



News Release

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Global Security Giant Group 4 Securicor Focus of First Ever International Day of Action to End Human Rights Abuses

Thousands of Trade Unionists in Nearly Two Dozen Countries Unite Across Borders, Deliver Official Complaint to Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development Regarding G4S' Unlawful Behavior

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of trade unionists in nearly two dozen countries, are uniting across borders on December 12 for the first ever international day of action to end the human rights abuses by global security giant Group 4 Securicor (G4S), the parent company of the U.S. government's largest supplier of private guards, Wackenhut. London-based G4S is the world's largest multinational security corporation employing 400,000 people in more than 100 countries, but it doesn't behave as an industry leader should according to the Alliance for Justice at G4S. The alliance is made up of G4S workers who are members of unions around the world brought together by Union Network International (UNI) Property Services Global Union.

"In too many countries, G4S abuses worker rights and internationally agreed labor standards," said Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Network International. "We are calling on the company to turn this record around and live up to its global responsibilities as a leader in this sector." UNI will deliver an official complaint to the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) as part of the global day of action. The complaint asks the UK government to investigate the allegations of wrongdoing, facilitate an urgent meeting between UNI and G4S and conduct a fact-finding mission if necessary.

On Dec. 12 G4S workers in more than 20 countries will take action to highlight the company's poor practices by marching in the streets, outreaching to G4S clients and educating hundreds of thousands of union members about G4S' abusive behavior to workers internationally. Here, Wackenhut's poor practices will be highlighted outside Bank of America headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. Bank of America is one of Wackenhut's largest clients outside the federal government.

In the United States, judges and arbitrators have repeatedly found in recent years that G4S' local subsidiary, Wackenhut, routinely interferes with its workers' right to affiliate with any of the unions that represent security officers in the U.S. G4S is defying a government order to pay US\$1.36 million in back wages to workers in Mozambique. In Greece, workers report that when they tried to speak out about G4S' illegal withholding of wages, they were demoted and threatened with physical violence. In Panama,

workers have maintained a vigil at the G4S office for more than two months to protest bad working conditions and unfair firings. These are a few of the many examples of G4S' ongoing unlawful actions toward their workers worldwide.

As G4S workers unite for dignity and respect worldwide, G4S is believed to be preparing bids for key international security contracts such as the World Cup in South Africa (2010) and the London Olympics (2012). The Alliance for Justice at G4S' view is that G4S track record on workers' rights must be considered when these contracts are awarded.

"In many of the countries where G4S operates, there is a pattern of disregard for the home country's labor laws, refusal to honor court decisions, aggressive battles against union campaigns for improvements and refusal to recognize unions," according to an Alliance for Justice at G4S resolution, signed by 19 unions representing more than 132,000 G4S employees.

"It's important to realize that there cannot be a national answer to this kind of problem because all decisions taken by the company at the national level are decided at the central headquarters of G4S," said Vaggelis Pallis of the Greek Federation of Security Personnel. "The workers must have one collective reaction at an international level," he continued.

This first ever Alliance for Justice at G4S day of action comes just weeks after unions—including the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)--sent representatives to meet with G4S union members from throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America at a global strategy session. There, G4S workers shared their experiences, laid plans for the international day of action, chartered a resolution and identified the following goals of the burgeoning alliance: ensure that G4S respects universal human values and human rights everywhere; ensure that all workers in the industry have the opportunity to join a strong union and receive decent treatment including a living wages and social protection. The alliance also created a committee to negotiate with the company and is calling on G4S to negotiate a global framework agreement with UNI as other leading security companies such as Securitas, ISS and Falck have done.

Notes to Editors:

To view the OECD complaint, the Alliance for Justice at G4S' resolution, or for more information, send an e-mail to property@union-network.org or visit:

www.union-network.org/property
www.focusongroup4securicor.org

To view Wackenhut's poor performance domestically, visit:
www.EyeOnWackenhut.com