

WTO – WORLD DAY OF ACTION – GLOBAL UNIONS



The ITF Affiliated Seafarers Union and the Rail and Maritime Transport Workers Union joined other Unions, Community Groups and Activists protesting at the excesses of the globalisation model as promoted by the WTO and IMF.

There was strong support at the Nov. 9 rally in Midland Park, Wellington, New Zealand for the call of Council of Trade Unions President, Ross Wilson for Fairer Trade to help workers achieve their goals. He highlighted the need for rules and laws to allow unionisation and bargaining and the proper conduct of employers under International Labour Standards.

He also condemned slave labour and child labour regimes still supported by a number of countries. His call on behalf of all workers was to make globalisation work for all people.

In Christchurch Unions, Activists and Community Groups met in a shopping Mall and marched to the local premises of four multinational companies; Starbucks, Nike, Telecom and Westpac Trust Bank. Outside each a speaker explained the exploitive practises of each.

This action preceded the opening of the World Trade Organisation in Doha, Qatar. NZCTU Secretary Paul Goulter was in Doha to join other unionists to challenge the failure of WTO policies to deliver to workers. Policies of the WTO must include workers issues and decisions should be made in consultation with workers. The Union movement is determined to stop destructive globalisation where comparative advantage is sought and gained through the violation of fundamental workers' rights.