



AGM Workers Tour

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GROUP 4 SECURICOR UNDER FIRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Next week workers from Indonesia, India, Uganda and the United States will attend the AGM of UK-based global security firm Group 4 Securicor to demand that the senior management halt the abuse of human rights that is being perpetrated by its subsidiaries around the world.

The workers have been forced to travel to the UK to tackle Group 4 Securicor's global management team as the company's subsidiaries in their own countries are said to be violating local laws and customs by attacking their labour rights.

Former U.S. Congressman David Bonior, a senior Democrat and Chair of American Rights at Work, an NGO that campaigns for workers' rights and corporate social responsibility, will participate in the G4S workers tour and attend the AGM. He said: "When hard-working, low-wage security officers face human rights abuses in foreign countries it is certainly troubling; when you recognize that they all work for the same UK-based parent company, G4S, it is a pattern that cannot be ignored and must be dealt with at the source."

International human rights' abuses include:

- In Indonesia the Supreme Court has ruled that over 200 security workers, sacked by Securicor for going on strike over a year ago, are reinstated and paid back wages for the time that they have been without a living. The workers have attempted to return to work but have been refused entry by the company and are being intimidated by police officers and men whom the workers believe to be hired thugs.
- In India workers report that families of guards killed on the job are refused compensation by the company. On one occasion the company allegedly removed the uniform off a dead man so that it could disclaim all responsibility.
- In Uganda Group 4 Securicor's local subsidiary is refusing to join with its competitors in an effort to raise standards in the country's security industry. Despite being advised by the country's Labour Commissioner to recognise the workers' desire to form a union, the company continues to frustrate workers' efforts to organise in the interests of higher standards.



Focus on Group 4 Securicor

- In the U.S., there are *alleged* practices such as systematic racial and sex discrimination; unsafe working conditions (including weapons and ammunitions being left unattended); unfair labour practices; inappropriate hiring of convicted felons; and inadequate training.

The company insists that these are local problems to be dealt with by local management but the existence of labour disputes across the world demonstrates a broader trend which can only be dealt with by Group 4 Securicor's board and Chief Executive Nick Buckles.

Group 4 Securicor is in the spotlight of www.focusongroup4securior.com, which is an international trade union campaign to raise standards in the private security industry, following the events of 9/11.

Geneva-based Union Network International (UNI) is spearheading global demands for better training and benefits for private security officers, to create a more secure environment for the people they protect.

Notes for editors

- The 2006 Group 4 Securicor Alternative Annual Report has just been published and highlights 'The High Cost of the Low Road' in terms of human rights' abuses and the company's approach to low pay, lack of adequate training and ineffective control systems. It can be found on www.focusongroup4securior.com
- The Focus on Group 4 Securicor Campaign is an alliance of organisations led by Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
- The Group 4 Securicor AGM will take place on Thursday 29th June at Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA at 2.00 pm.