

Equal Times newsletter: Egypt, Haiti, Qatar and more

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To: Veerle Solia

**= OUR FIRST MONTH**

It has been a month since the official launch of Equal Times and now it's time for the next stage: the launch of our newsletter. Published every two weeks, the Equal Times newsletter will round-up the best of our web highlights, as well as our campaigns and forthcoming stories.

We would like to thank you all for the overwhelming interest you have shown in our website, sharing our stories, posting comments and sending us your ideas. Keep them coming! Equal Times is an online community and your input is vital to its development.

Over the last few weeks we have reported on some of the fundamental changes that are taking place in the world of work and in wider society. From Egypt to Mexico, our writers have covered the protests against the attempts to further weaken social and labour rights, often under the pretext of the economic crisis.

Our contributors have also raised issues of socially sustainable development and put forward innovative proposals. How about creating a social protection floor in least developed countries to ensure food security? And what is the relation between employment and biodiversity?

Equal Times is also a campaign website and we are excited about our first campaign "Qatar: Do the right thing". Over 90 per cent of working people in Qatar are migrants with no labour rights. No wonder that more people are likely to die building Qatar's World Cup stadiums than will play in the next World Cup. That is why we invite you to join the campaign today and fill the Al-Rayyan Stadium in Doha.

Vittorio Longhi
Editor

= NEWS**A REVOLUTION DEFERRED: EGYPTIAN WOMEN DEMAND CHANGE**

Posted on October 9, 2012

The rise of the independent trade union is one of the revolution's most significant achievements. But women's issues are not among the priorities.

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THE DOMINICAN DREAM TURNED NIGHTMARE FOR HAITIAN MIGRANTS

Posted on October 15, 2012

Tens of thousands of Haitians flee poverty every year to try their luck in the neighbouring country, the Dominican Republic. Most of them, not having the travel documents required, turn to traffickers to help them cross the border illegally.

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GREENING THE ECONOMY: HOW BIODIVERSITY CREATES JOBS

Posted on October 19, 2012

Nearly a quarter of all plant species are estimated to be threatened by extinction. Since 2000, six million hectares of primary forest have been lost each year. More than a third (35 per cent) of mangroves have disappeared in just 20 years.

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= CAMPAIGN

NO WORLD CUP WITHOUT WORKERS' RIGHTS



More people will die building Qatar's World Cup stadiums than will play in the World Cup

1.2 million workers in Qatar are prohibited from joining a trade union, in violation of international rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. And incredibly, 94 per cent of working people in Qatar are migrant workers, with no rights at work. We want people to know about the problems facing workers in Qatar. Don't let your World Cup team play in a shamed stadium. Help us tell the Qatari authorities they should do the right thing for workers and allow them to form and join a trade union.

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= COMING SOON

OCCUPATION: HAZARDOUS. THE PLIGHT OF BANGLADESHI CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Dhaka's construction workers not only build high rises for low pay but they also endure extortion and terrible working conditions

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