



**For Immediate Release**  
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**South Africa's Largest Security Firm is at the Center of a Global Dispute**  
**Trade Unionists Encourage South Africa Football**  
**Association to Rule Out Group 4 Securicor as a Security**  
**Provider for World Cup Games**

Group 4 Securicor, South Africa's largest provider of security guards and a likely bidder to provide security for the 2010 World Cup games, is coming under fire from trade unionists across the globe. According to trade unionists who recently gathered in Luxembourg to discuss how to institute reforms at world's largest private security provider, Group 4 is frequently leading the opposition to better pay and conditions for security workers.

"G4S doesn't always respect workers' fundamental rights or even the laws of the country where it operates," said Jackson Simon, security organizer for SATAWU, one of the unions that attended the Luxembourg gathering sponsored by UNI Global Union. "In an industry characterized by poor working conditions, low wages and rampant casualization, Group 4 has earned a reputation here in South Africa as one of the worst employers."

According to the African trade unionists, throughout the continent --in Mozambique, Malawi, Uganda, Congo and Kenya -- Group 4 Securicor has established a discernable pattern of behaviour --disregarding home country's labour laws, refusing to honor court decisions, leading aggressive battles against union campaigns for improvements and refusing to recognize unions.

In Mozambique, the country's labor minister revoked the work permit of Group 4 Securicor's managing director Jon Mortimer, who refused to obey a Labour Ministry order to make redundancy payments to about 250 security guards the firm laid off. The guards were employed by Wackenhut, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of G4S. They were protecting various premises of the US embassy in Maputo.

In Malawi, the company was taken to court for failing to pay overtime to officers. While the court ruled in favor of the workers who brought the suit, Group 4 refused to respect the court decision. Workers have appealed to the Minister of Labour to intervene.

In the U.S., the company is undermining attempts by the US civil rights community and labour unions to improve conditions in the industry that is increasingly dominated by African American

workers. National organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the organization founded by Martin Luther King Jr. and members of the Congressional Black Caucus are all supporting security workers as they seek to organize unions to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Group 4 Securicor is now the subject of an OECD complaint brought by UNI Global Union with the UK government. The complaint charges the company with violating the OECD guidelines on sustainable development and workers' right to organise into unions.

With 400,000 employees, Group 4 Securicor is the largest private security employer in the world. It has operations in 104 countries.

A letter detailing many of these concerns was sent to Danny Jordan, CEO of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Local Organising Committee. The letter read in part, "We ask that you make clear to G4S that the company will only be eligible to provide security services at the World Cup if it changes course and treats workers and their representatives around the world with respect."

To receive a copy of the FIFA letter, email Christy Hoffman at [Christy.hoffman@union-network.org](mailto:Christy.hoffman@union-network.org). For more information visit [www.union-network.org](http://www.union-network.org) and [www.focusongroup4securicor.org](http://www.focusongroup4securicor.org).