



# **IWA EXTERNAL BULLETIN**

## **OCTOBER 2013**

**Secretariat of the International Workers Association  
Boks 1977, Vika 0121 Oslo Norway**

**Contact to the IWA: [secretariado@iwa-ait.org](mailto:secretariado@iwa-ait.org)  
Website: [www.iwa-ait.org](http://www.iwa-ait.org)**

## CONTENTS

<b>Editorial .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conflict with ISBAN. International and National Days of Action against Santander Bank .....</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Solidarity with Eva Lopez .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Struggle at the Boll Foundation Continues: Days of action and further problems with the employer .....</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>USI-AIT in the General Strike, Oct. 18 .....</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>The CNT joins and supports the General Strike in Education, October 24 .....</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>Days of Action against Pension Reform .....</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Conflicts Won in Two Restaurants .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Portugal: AIT-SP takes Actions Against Repression in Minipreço .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Union Protests in Warsaw, Sept. 11-14 .....</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Activities of KRAS-IWA .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Priama Akcia Activities .....</b>	<b>13-14</b>
<b>Some Activities of ZSP .....</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>Recent Activities of ASI .....</b>	<b>16</b>

**IWA-website: [www.iwa-ait.org](http://www.iwa-ait.org)**

**Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/iwa.ait](http://www.facebook.com/iwa.ait)**

### Editorial

This sixth issue of the External Bulletin contains articles from the last months, and they are again made by the excellent compilation of the IS of ZSP.

It is clearly a global trend that the working class shall pay for the capitalist crisis by lower wages, higher pension age, more working hours, unemployment and insecure jobs. The permanent jobs are made temporary ones, and the permanent ones are less protected.

The only true "job-security" we can rely on as workers comes from ourselves, and the solidarity and actions we are able to make, and also this bulletin contains articles of mobilizations, solidarity actions and campaigns!

**Long live the IWA and Anarchosyndicalism!**

Oslo, October 28- 2013

**IWA-Secretariat**

## New Pressure and Framed Court Cases

The Legal system of Serbia is continuing with pressure and framed court cases against members of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative. Being familiar with the basis of this system, and with the intentions and goals of our union confederation being clear, that manner of behavior of the courts does not surprise us. Still, a bit puzzling is a total lack of any attempts of creating rational explanation for the way the trials are going on and arrogance of the system which exceeds every limit.

After the acquittal of six Belgrade anarchists in the case of the attack on the Greek Embassy was overturned by the Appeal court in mid 2011, the process against Tadej Kurepa, Sanja Dojkić, Ivan Savić, Nikola Mitrović, Ratibor Trivunac and Ivan Vulović was reactivated for political reasons. To that fact information should be added that the process is prolonged ad infinitum, with the obvious intention of keeping the accused "on a leash". Thus today's court hearing was postponed because police "experts" didn't show up again, while their previously produced written analyses is without a doubt favorable for the accused. The trial has been postponed until January 22nd of the following year!

Parallely with this case, the system is leading several other cases against our members, of which the one against our member Ratibor Trivunac is the one which is most telling. He was accused that at the protest against NATO gathering, which was happening in Belgrade during June 2011, he committed a criminal deed of "interference with a law enforcement officer performing security activities". With dozens of eyewitnesses, and clear video footage of the event that totally denies such charges, the court has decided to continue the process based on the false testimonies of the inspector Saša Todorović and policeman Marko Đorđević, both from the Belgrade Police Department. The main hearing in this case will be held on Monday, September 23rd.

Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative wishes to inform the public that it will not succumb to the pressures of the state, and it will decisively and with solid argumentation respond to the machinations of the Serbian legal system, using all legitimate means, in the country and outside of it, with the intention of preventing further legal terror against our members.

**Stop the state repression!**

18. 9. 2013.

In Belgrade

General Secretariat of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative  
Section of the International Workers' Association

# Conflict with ISBAN. International and National Days of Action against Santander Bank

Anarcosindicalists from all over the world, federated in the IWA, are in solidarity with the workers of Isban (Santander Group), demanding the reinstatement of a dismissed comrade and an end to the outsourcing of the workers.

COB in Brazil organized informational actions and protests in cities like Aracajú and Araxá at the end of September.

The ZSP from Poland concentrated its efforts on actions in Warsaw. There the Santander group has important strategic interests in expansion through the acquisition of new banks. The police and security presence at the entrance of the bank called even more attention to the comrades.

The anarcosindicalists of Montevideo visited the headquarters of Santander Bank in Uruguay, informing about the conflict in the office and outside.

The Portuguese Section of the IWA organized informational acts in the center of Lisbon and Oporto.

In Norway, the NSF informed people in the center of Oslo. There the information was well received and people were interested in knowing more details about the conflict.

In the UK, the Solidarity Federation visited banks in Brighton and Hove with informational posters about the conflict. There were also pickets in Bristol and Bath organized by SolFed and supported by some other people and organizations.

In Germany, FAU in Koln informed about the conflict.

Unions located in regions where there are no offices of the Santander group, like KRAS in Russia or PA in Slovakia, showed their solidarity by sending protests to the companies involved in the conflict (Santander, Isban and Panel Sistemas).

In Spain, dozens of actions were held at Bank Santander branches.

Salamanca, Ciudad Rodrigo, Barcelona, Madrid, Villaverde, Zaragoza, Málaga and León are some of the places where the CNT expressed their opposition to the outsourcing of workers and



demanding the reinstatement of the fired comrade.

The main headquarters of Isban, in Boadilla del Monte, became the preferred place of protest for the anarcosindicalists of Madrid. There they distributed more than 1000 leaflets to workers in a situation of absolute precarity.

We also contacted the Isban management at the Alhambra building. They refused to discuss with us, protected by numerous private police deployed especially for the occasion.

Also the most centrally located branches of the banks in Madrid were visited in the morning, informing the employees and passersby of the situation in the conflict.

Dozens of workers gave their support to the protests.

Due to the attempts of the national police to disperse the informational picket, about 500 leaflets were given out. They did not want to understand that the real criminals are in the offices of the corrupt management, not in the streets with the workers.

The dismissed comrade made a symbolic gesture of thanks to the comrades in solidarity by putting up a banner in English in his current workplace, Panel Sistemas.

There were also actions of sabotage made as a form of solidarity.

These types of actions were seen especially in the working class areas of Madrid.



The conflict started in August 2013, when workers organized in CNT-AIT publically denounced the illegal outsourcing of the staff of ISBAN, IT services for the Santander group. This caused the immediate dismissal of the union delegate, who was sent back to the „agent” company of origin, Panel Sistemas, in an attempt by the management to avoid any contagious effect.

Revolutionary unions around the world, federated in the IWA, responded to the attack demanding the reinstatement of the dismissed comrade in the places where the multinational is present. Isban manages some „agent” firms which provide cheap and precarious staff. They deal with more than 10,000 workers illegally outsourced to other companies all over the world, which can be dismissed at any moment without any cost on the part of the bank since they are not recognized as their own personnel.

The workers of Isban are afraid of winding up on the streets if they make even the slightest protests, which makes them accept surrealistic work days, overtime, obligatory transfers, half-time work, jobs and salaries too low for the real work performed and lots of other abuses.

Hundreds of irregular dismissals have been denounced by the workers. The dismissals have hit the workers in the most position: the ones who were illegally outsourcing, mothers on reduced working days and workers who were transferred abroad have been the preferred targets for cuts.

With the complicity of the government and the yellow unions, Santander has gotten away with the mass destruction of employment for practically free.

The Santander group not only is making money, but it had a profit of 2,255 million euros in the first six months of 2013, almost a 30% increase from the same period in 2012. Emilio Botín, Rodrigo Rato, Alfredo Sáenz, Jose María Amusátegui and other directors of Santander Bank have been denounced for illegal practice and even found guilty but they were never punished.

Some of the most infamous deeds were continued tax evasion, the irregular purchases of banks like Banesto or Totta, the collapse and subsequent bailout of Bankia, millions of euros in severance pay for manages, the case of Swiss accounts of the Botin family, the sale of trash mortgages, foreclosures, charging abusive interest rates, shady dealings with universities, the participation in arms businesses and the financial management of the terrible prison system. A long list of crimes which are well documented.

The interests of Santander now is clashing with the organized workers who are fighting to change the world. We never give up and will not be silenced by their bribes or repression.

**SOLIDARITY AGAINST SANTANDER-ISBAN  
REINSTATE THE DISMISSED COMRADE!**

Section of Telecommunications and IT  
CNT-AIT Madrid

<http://informaticamadrid.cnt.es>  
isban[arroba]cnt.es

**Solidarity with Eva Lopez**

In response to calls for FORA, letters of solidarity and protests were sent to GFK company, a large multinational market research company. Eva was trying to improve working conditions and was fired by the company. FORA organized some protests locally and asked for comrades to send protests to the company. A few also decided to visit the company, like the comrades from ASF in Australia.



## The Struggle at the Boll Foundation Continues: Days of action and further problems with the employer

The FAU delegation had to walk out of a meeting with the Heinrich Boll Foundation on October 11th. The meeting took place after the verdict issued by a Berlin court in September, which stated that the Foundation had used temporary workers illegally and that one of the plaintiffs was in fact a worker directly employed by the Foundation. The meeting was supposed to bring an out-of-court settlement regarding the compensation of the worker already recognized by the court, as well as the status of the remaining workers seeking recognition as direct Heinrich Boll Foundation employees.

Only a few minutes into the negotiations it became clear that the FAU had no other choice but to end the meeting. The managers of the Heinrich Boll Foundation refused to recognize the base union as a partner of negotiations representing the interests of its members. Instead, the managers wanted to talk with each of our colleagues separately. This strategy was meant to undermine the function of FAU as a union.

So far, the employer has not paid the outstanding salary to the worker who already was recognized by the court and did not react to his expressed readiness to work, thereby creating economic distress for our colleague. The FAU strongly insists on its role as union and condemns the anti-union stance of the employer.

On Friday October 18th, over 60 members of the FAU union as well as activists from the IWW and ASJ protested against the actions of the management of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, which refused to deal with the union representation and instead tried to talk with each worker separately.

FAU Berlin does not accept the situation where it is not able to negotiate in the name of its members with the employer. Only a week earlier the Foundation refused any talks whatsoever with FAU-Berlin. The worker who was retroactively recognized as employee of the Foundation has not received compensation since September.

The picket took place during the Congress about the Future of the Youth. Since young people are especially vulnerable to precarization, a protest against precarious working conditions and anti-



union policies seemed well timed. The Foundation had previously announced that they would change their employment model, but instead, they have just changed their outsourcing provider and, as it turns out, the employees of that new outsourcing firm will be paid even less than the colleagues who were fired previously.

In the first week of September, members of different syndicalist organizations organized actions against the precarious working conditions in Heinrich Boll Foundation all over Europe. The branches of the Foundation and events organized by the Foundation were visited by activists in Prague, Brussels, Belgrade and Warsaw. The precarious working conditions at the Foundation were brought to the public's attention.

During the international week of actions, the following events took place:

In Köln, the FAU section made a poster action at the house where Heinrich Böll lived.

In Berlin, a direct action took place during a conference of the Heinrich Boll Foundation and the public was informed about the fight and the situation. At the labour court trial, which also took place in Berlin, about 20 observers were present. After the positive verdict, the passersby were informed about the claim and the court's decision.

In Prague, an action was organized by the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation at the local office of the Foundation. The picketers demanded the reinstatement of all colleagues who were fired at pay at the proper rates. Later on, the Slovakian Priama Akcia visited the office of the Foundation



and gave a protest letter against precarious working conditions and anti-union policies of the management of the Foundation.

In Lisbon, the Portuguese Associação Internacional dos Trabalhadores - Secção Portuguesa sent emails to the Heinrich Böll Fund demanding reinstatement and payment of wages according to the collective agreements.

In Brussels, the Dutch organization Vrije Bond organized a demonstration at the local office of the Heinrich Boll Foundation.

In Frankfurt, the FAU Frankfurt confronted the deputies from the Green Party about the precarious working conditions in the Foundation during a public discussion meeting.

In Halle, the local Foundation branch had organized a movie screening. The local members of the FAU handed out leaflets with information about the conflict and the successful court resolution to participants. FAU-Halle also had a talk with a politician of the Green Party after which, the passers by were informed about the conflict.

In Belgrade, the Serbian Anarho-sindikalistička inicijativa (ASI) made a leafleting action in front of the Belgrade office of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, informing about the conflict. Many of the passersby reacted with sympathy.

In Warsaw, the union Związek Syndykalistów Polski (ZSP) organized a picket at a conference organized by the Green Party and distributed leaflets to the participants of the conference and talked to them about the conflict and the developments in the legal case against the Foundation.

## USI-AIT: Report on the General Strike, October 18

The day after the general strike, we can say that it was a good choice to take part in local initiatives. Below are some reports from various cities.

It was an excellent day in Cosenza . The USI - AIT Calabria had its own initiative on the occasion of the national strike .

The comrades present in the square on Sept. 11 distributed leaflets about the strike, met people interested and impressed by the claims expressed by the USI – AIT.

Many passers-by seemed to have a lack of information about the strike and many issues related to it. Being on the street, meeting people was a way to get around the logic of centralization and vertical integration.

In Florence about 600 people marched from the Santa Maria Novella station to the center of the city, based the Regional Council and Prefecture, ending at the building of the confederation of entrepreneurs, Confindustria. Striking workers marched, (mostly workers from cooperatives, health care, the post office, telecommunications, schools and universities) and students (some of which had occupied their schools). Some groups of workers also came from Sienna, Pisa, Carrara and Livorno. The demonstration was led by USI Tuscany, alternative unions and social groups. It went under the common slogan „We are not going to pay for your crisis – Social opposition”.

The liveliest was the student block. They chanted slogans about problems of schools and universities and also general ones against the government's social policies. About 100 people were in the USI and libertarian block ( the Florence Libertarian Ateneum and the Kronstadt group). Lotta di Classe, Umanita Nova and Kronstadt was given out.

The problems of health care and education were central to the demonstration. They spoke about the salary freezes, on the agreement of May 31, in which the official unions agreed to limit the right to strike. Anti-war issues were also raised as



well as the situation of immigrants. They had a slogan, that the bosses are guilty for unemployment, not the immigrants. At the end of the demonstration there was an assembly with an open microphone.

In Milan there was a large demonstration. USI was in a block lead by a banner of Coordination of Hospital workers of Milan. Behind USI were demonstrators from social centers, immigrants and others. The march went through the center of the city. It stopped in front of the Stock Exchange building and we took the opportunity to shout against the temple where people pray to the god of business, where the gangs participate in all forms of speculation, where justice ends and legalized theft begins, as wars legalize murder. They call it civilization, but it is pure barbarism.

In Modena there were pickets on October 18 and 19.

In Parma the local section of USI carried out a picket at the Ospedale Maggiore hospital. About 80 people took part in the action. They gave out leaflets and informed people about the strike, telling about the difficult situation of health care due to cuts. During the action they not only drew attention to problems but made contacts with new people.

In Pesaro there was a demonstration with libertarian people under the slogan „Enough exploitation and precarity – Social Strike”. About 300 people (mostly students) went through the historic center of the city, past the government palace. Among the demonstrators were also

members of cultural associations, unions, social centers, pensioners, unemployed and precarious workers...

In Trieste there was good participation of the provincial Federation of USI-AIT. About 40 workers were in the central square carrying banners and flags. A few individual members of USB and Cobas also participated. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed and the comrades were very visible in the busy area. It proved to be a good idea to focus on events locally.

More photos and videos:

<http://www.usi-ait.org/index.php/notizie/588-report-sciopero-generale-18-ottobre>



### **The CNT joins and supports the General Strike in Education, October 24**

On the 24 of October, the workers of the education sector and students are calling for a strike throughout the country. Again, the reason for the strike is the continuation of the approval process for the Law on Improving the Quality of Education (LOMCE). This is a law which is highly criticized as being classist, competitive, centralist, sexist and privatizing. The way of approving it, being inherent to all governments that despise debate, ignores the majority of the educational community.

### **BECAUSE THOSE WHO TAKE THE DECISIONS ONLY LOOK OUT FOR THEIR INTERESTS**

It is obscene to see how the current government is dedicated to impose their own education law . An

example of this is that the law will be the eighth LOMCE changing the educational system from the Education Act of 1970. This shows the mercantilist desires that the political class have for education, relegating the acquisition of knowledge and culture for all to the background. The common goal of all these laws is none other than to weaken public education and favor an educational system which is private and elitist and managed mainly by the Church.

### **AND THESE ARE SOME OF ITS „NICEITIES“**

- The resources destined for each college will not be allocated according to its needs but to the average grades of its students
- Religion would be counted for the average grade
- Colleges that segregate students by sex would be founded with public money
- There would be no substitute teachers until the 16<sup>th</sup> day of a teacher's medical leave
- Directors would not be elected by the educational community but by the administration
- The School Board would lose decision making powers and it would pass to a „consultative“ organ
- The colleges would have the right to decide who's admitted (or, more precisely, the director will be the only one to decide).

### **BECAUSE IT AFFECTS US ALL**

Now a new strike is being called. The CNT would like to express two things: on the one hand, our full support to all the teachers and students in struggle during the strike. On the other, we always think that we have to keep a critical view on this type of one-day strike, as it is well known how little impact and effect they have on those who govern. It is urgent to seek other formulas.

For this reason, the CNT has called on its members and sympathizers to join this strike, to be non-conformist and to be convinced that education workers have to start to act in a more compelling way to earn the respect of the government that they have lost. It is a step forward and positive that education workers have called a strike and reject the LOMCE, that they will not be divided and conquered.

### **TO BE ABLE**

An example to follow is the recent case of the Balears, where there was an indefinite strike promoted by assemblies of workers that the mainstream trade unions had no choice but to join.

No one had told us last May 9, during the previous national strike against LOMCE, that this move was coming. But having lost complexes, organizing without leaders, in a collective way, they gained great social support and there were shows of solidarity all over. All this, shutting down the educational institutions for 3 weeks.

Widespread strikes of this type is a way to stop the despots like the Minister of Education José Ignacio Wert. Therefore we are going to the strike, hoping that its result will lead to reflection similar to what was on the islands with the last strike against LOMCE. It is a necessity.

### **SOLIDARITY IS OUR STRENGTH**

It is also necessary that parents support education workers on this day. The rest of the population cannot stay on the sidelines and we should defend this public education which is ours in common and for all.

*The CNT took part in the strike in various cities in Spain. We hope we can provide a report in the next bulletin.*

## **Day of Action against Pension Reform**

On September 26, unions from the CNT-AIT organized actions throughout Spain against planned pension reforms which envisage further cuts and move towards the privatization of funds. Actions were held in Avila, Aranda de Duero, Badajoz, Barcelona, Valencia, Vigo, Guadalajara, Iruña Cartagená, Castellon de la Plana, Castro-Urdiales, Compostela, Cordoba, Madrid, Malaga, Mataro, Ontinente, Palencia, Pamplona, Salamanca, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Santander, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Zaragoza, Sevilla, Sierra Norte la Cabrera, Ciudad Real, Teruel, Uesca, Ferrol, Jaen, Jerez, Gijon and other places. (The photo on the next page is from Iruña.)

In Madrid there was a rally in the Puerta de Sol. The next day they went to an employment institute.



They handed out leaflets including ones calling for a 30 hour work week without any loss of pay. Then they went to the National Social Insurance Institute where there was a symbolic occupation. Afterwards they picketed outside and then moved to metro Oporto where they held another rally.

In Barcelona, they went to the social security office with the slogan "Decent pensions for all". They went inside handing out leaflets and speaking through the megaphone and then held a picket outside.

Similar actions were held in different social security offices or in cities and towns around Spain.

## Conflicts won in Two Restaurants

The CNT in Huelva has announced a victory in the conflict with the restaurant El Pescador. Yet again the methods of direct action have brought success. Maria C. was fired from the restaurant after 5 years of hard work. The restaurant, in order to pay her less, was using her as a full-time chef but paying her as if an assistant. She also was denied overtime payments. When they told her she'd have to start coming to work even earlier, she lost her patience and told them they'd have to follow the conditions of the work agreement. Then she was fired.

The union organized a picket. Seeing the people in front of the restaurant, hearing what they were saying through the megaphone and fearing new actions, the owners agreed to negotiate and accepted all the demands of the worker.

The CNT in Valencia also announced a victory in the case of their conflict with the restaurant Casa Romeo, which owed one worker money. The restaurant, which is in the historic center, did not want more pickets and protests. After only the first

picket and the announcement of a few in the future, the restaurant contacted the CNT and paid what they owed to the worker.

The CNT warns owners of restaurants that such actions can take place at their establishment if they cross the workers. The CNT in Valencia is advising workers in this branch and gathering information about places that violate workers' rights.

## Portugal: AIT-SP takes Actions Against Repression in Minipreço

On June 27 there was a general strike in Portugal. Workers at a Minipreço market in Porto joined the strike and the shop was closed. The 4 workers who went on strike were then punished by the company, which transferred them to other markets, far from their home. The management said to them that this was a punishment for the strike and an example for other workers that they should not strike. The AIT-SP decided to make solidarity actions with the workers and against the company that acted against their right to strike.

Comrades from AIT-SP made posters and leaflets, which they handed out in various cities like Porto, Lisbon and Faro, calling for a boycott.

In the Porto shop where the firings occurred, people from AIT-SP participated in an action where people supporting the workers blocked the cash registers for about two hours. About 100 people wrote in the complaint book to support the workers.

On the same day of this action, the union CESP/CGTP-IN in Dia Supermarkets denounced the boycott. (Minipreço belongs to the Dia group.)

As a result of the actions on July 25, the workers were given jobs in markets closer to their homes.



## Union Protests in Warsaw, September 11-14



Over these 4 days, the three largest mainstream unions organized protests in Warsaw as a reaction to changes in the Labour Law and the Act on Trade Unions which, among other things, allow employers to put up to 78-hour weekly schedules for months at a time. The Multi-Branch Union of ZSP in Warsaw (formerly Education and IT) took part in some protests and organized some alternative events.

It first must be pointed out that these actions were held instead of strikes, despite the fact that the largest union in Poland (Solidarity) held a strike referendum and most workers were in favour. So while we support workers' protests, we were very critical of the fact that a strike was not called and one of our main goals was to try to ask why and agitate in favour of more resolute action.

On September 11, workers from various branches protested in front of 6 Ministries and then marched to the Parliament, where a tent city was established. We have some education workers in Warsaw, but the main education workers unions did not protest, despite the fact that hundreds of schools have been closed and thousands of teachers have lost their jobs. So we were faced with the choice of making a small protest at that

Ministry or supporting another protest. We decided to go to the health care workers' protest since we have health care workers in ZSP and friends in that branch. At the protest we handed out leaflets and newspapers supporting the struggle of health care workers but also mentioning the situation of some workers who are not usually defended by the mainstream unions. The newspapers told about outsourcing in hospitals and also about our campaign with Impel workers. (Impel is a company which, among other things, offers cleaning services to hospitals.) In leaflets we also spoke about the situation in the Ministry of Health, where the protest was taking place. Although such ministries should avoid unlawful working conditions, it turns out that 88 people are hired on trash contracts there and countless others are hired through outside firms. We mentioned workers from Impuls, a firm which we are fighting against, which worked in at least one building of the Ministry and which has rates like 80 euro cents per hour and owes some workers months of back pay.



On September 13 some of us took off work to protest. We decided to set up a tent in front of the Parliament and invite different people there to talk and protest the anti-social policies of the government and the situation of the working class. We invited a group of excluded caretakers, tenants, repressed unionists and Impel workers.



The excluded caretakers are people who don't work or only have part-time work due to the fact that they care for a handicapped adult in their homes. In the past, these people were given some very small amount of money as a social benefit in order to care for their disabled family members, but the government recently took away this benefit. This leaves them in a horrific situation, since most working people cannot afford to pay for private care in their homes and these people do not want to send their relatives to live in homes. They also cost a lot of money, but the state would co-finance such care if a family was not able to pay – only that solution costs a lot more than the money the families were receiving in the first place. We think that the caretakers should be considered as workers as receive money for this, noting that even if they were paid the equivalent of a minimum wage salary, it would be cheaper than putting people in homes paid by the state and it would be a much better solution for all involved.

Various tenants came to support the protest, including people who live in privatized housing, who fought with eviction and one who, unfortunately, was evicted and who shortly afterwards met personal tragedy.

There were many talks and discussions with passersby and supporters from the public and with the people from the mainstream unions.



Unfortunately, the weather was very bad, with rain on and off during the day and by five o'clock, when we would expect more Varsovians to show up after work, it was raining quite badly. However we gave out many papers and had many discussions throughout the day.

We also held press conferences in front of the tent. Various journalists and TV stations spoke with the people there. One comrade from ZSP gave a good interview for TV calling for struggle instead of more „dialogue” with the bosses and the government.

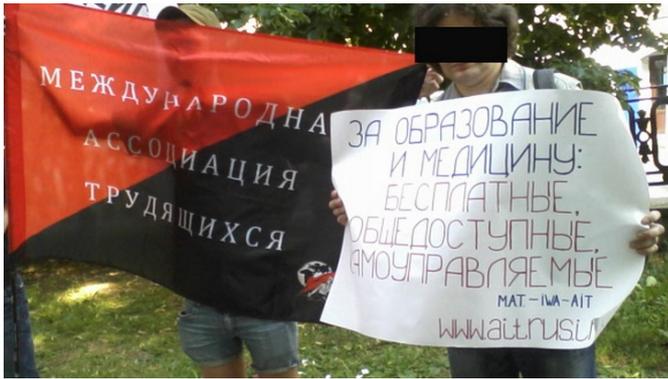
On Saturday, September 14, the mainstream unions held a mass protest. Over 100,000 workers demonstrated. Before the main demonstration started, we held our own protest. Some tenants and members of the Anarchist Federation also took part. We spoke about the growing social problems caused by the policies of the government and capitalism and about the need for a strike and stronger social movements. Since some religious people were gathered next to us and started to do something, we didn't stay long and we marched down the main street in Warsaw chanting „general strike”. After that, we visited all the other protests, stopping at different blocks and unions, making some speeches and handing out papers. We asked members of the unions why they weren't on strike yet, especially to Solidarity, which already held a referendum. Different groups of workers came to us and took photos with our strike banner and expressed their support for this type of action.

(A critical assessment of the protests can be found here: <http://www.zsp.net.pl/union-protests-warsaw-september-11-14> )

## International Solidarity

On September 11-14 there were different solidarity actions with Polish workers which took place in different countries. There were actions at embassies and consulates in Spain, Holland, Slovakia and two cities in Australia. Other actions also took place in Spain, where banners were hung, in France, where fliers were handed out during a strike about the situation in Poland and there was an action in a place Polish people work and in Norway. The actions were organized by Priama Akcia in Slovakia, CNT-AIT in Spain and France, ASF from Australia, NSF from Norway and ASB from Holland. Thank you all for the signs of support from abroad!

## Activities of KRAS-IWA (May-September 2013):



24/05/2013: Support of the Moscow picket in frame of Solidarity Day with the struggling medical workers of Izhevsk, Cherepovets etc. The picket was organized in Novopushkinskaya square. We participated under the banner "For education and health – free, public and self-administrated". Photo: <http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/24%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%8F1.jpg>

28/06/2013: Members of KRAS participated in the picket against destruction of public health service in front of Ministry of Health in Moscow. Photo: [http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE00081\(1\).jpg](http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE00081(1).jpg)

2/07/2013 : Participation in the meeting against the neoliberal reform of Russian Academy of Science in Moscow

8/07/2013: Participation in the trade union picket in front of Health Ministry in Moscow – against the repressions of protesting health workers of Rzhev. After some protest actions in different cities, they were acquitted by the judge. Photo: <http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0021.jpg>; <http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0020.jpg>



7/08/2013 : KRAS participated in the picket in front of Federal Migration Authority in Moscow: protest against a new wave of purge against migrant workers and against new camps of deportation

13/08/2013: Members of KRAS participated in the solidarity meeting with migrant workers. Our slogan: "No war between "peoples", no peace between classes". Photos:

<http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0036%D1%8F.jpg>;  
[http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/IMG\\_3824%5B1%5D.JPG](http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/IMG_3824%5B1%5D.JPG).

27/08/2013: The participation in the solidarity picket with struggling workers of ambulance in front of Health Ministry in Moscow. Photo: <http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0049.jpg>

24/08/, 10/09/and 18/09/2013: Participation in the big meeting against reform of Academy of Science. The reform included the direct control of science institutes by the government and the possible closure of no-profitable science research institutes with the destruction of many workers places. During the protest campaign in September, members of KRAS proposed to colleagues the methods of direct action and of occupational strike. Unfortunately, the majority of activists lost courage and preferred indirect action, and this led to a failure of struggle.

30/08/2013 : Participation in the solidarity meeting with migrant workers in Moscow. The speaker from KRAS stressed in his speech the problems of migrants as wage workers and called for free worker union and common struggle against discrimination and wage dumping. Photo: [http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0050-1\(1\).jpg](http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0050-1(1).jpg)  
Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zybielzMDdc>

11/09/2013: KRAS participated in the protest picket in front of representation of Tatarstan in Moscow. The action was organized by feminist groups against discrimination of women in a high school in Kazan and against gender discrimination in education in general.

Photo: <http://www.aitrus.info/sites/default/files/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE0062.jpg>

## Priama akcia activities May – October 2013



### Struggles in our region

#### ***Zepter International***

We were asked for help by Mostecká solidární síť (MSS, a solidarity network from Most, Czech Republic) who were approached by Zaneta G., who worked for Zepter selling their products on their behalf. The company had refused to pay her commissions. The MSS together with Priama akcia (PA) discussed possible strategies and tactics. PA also created an e-mail form on our website and published a call for the IWA sections to support the struggle. Since the company didn't react to the e-mails, the MSS started organising direct actions in support of Zaneta's demands. PA also organised a protest action in front of the company premises in Bratislava. In the end, the company gave in and paid the commissions.

More info in English here:

<http://www.priamaakcia.sk/Solidarity-Network-from-Most-Czech-MSS-got-unpaid-commissions-from-Zepter.html>

#### ***Nurses and midwives***

On 3rd October two members of Priama akcia personally expressed support to the protesting nurses and midwives, who were camping in front of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic for three days. The nurses and midwives talked about working conditions and demands and also stated that the protest should be viewed as symbolic, pointing to problems in the Slovak healthcare system. A report from the visit was published on PA website.

## Other contacts with workers

In May – October 2013, several people contacted Priama akcia to talk about their workplace issues (e.g. we were again contacted by (ex-)OTTO WorkForce workers several times). However, the workers did not want to engage in direct actions to solve their problems.

### Promotion of PA and the IWA

Priama akcia delegates accepted invitations to two summer festivals in Slovakia – Ffud fest and Skapalpes fest. We presented the activities of our organization and in both cases, lively discussions followed. After one of the presentations, we were approached by a worker with a workplace issue, which we dealt with. However, it has not culminated in a concrete direct action.



### Solidarity with the IWA sections

Priama akcia supported calls for solidarity from the IWA Sections:

- CNT-E: Esymo Metal and Alstom conflicts. In both cases, we visited the Slovak branches of these companies with a protest letter (more info in English here: <http://www.priamaakcia.sk/Protests-in-support-of-CNT-unions-in-conflict-with-companies-operating-in-Slovakia.html>). We also sent a protest fax to the Czech branch of Santander, which the CNT-E has had a conflict with.
- FORA: GfK conflict. We sent a protest fax.
- FAU: Heinrich Boll Foundation conflict. The Czech branch in Prague was visited with a protest letter and a fax was sent as well. An article on PA website was published.

- ZSP: actions against the neoliberal reforms in Poland. We visited the Polish embassy in Bratislava and published information about the current situation and actions in Poland.

## Publications

Priama akcia translated a very valuable discussion between the proponents of participatory economy (represented by a member of the Project for a Participatory Society) vs. libertarian communism (represented by a SolFed member who is at the same time a member of the libcom.org collective) and added several explanatory notes to the original text.

The Slovak translation can be found here: [http://www.priamaakcia.sk/data/File/NBZ/Participativna\\_spolocnost\\_alebo\\_libertinsky\\_komunizmus.pdf](http://www.priamaakcia.sk/data/File/NBZ/Participativna_spolocnost_alebo_libertinsky_komunizmus.pdf)

Original text in English here:

<http://libcom.org/library/participatory-society-or-libertarian-communism>

## Some Activities of ZSP, June – October 2013



In the last issue of the bulletin, we wrote about new amendments to the Labor Code and Act on Trade Unions that eliminate the 8-hour day and hit the rights of trade unions. During the summer we organized a number of actions leading up to the day of protests in September.



## International Solidarity

In the summer, ZSP made 2 pickets at the Brazilian Embassy for our comrades from COB who were arrested during social protests. We also had a film showing and discussion about the situation in that country.

We held publicized the case of the Heinrich Boll Foundation and had solidarity actions. We also visited the office of GFK in solidarity with Eva Lopez, responding to a solidarity call from FORA.



We participated in actions against Marks and Spencers, which uses Workfare, visiting a couple of shops in Warsaw with leaflets.

We also visited Santander Bank a few times.

## Conflicts

At the beginning of the summer, we entered into conflict with Impuls company which does not pay its workers on time, uses civil contracts instead of employment contracts, pays less than the minimum wage for employees and makes people work 200-300 hours a month. There were 8 protests against the company. A number of times there were incidents with people there. Somebody was hit by some manager of the company, the police were called numerous times and they were told, among other things, that we attacked them physically and „imprisoned them”. (The latter mysterious accusation probably relates to when they were so scared they locked themselves in the office.) There is a criminal investigation related to this and the company's lawyers have threatened to sue us for 40,000 euros.

This case is very hard but the company is panicked. A few people have received money. After one action, an employee who joined in the struggle received the four months pay he was owed.

Other employees have received some small payments, which we see as some type of attempt to get them to keep quiet and not protest or go to court against the bosses.

We are also helping the workers file cases in labor court because if the court establishes that they were workers and not independent contractors, they will receive a lot more money. Such a court decision will also help others to make similar claims.

At the last action we were asked to meet with the boss to negotiate. During the action, two more workers who were at the office at the time decided to join in and fight.

### Full Job Temporary Agency



A couple of mail deliverers from ZSP had a conflict with Full Job temporary employment agency, which had employed them to deliver mail through Direct Post. The employment was on a trash contract, for mail delivered and the wages were very miserable. On top of that, the agency was late paying them.

After a couple of actions, the 3 people fighting were able to get directly employed by Direct Post. But Full Job reacted very badly. They tried to not pay one person, claiming that being hired directly was breaking a non-competition clause of the contract. The threatened comrades with lawsuits and even broke the law by publishing the name and address of one comrade on their internet page, most probably in an attempt to blacklist him.

We alerted the press to the outrageous behaviour of this company, which they removed the material from their website. However, they still owe one comrade money so the struggle continues. In the meanwhile, we warn people against this agency.

### Repression and Campaign at BRW



The Black Red White furniture producer was chosen in our annual competition of worst employers. Although the owner of the firm is one of the richest men in Poland, workers at the factories don't earn very much and have to confront different problems. After our announcement, our comrade from the furniture makers' union in one of the BRW factories wrote about an incident in the factory in a newspaper. Following this expose, he was fired.

We responded by calling for a boycott of the furniture producer and organizing pickets at some of its shops. After the first picket, they were ready to talk to the dismissed worker. At the second picket they already were prepared with a lot of additional security, people from the management and a photographer to take photos of the protesters.

BRW had a strong reaction to these events and offered a quick settlement to the worker. Due to various life events, he accepted this settlement – but still fights to get conditions improved at the factory. BRW tried to initiate some criminal case and the „economic crimes” division of the Prosecutor was investigating. What „economic crime” they think somebody committed nobody knows.

Some time later ZSP was contacted by workers from the furniture shops who knew of these actions. They are hired through a temp agency on fraudulent contracts and want to be hired directly by the shops. A campaign is starting.

## Campaign Against Impel

Workers from Impel Airport Services who were cleaning and servicing planes at Warsaw's Chopin Airport were left high and dry when the airlines changed the service provider and the outsourcing giant claimed they had no obligations towards their workers. Many of the people who were suddenly without a job had been doing the same work for more than 20 years. Originally employees of Lot, they were transferred to Impel when the airline outsourced this work. When Impel lost the contract, it did not want the workers, despite the fact that it is a huge company, always hiring new people. Instead, Impel sold that company to an empty shell with no capital and activity and transferred its services to a new entity.

Two groups of workers went to court. When the judge in the first case established that in fact Impel Airport Services was the employer of those workers, a relationship which never ended (since they were not legally dismissed), the new owner of the empty company just told the workers that it was going bankrupt. The owner of that „new“ company has ties to Impel.

Other workers have joined us and besides highlighting this case, we have started a campaign against Impelization. Tens of thousands of workers have had their jobs Impelized when their employer cut their long-standing, permanent jobs and contracted Impel instead. Among the most affected are hospital staff. More information about the campaigns can be found on the ZSP webpage in different languages. [zsp.net.pl](http://zsp.net.pl)

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## Historical Events in Warsaw

Throughout the month of August, the ZSP organized and participated in a number of events dedicated to the wartime ZSP and its involvement in the Warsaw Uprising.

The main event was a conference at the Warsaw Uprising Museum. There one could find out a lot about the role of ZSP in the Uprising and also about the pre-war syndicalist movements in Poland and their influences. Besides this, there were trips to historic places associated with ZSP and also to the cemetery.

More information about these events can be found at [zsp.net.pl](http://zsp.net.pl)



## Anarchosyndicalists in Support of Workers Stranded in Uruguay

Workers from the company Termoelektro were sent to work in Uruguay but were not paid and are stranded. They are owed 10,000 USD and have no way to get home. Comrades from the Anarchosyndicalist Initiative in Serbia are coordinating international protests, faxes and emails to the companies involved, which include the Austrian Kresta, Almag in Serbia and Montes de Plata in Uruguay. A comrade from Uruguay is also helping out. The seven workers have been protesting in Montevideo and are on hunger strike.

The Kresta company is refusing to help the workers until they sign new contracts in which they would waive their claims to the entire amount they were supposed to have earned in Uruguay.

Some other workers, who could not even read the documents they presented, signed them so that they could at least return home. Other workers have decided to fight for what they are owed.

Workers from other countries such as Turkey, Romania, Croatia and Bosnia have also been cheated.

The workers were from Almag company and were subtracted to Kresta's business in Uruguay, Felbok.

According to the law in Uruguay, all the companies involved are equally responsible for these workers.

Letters in support of the workers can be sent to Kresta Industries by fax or email:

**Fax: +43 (0) 4358 3811 – 199**  
**info@kresta-industries.com**

