



News Release

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BRITISH SECURITY FIRM GROUP 4 SECURICOR IS FOCUS FOR GLOBAL UNION ACTION

London: UK-based Group 4 Securicor will be the focus of international trade union action, along with retailing giant Wal-Mart. UNI—the Geneva-based Global Union—will ask 1,500 trade unionists from six continents at a conference in Chicago today to call upon Group 4 Securicor's "customers and decision-makers in both the public and private sector to re-consider relationships with a company that is actively denying the rights of its employees."

Andrew L. Stern, President of SEIU, said: "Group 4 Securicor refuses to accept it has labour problems, despite ongoing disputes in South Africa, Kenya, India, Indonesia, the UK and the US. It is time to let its clients know the truth to prevent Group 4 lowering employment standards in every country in which it operates."

Phillip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI, said: "We are posting letters today to the London 2012 Olympic Committee asking them to bar Group 4 Securicor from bidding for valuable security contracts that will be put out to tender for the development and operation of London's Olympic facilities. Employment and security standards should be a key criteria in the selection process and Group 4 Securicor has demonstrated time and time again that it can't deliver on either." The letters will be sent to key decision makers such as Lord Coe and Mayor Ken Livingstone.

Trade union leaders from around the world are making plans in Chicago to support each other with resources, sharing of experiences, training, staff, and other assistance in order to persuade global security companies such as Group 4 Securicor to observe basic principles of respect for workers and the public wherever they operate.

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Notes to Editors:

* The European Parliament's own security contractor is set to be investigated as the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs has agreed to scrutinise the labour practices of Group 4 Securicor, around the world.

* The hearing will take place on 15th September 2005 and will see the company questioned in front of the Committee about its approach to labour relations in the U.S. and the effect this is having on its European operations.

* European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) released a statement on 26th June 2005 calling on the European Parliament to reviews its contract with Group 4 Securicor. <<http://www.etuc.org/a/1415>>;

* The motion set down at UNI's conference in Chicago is as follows:

"Congress calls on all UNI affiliates to undertake measures to hold this company accountable for its increasingly anti-union behaviour worldwide. Congress requests affiliates to actively support the ongoing campaign of UNI Property Services. In cooperation with their national centres and other unions, they should consider the wide customer base of this company and wherever possible, call on customers and decision-makers in both the public and private sectors to re-consider relationships with a company which is actively denying the rights of its employees to job security, to benefits and to justice in their employment until this anti-union behaviour is ceased everywhere and the company enters into a global agreement with UNI to guarantee the rights of all its employees worldwide."

* UNI represents 900 service sector worker organisations in 150 countries.

* SEIU is largest and fastest-growing trade union in the United States, with 1.8 million members.