

## SOLIDAR NETWORK AT 104<sup>TH</sup> SESSIONS OF THE ILO CONFERENCE



**solidar**

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL

On July 2012, the members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously voted for the adoption of the Recommendation 202 on National Floors of Social Protection (R202). The Recommendation engages Governments to ensure that all people residing on their territories have access to (at least) four basic social protections guarantees: access to essential health care, income security for children, for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, and for older people.

Trade Unions and representative NGOs have a key role in ensuring that R 202 is

- submitted to the competent State's authorities
- properly implemented in consultation and with the participation of "all relevant and representative organizations of people concerned" (ILO R202, art. 3 (r))
- the first step towards the development of universal and comprehensive social protection systems

In the framework of its advocacy and campaign work to promote Decent Work and Social Protection for All and to highlight the European Year for Development month dedicated to Decent Jobs, **between the 1 and the 4 of June, SOLIDAR together with its Members - SOLIDAR Suisse, FOS-Solidaristische Solidariteit and Solidarité Socialiste - will attend the 104<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Organization's Conference in Geneva to support the demands of its partners – Asmade (Burkina Faso), the Egyptian Center for Economic Social and Cultural Rights (Egypt), and the Coordinadora Sindical de trabajadores azucareros (El Salvador)- for Freedom of Association, Decent Work and Universal Access to Health. A Roundtable debate – with the presence of ILO ACTRAV- will take place on Tuesday 2 June to present their demands and their work (you can find the programme [here](#)).**

From today on, a special focus will be dedicated each of them.

## FOCUS ON SUGAR CANE WORKERS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Historically, the sugarcane cut workers (over 30,000 people in the time of harvest) have not enjoyed fundamental trade union and labor rights such as freedom of association, social security, fair wages, protection equipment and working tools.

To overcome this situation and give a voice to these workers, on 22 September 2013, the trade union SITRACAÑA was established.

**"Independent trade union organizations are key to ensure that workers, informal or formal, have decent work, with access to social protection"** says Noé Nerio (Coordinadora Sindical de Trabajadores Azucareros,

El Salvador).

On January this year, SITRACAÑA filed a complaint to the Committee on Freedom of Association of the ILO. The case concerns the violation of the trade union protection rights, enshrined in national and international legislation (namely Convention N. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise), to the detriment of the members of SITRACAÑA Governing Body and all its members and affiliates.

**In this context, Noé Nerio, of the Sugar Workers Union Coordination of El Salvador and Secretary General of the trade union CUTS, will be in Geneva during the forthcoming International Labour Conference to seek international support for sugarcane cut workers fight for freedom of association and push the government of El Salvador to**

**1. Proceed to the recognition of SITRACAÑA representatives in order to allow workers to claim, through their trade union, their most basic rights and thereby to improve their living conditions and those of their families.**

**2. Commit to establish a tripartite social dialogue to analyze and improve the working conditions of sugar cane cutters and define joint alternatives.**

These demands have been transmitted to the Minister of Employment and Social Security with a [letter](#) sent this week by CUTS and the MUSYGES (Movimiento de Unidad Sindical y Gremial de El Salvador).

To know more about sugar cane workers in El Salvador, watch [FOS video](#) (in Spanish with Dutch subtitles).

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**TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2015 | 18:45 – 20:00**

**FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND A PHOTO EXHIBITION**

**‘SUGAR CANE WORKERS IN EL SALVADOR: FIGHTING FOR DECENT WORK’**

EN | FR | ES

Online registration for this event can be done [here](#) until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 12:00 am.

**LOCATION**

MAISON INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS  
15 RUE DES SAVOISES  
SALLE MAHATMA GANDHI  
GENEVE, SWITZERLAND

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