

# BWI Resolutions

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## 17. Resolution Calling Global Political Action in Defence of Workers Rights

**Submitted by: SUNTRACS Panamá, SEBI Curacao, FEDESOMECE Ecuador, CSTCB Bolivia, FENATCS Venezuela, SUNTIMAVEN Venezuela, SINTRASKINCO Colombia, SINTRAPIZANO Colombia, SINTRACONST Espirito Santo Brazil, FETRACONMAG Brazil, SNSCAASC Nicaragua, SINTEPAV CE Brazil, UOCRA - Argentina**

Globally trade unions and working people are facing enormous challenges fuelled by increased globalization, rise in neo-fascist and populist movements, and shifts from the political left to conservative right governments implementing labour reforms and austerity measures worsening the lives of worker attacking workers and trade unions. However, it is the workers in the global south who have been hit the hardest.

Trade union repression is severe and widespread in the global south, where unionists are regularly dismissed, jailed, and even killed for speaking out on workers' rights and trade union rights. Union leaders and members of the CFMEU have been vilified and portrayed as criminal thugs by the government and media in Australia. Trade union leaders in South Korea have consistently been jailed for trade union organizing and negotiating collective bargaining agreements. Trade unionists have been murdered in the Philippines, Columbia, Zimbabwe. In the global south, one is never sure if a trade unionist will be returning home to his or her family at the end of the day in one piece or ever at all. This is the reality and the norm for trade unionists.

Multinational companies are increasing the prowess and influence in the global south. In doing so many companies have left their adherence to international labour standards and belief in social dialogue with trade unions at their national borders. Instead, companies have chosen to implement a second-tier of standards where workers are paid lower wages, work longer hours, face unsafe working conditions, and do not have the freedom to fully exercise their right to organize, negotiate, and strike.

The neoliberal globalization policies have resulted in enormous profits for companies but has also seen mass contractualisation, outsourcing, and temporary forms of work becoming the norm in the global south. This is particularly the case in the sectors that the BWI represent.

Globalization has also resulted further increased international migration, where workers finding no economic opportunities go abroad in search of decent work. However, often, migrant workers face exploitation, extreme low-wages, and discrimination while doing the same work as national workers or doing work that national workers are unwell to do.



Right-wing and populist political parties have exploited the judicial process to take over democratically elected governments. In doing so, they are undermining independent and democratic trade unions while propping up pro-government trade unions to legitimize their labour reforms and austerity measures.

**RECOGNIZING** the work of BWI in countering globalization and neo-liberalism through its global campaigns against multinational companies and repressive governments;

**RECOGNIZING** the leading role of BWI plays in its engagement and negotiations with international multinational companies and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, Regional Development Banks; global certifying bodies such as the FSC and PEFC, international United Nations bodies such as the ILO, United Nations, OHCHR, and international sporting bodies such as FIFA and IOC. With the global role BWI has and continues to play along with the leadership provided by BWI, trade unions at the national level are able to utilize the tools to organize workers, negotiate better agreements, and advocate for stronger pro-trade union and worker policies.

**RECOGNIZING** that BWI's global organizing campaigns as resulted in more than half a million new members strengthening BWI and its global power. These organizing successes are reflected in the increase of affiliation dues from the global south and financial sustainability of the BWI regions;

**RECOGNIZING** the support of BWI affiliates and trade union solidarity support organizations in supporting BWI's global organizing campaigns;

**RECOGNIZING** the BWI leadership and in particular, the General Secretary and the Presidium in forging a new path for BWI to be stronger, dynamic, and powerful global union through aggressive, action-oriented, worker-empowered and led campaigns.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE THAT** the BWI affiliates in the Global South are calling BWI and all of its affiliates:

1. To launch a series of political actions against repressive governments and to use the BWI International Solidarity Fund to support these campaigns; and,
2. To launch a massive and coordinated organizing campaign and expand the capacity of the BWI global team to develop and implement global campaigns in particular targeting the workers of MNCs, workers in Multilateral development Bank - financed infrastructure construction work, workers in certified companies, workers building sports facilities and others; and to create and contribute to a Global Organising and Campaign Fund that will support BWI's globally-coordinated organising and campaign efforts.



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