist is killed!

This she stated is the consequences the Colombian

people are facing with their struggle against the capitalist government and their neo-liberalist policies', MS Mayusa received a standing ovation from conference and a pledge of continued support from Unison, this was a very moving speech and from a very brave trade unionist.

I hope my comments have enticed you to follow up some of the issues and campaigns I have referred to.

I would like to thank all the Scottish



Vigil for Miami Five ...

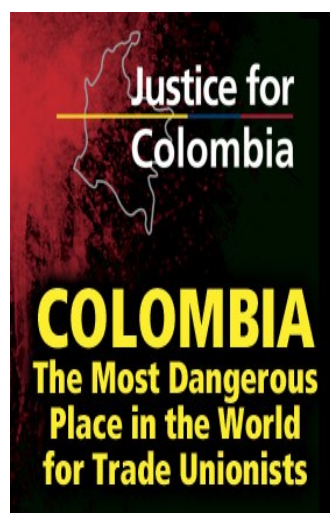
Sixth annual candlelit vigil 18 Sept for Miami Five; Cubans wrongfully imprisoned in US for fighting terrorism directed at Cuba.

Candlelit vigil for the Miami Five will take place on Tuesday 18 September at 6pm outside the US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London, W1 (Bond St tube).

The 6th annual candlelit vigil for the Miami Five features special guest Dr Aleida Guevara – daughter of Che Guevara – alongside speakers from across the trade union and labour movement. All welcome.

Please bring unions flags and banners! For details <http://cuba-solidarity.org.uk/events.asp?EventID=378>

For peace and social justice in Colombia



JfC campaigns for human and labour rights. They need your support.



Scottish International Activists with guests from Burma at the UNISON International Seminar 2012

Burma's emerging trade unions need our help...

As Burma emerges from generations of military rule, workers are building the trade union movement. They need our help! TUC Aid has just launched an appeal to help build the trade union movement in Burma, and is asking all trade unionists to donate.

For the first time in generations' workers in Burma are now free to form and join trade unions. But they are starting from scratch in a country slowly emerging from dictatorship and extreme poverty. Please help them by supporting TUC Aid's Burma

Appeal. Find out how at [TUC Aid: Burma appeal](#)

Where now on Burma?

The message from the international trade union movement, Burma Campaign and ASSK herself is to remain cautious. The UK government and the EU are softening their position and due to agree the EU 'common decision' in relation to Burma next month (April). There is an Early Day Motion (EDM 2710) that you could ask your MP to sign.

It calls for no lifting of sanctions until Burma is truly on the road to democracy <http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/actions/sanctions/please-write-to-your-mp> UNISON welcomes the progress that has been made in Burma over the past year but is concerned that the reforms are not yet truly progressive. We will continue to support the FTUB and FTUK, and will work with genuine independent trade unions if they are permitted to register in Burma.

UNISON will continue to work with Burma Campaign UK and support it in its campaigning work. We will also continue to lobby our own government to ensure that sanctions are not lifted prematurely.

Editorial

The purpose of this non-editorial driven publication is to keep readers fully aware on Scottish International Committee's work. Hence, neither the Editor nor the Publisher is liable for the accuracy of the content. Editorial team members, Sam Macartney (Chair Scottish International Committee), M Fahd Ali Asif (SBMC Rep) and Hamid Rasheed (Member Scottish International Committee) are keen to have your views to improve this publication. Please provide your feedback to: Simon Macfarlane. Regional Organiser UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street Glasgow G2 6RX Tel: 0845 355 0845 Email: s.macfarlane@unison.co.uk

Stop the crackdown on public service workers in Swaziland ...

Authorities fire on striking workers and refuse to reinstate those sacked. Take action! Labour Start, the online campaigning organisation, has just launched a campaign in support of sacked and striking public service workers, many of whom are members of UNISON's sister unions in the country.

Workers have been on strike since 21 June. They are demanding a pay rise of 4.5 per cent, well below the rate of inflation in Swaziland and a mere fraction of the 30 per cent pay rise that Swaziland's parliamentarians have awarded themselves.

The strikers have been met by dismissals, riot police and armed forces' intimidation and beatings, tear gas and rubber bullets. On 12 July, peacefully protesting public sector trade union members were fired upon by police – resulting in hospitalisation and injuries of at least 12 persons, some who were members of the National Public Services and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) and the Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA).

Since 1 August, the government has also fired hundreds of teachers. Almost immediately, the Industrial Court of Swaziland found that those dismissals were unlawful and requested the government to withdraw the letters of dismissal issued to the teachers.

Transport workers have also been affected. Global union, the ITF, has expressed strong concerns at the arrest and detention of Bazel Tfwala, legal officer of the Swaziland Transport and Allied Workers' Union (STAWU). Simanga Shongwe, General Secretary of STAWU was also detained whilst protesting Tfwala's arrest.

UNISON has been working closely with our sister unions in Swaziland. We are supporting them in strengthening their organisations and in their campaign for multi-party democracy in Swaziland.

Please join us in condemning the governmental crackdown on Swazi public workers by sending this message to Mswati III, King of Swaziland, urging him to meet the legitimate demands of public service workers; and to ensure the immediate and unconditional reinstatement of all those who have been illegally dismissed.

You can sign the urgent action here [Stop the crackdown of Swazi workers](#)

Remembering CHE ...

Dr Aleida Guevara daughter of Cuban revolutionary hero Che will be coming to Scotland in September, as part of a nationwide tour.

Dr Aleida Guevara will be attending the Cross Party Group on Cuba in the Scottish Parliament, she will speak at an event organised by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign on Friday 14th September at STUC 333 Woodlands Road Glasgow G3 6NG.

Dr Aleida Guevara March is the eldest daughter of four children born to Ernesto "Ché" Guevara and his second wife, Aleida March. She is a doctor of medicine, and has also worked as a physician in Angola, Ecuador, and Nicaragua.

Guevara speaks in defence of Cuba, for peace, socialism, and Latin American solidarity. She is the author of the book Chávez, Venezuela and the New Latin America.

The event to remember Che will start at 7.00pm in the evening; and Elaine Smith, MSP, Convener of the Cross Party Group on Cuba, as well as Luis Marron, from ICAP will also address the forum.

For further details Contact: Kath Campbell scottishcuba@yahoo.co.uk
or 0141 221 2359.



News from around the world ...

[Demolition orders issued in Silwan](#)

New demolition orders have been issued in East Jerusalem, as settlement activity in the area intensifies. Five demolition orders have been handed to families in the Al-Bustan neighbourhood of Silwan, only a few days before Israeli settlers took over part of a house in the neighbouring Ras Al-mud district of Silwan. War on Want is campaigning against the planned demolitions. You can [find out more about Silwan and take action](#) by visiting our campaign pages.

[Global Unions call for jobs stimulus as OECD assessment points to widening](#)

Trade unions have called for a jobs stimulus by governments as the OECD publishes an Economic Assessment that shows a weakening global economy and (...) [read more](#)

[African Unions Lead Global Protests on Swaziland Independence Day](#)

African trade unions and other civil society organisations have led international protests against Swaziland's rulers on 6 September, the country's (...) [read more](#)

[Austerity Pushing Portugal to the Brink](#)

Portugal's trade unions and business community have insisted that debt-reduction targets be relaxed, as evidence mounts that cuts to public spending (...) [read more](#)

[Apartheid-era Murder Charges Against 270 Miners "Absurd"](#)

The laying of murder charges against 270 South African miners under a common purpose law notorious during the apartheid era is absurd, according to (...) [read more](#)

[South Africa: ITUC Condemns Lonmin Killings](#)

The ITUC has described the wave of violence at South Africa's Lonmin Marikana platinum mine as appalling, with as many as 36 killed yesterday when police opened fire on striking miners. Ten people had previously been killed in the past week as violence at the mine escalated. (...) [read more](#)

[Trade Union on the Move for Rio+20 - discussion on HIV/AIDS](#)

Over 100 trade union centres from across the globe, around 500 trade unionists, gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the II Trade Union Assembly on Labour (...) [read more](#)

[ITUC Welcomes Olympics Hosts Pledge on Human Rights](#)

Unions have welcomed the joint human rights communique signed today by the governments of the four countries holding the current and next three summer and winter Olympics (the UK, Russia, Brazil and Korea.) [read more](#)

[Global action urging Adidas to pay \\$1.8M it legally owes its workers](#)

On Monday campaigners in the US, Germany and the UK handed over a petition to Adidas demanding overdue severance pay for 2,800 Indonesian garment workers. In total workers are still legally owed \$1.8 million, which is less than 2% of the cost of Adidas Olympic sponsorship.

[UK banks and the debt crisis](#)

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Mexican debt default back in August 1982, we've unearthed this fantastic video on British banks' role in the debt crisis. Put together in 1986 by women's video collective Cinestra as part of War on Want's pioneering campaign Profits Out of Poverty, it explains how the big four high street banks (Nat West, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland) were responsible for fuelling the debt crisis that condemned millions in Latin America to poverty. Old school and brilliant - watch and learn!

UNISON International Seminar ...

UNISON's next international seminar for activists, which would normally take place this autumn, has been cancelled. This is due to the TUC calling a national demonstration on 20 October which will see UNISON play a major part. Under the banner, We need A Future That Works, UNISON will be joining hundreds of thousands of people in London to show the government the true scale of opposition to their economic programme.

Take the pledge to march [TUC Going to Work](#) or if you can't make it in person, pledge to take actions online in support of the day. Sign up online, and add your own message and photo to show why you support a different plan for the future. A Future That Works. UNISON will organise the next international seminar in the spring of 2013. <http://www.unison.org.uk>

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign...

- [Nearly 2m people participate in Venezuelan election test run](#)
- [Uribe reveals he wanted to attack Venezuela—now advising Venezuelan RightWing Opposition on Security](#)
- [LGBT](#)