

Workers International Memorial Day

Thursday 28th April 2011

Remember the dead – Fight for the living!



PROGRAM

Gather Tower Hill 9.30am

At the statue of the Unknown Building Worker, Tower Hill next to the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. Speakers, followed by a minutes silence for all those killed from work activities.

March 10.30am

Protest March heading towards the Mayor's Office on the opposite side of Tower Bridge Road.

On 3rd May 2012 up to five million Londoners will vote to elect the Mayor of London. We intend to invite the current Mayor Boris Jonsen and main opposition candidate – Ken Livingston – to tell us what they intend to do to oppose cuts directed by the government against the health and safety of Londoners.

Protest 12.00–2.00pm

Protest outside the Department of Work and Pensions, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9DA.

The £ billions of cuts being made by the government, aided and abetted by all the main political parties, if not stopped will totally reverse the gains made over a hundred years of struggle for workers health and safety in the U.K That is why this year's Workers Memorial Day must focus on and expose the damages from plans being hatched by the government departments.

Government cuts will mean more deaths

The Government's attacks on workplace health and safety are based on Lord Young's "Common sense, Common safety" report produced last year.

This the same Lord Young a multi-millionaire and former trade minister from the Thatcher era that has quit as enterprise adviser to David Cameron after he quoted Harold Macmillan 1957 saying that Britons had "never had it so good". Even for Cameron this was a bit too blatant when we are made to suffer due to the crisis of his rotten capitalist system.

This did not stop the government adopting his proposals on attacks on the enforcement of health and safety regulation by cuts of 35% to the Health and Safety Executive and cuts of 28% to Local Authority Environmental Health Department's budgets.

Even these figures don't reveal the full extent of the cuts being carried out. Hundreds of safety officers and asbestos managers are being made redundant; trades union safety reps are being victimised and time off to carry out their duties being severely curtailed.

Continued overleaf

Continued from page 1

The excuse being made for government cuts are false as they claim that Britain's health and safety is one of the best in the world.

The truth is that up to 1,500 are killed in work related incidents; up to 50,000 die due to work-related illnesses. The HSE only report a fraction of those killed by work each year. When they say – 'Only 152 killed by



work' last year – it does not give the full picture, and the UK Statistics Authority says the 'HSE does not produce an overall figure for work-related fatalities in Great Britain.'

There is less regulation now than 40 years ago; less time required by employers; less

inspection of workplaces – only once in 38 years; only 1 in 13 major and fatal injuries even investigated; less prosecutions: down 50% over 10 years. They now intend to go further – the 35% cut to the HSE budget will mean even fewer inspections and prosecutions.

The government's claim that workplace compensation culture is rife is a lie. The truth is that less than 10% of workers made ill, injured and the families of those killed by work get any sort of compensation.

Workers are made ill and killed every day due to employer's failings. Those workplaces with trade unions and safety representative's have half as many injuries as those which do not, that is why workers must get more involved, come forward join a trade union and become trades union safety reps, oppose the government and its attacks on workers health and safety – it's only our actions that will save lives and prevent damage to health.

**Join us and attend 2011
Workers Memorial Day**

**Construction Safety Campaign
07747 795 954**

Blacklisting

In March 2009, the Information Commissioner (a government agency) uncovered an illegal blacklist operating in the construction industry on behalf of 44 of the largest construction companies.

Recently Enfield based electrician Frank Morris was sacked from working on the prestigious Media Centre at the Olympics after blowing the whistle on the use of an illegal blacklist on the construction project. This has been allowed to be carried because of the failure of the previous Labour government to follow up what the Information Commission had revealed and bringing in laws to stop construction companies from continuing to blacklist workers.

Since the Information Commission discovery that over 3,200 construction workers have been listed on the Consulting Association blacklist – very few workers have bothered to take out prosecutions against the construction companies involved with the information commission. They have not done so because the law concerning blacklisting is totally inadequate. Blacklisting is insidious – it destroys employment prospects more than anything else. For some it's a life sentence of unemployment. That is why it is vital that far greater punishment should be handed out to employers concerned. Far higher levels of protection for workers must be given and far higher levels of compensation, including life-time compensation should be paid.

Justice for Shrewsbury Pickets

As a consequence of the successful building workers strike in 1972, 24 building workers in the North West were charged with conspiracy.

All 24 Shrewsbury Pickets framed and convicted in 1973 under the 1875 Conspiracy Act were blacklisted afterwards. Six were jailed. Among these were Ricky Tomlinson, now a well-known actor, sentenced to two years and Des Warren, who was sentenced to three years. The court didn't have to prove they met to conspire, the fact they met to carry out picketing was sufficient.

Des and Ricky went on hunger strike while in prison with Des' health suffering as a result. His health continued to deteriorate after leaving prison because of "the liquid cosh" given to him by the prison authorities.

Today the CSC, alongside many others, continues to fight for justice for the Shrewsbury Pickets. The injustice they suffered means this issue will never go away. We need to step up support for the National Campaign for Justice for Shrewsbury Pickets; the aim – to overturn these convictions – needs the support of all workers.