

Continental Tire Has Earned a World-Wide Anti-Union Reputation!!!

International Solidarity—Day of Action Against Continental Tire's Attacks on Workers December 13th 2006

Seven unions from six different countries, including: Brazil (CNQ/CUT), Argentina (SUTNA), Ecuador (Comité de Empresa de los Trabajadores de ERCO), Mexico (SNTGTM), Germany (IGBCE, IG Metall) and the U.S. (USW), will join today to express their rejection of the anti-worker practices of Continental AG. We are joining together to combat Continental's plan to weaken or destroy unions at its world-wide operations and protect workers rights. Our unions are supported by the international union federations, ICEM, FUTINAL, and SNQ/Força Sindical.

We chose this week to commemorate the anniversary of 600 Euzkadi Tire workers in Guadalajara, Mexico, who after a three year strike, reached an agreement with Continental to save their plant and start a workers' cooperative.

World-Wide Union Reports:

- **Mexico:** Continental created "shell companies" that it uses to outsource our work. This practice jeopardizes workers' job and retirement security. We have filed lawsuits in 2005 against the company for this reason. In addition, there is a high level of workplace accidents.
- **Ecuador:** Ecuadorian Rubber Company (ERCO), a Continental joint venture, has made changes to the incentive system in violation of its collective bargaining agreement with the Enterprise Committee that represents the workers. These changes to this system hurt our incomes and force our union to present our claims before the Labor Authorities; causing a high degree of conflict between workers and management. With the complicity of the labor authorities, ERCO is refusing to negotiate with the Enterprise Committee. The workers believe that ERCO is accusing them of inefficiency as a pretext to shut down the plant as was done in Charlotte, North Carolina. ERCO's goal is to eliminate the Union and the Enterprise Committee.
- **Argentina:** We believe Continental is a multinational company whose policy is to improve its economic position through the exploitation of the workers of the world. Let's be alert brothers and sisters in Argentina. Continental is already here.
- **Brazil:** Workers of Continental in Bahia are united in the fight for better working conditions, health and safety, and salaries. We want to construct global unity for workers.
- **United States:** 2,300 workers at two union facilities lost their jobs when tire production was ended, while Continental expanded its only nonunion facility. Workers rights violations are pending in U.S. labor courts. Continental is forcing retired workers to use as much as three quarters of their pension monies to purchase health insurance or be without it.
- **Germany:** Management tried to ignore the agreement with the worker representatives and the union, IGBCE that the tire plant in Hannover should continue up to 2008. After mass rallies and a national work stoppage in every Continental plant, the management was forced back to the table. As a result, the announced plant closure of a totally profitable tire plant was postponed, and the management will offer as many jobs in other Continental plants in Hanover as possible.



CONTINENTAL TIRE

What Can You Do?

1. Wear the Solidarity Sticker
2. Tell your boss you support your union and your union co-workers around the world.