

## HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INDIVISIBLE WORLDWIDE!

SOLIDAR, formerly International Workers' Aid, and our members have a long tradition in supporting human rights activists. In 1936, our Swiss member supported refugees coming from the Spanish Republic; in 1953, our Austrian member supported those coming from Hungary; and this is to name but a few.

Since the occupation of the Western Sahara in 1976, SOLIDAR member organisations have been very active, and today, 10 members are involved in solidarity actions. In last week's newsletter we informed you of the [situation of Aminattou Haidar](#), a human rights activist and activist for the cause of her country, the Western Sahara. SOLIDAR is also very proud that she accepted the Silver Rose Award in 2007. Now it is time to show solidarity with her! Read Aminattou's call that was sent to us yesterday below ([original French version](#)) - Conny Reuter, Secretary General

"Dear friends,

First of all I would like to greet SOLIDAR and all the friends who work there for the promotion of solidarity, justice, peace and development around the world. I would also like to let you know how proud I am to have been a Silver Rose Award winner in 2007. I am infinitely grateful to my friends in SOLIDAR and am honoured by this symbol of friendship and solidarity.

I write to you today with great urgency from Lanzarote (Spain) where I am carrying out an unlimited hunger strike to defend my inalienable rights to liberty and dignity; especially my right to be immediately repatriated to my country, the Western Sahara, and more precisely the city of El Aiun where I normally live.

I was detained at the airport of El Aiun on the 13 November 2009, after returning from a trip to the USA - via the Spanish Canary Islands - where I received a prize for civil courage from the Train Foundation. For 24 hours I underwent interrogations and humiliations; my passport was seized before I was expelled *manu militari* by the occupying Moroccan forces on the 14 November 2009, without my passport, to Lanzarote (Spain). I am currently there at the moment, against my will. The competent Spanish authorities are also stopping me from going back to the Western Sahara where my people live. I'm longing to go back to my family, especially my two children (Hayat, 15 and Mohamed, 13), my mother and my sisters, from whom I am separated by force.

I am demanding :

- My immediate repatriation to my land, the Western Sahara, specifically to the city of El Aiun where I normally live.
- The respect of my dignity as a human being, and the return of all my confiscated documents, including my passport.
- The condemnation without appeal of the political repression and systematic human rights violations conducted by Morocco, as well as its illegal occupation of the Western Sahara.

Aminattou Haidar

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### SOLIDAR PUTS FORWARD 16 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU's 2020 STRATEGY

On 24 November, the EU launched a consultation process for the EU's next 10 year strategy. SOLIDAR is disappointed in the lack of focus on social issues in the document accompanying the consultation launch, and has put together our [16 recommendations](#) to the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council on how to ensure decent work and quality jobs in Europe for 2020.

### TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL EUROPE: NATIONAL SEMINAR IN AUSTRIA

On 17 December, a national event in the framework of the [Together for Social Europe campaign](#), will take place in Vienna, to celebrate the international day against violence against sex workers. The event will take the shape of an open day organised by soph!ie, an education centre for sex workers,

facilitated by SOLIDAR Austrian member Volkshilfe. Read the [invitation](#) and find more information about the [other national seminars...](#)

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### SAHARAWI PARLEMENTARIANS DEMAND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO RELEASE AMINATTOU HAIDAR

This week, SOLIDAR meet with two Saharawi parlementarians from the Saharawi Arabic Democratic Republic. Aicha Sidi Brahim and Mohamed Aba Cheikh both expressed their concern over the lack of support from the international community concerning the 30 year-long yet often neglected conflict for the Western Sahara. They emphasised the point saying that there is a real need to raise awareness among European political and public opinion on the situation in the occupied Western Sahara. They also highlighted the urgency for action regarding the case of Aminattou Haidar and the recent detention of several groups of Saharawi activists, which have fuelled growing tension between the parties over the Western Sahara negotiations - a concern also expressed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon this 24 November.

Read [Aminattou's call](#) for her release from yesterday. [Read more](#) about the detention of Human Rights activists in Morocco and the Western Sahara. Read an [interview](#) with Aminattou Haidar.

### GLOBAL NETWORK EUROPE - INFORMATION AND COORDINATION ROUND TABLE IN SARAJEVO

While the Global Jobs Pact - agreed by the ILO in June this year as a decent work response to the crisis - calls for "priority attention to protecting and growing employment through sustainable enterprises, quality public services and building adequate social protection for all as part of ongoing international and national action to outcome of the aid recovery and development", the conditions set in IMF loans may often make these commitments hard to fulfill.

With this backdrop, in the framework of the Global Network Europe project, SOLIDAR organised a first information and coordination round table in Sarajevo on Tuesday 24 November. The round table gathered representatives from the ILO, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, European Commission Delegation, and Trade Unions to discuss the impact of the crisis on Decent Work in Bosnia & Herzegovina, undertake a mapping of existing activities to promote decent work and identify elements for possible joint campaign and advocacy actions on Decent Work. The outcome of the meeting will be discussed during at the next Global Network Europe event which will take place in Belgrade on December 9-10. For more information, contact [Barbara](#).

### SOLIDAR IN DELEGATION TO GENEVA FOR MINISTERIAL TALKS ON DOHA ROUND

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy has convened a Ministerial in Geneva on 30 November-2 December, almost ten years to the day of the Seattle ministerial which was marred by protests and opposition from civil society. The atmosphere will this time be somewhat different but on key questions surround global trade the scenario has not shifted much. The Doha Development Round, launched in 2001, has born little fruit and due to the fact that key players cannot agree on some important issues such as agriculture and liberalisation in industrial goods, the ministerial will not involve any formal negotiations but simply a lot of side-meetings and discussion around the WTO's contribution to the solutions to the global crisis.

SOLIDAR and our partners in the Global Network as well as our allies in the trade union movement will be there to participate in the discussions that will take place between institutions, decision makers, academics, social movements and civil society. In our capacity as members of the EU DG Trade Civil Society Contact Group, we will be a part of the formal EU delegation and will play our part in facilitating the information flow from the European Commission to the civil society groups who will not have access to the EU briefings. Nevertheless, the secrecy and intransparency of the negotiations remains a major concern for SOLIDAR, as does the fact that despite the financial crisis, brought about by financial deregulation and liberalisation, our leaders are still calling for a conclusion to this round of negotiations which could have harmful effects on people everywhere. For more information,

contact [Andrea](#).

## EDUCATION

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) announced the launch of its new website which has been redesigned to better meet the needs of members and others in the education and training community. [Visit the website...](#)

## MEMBERS NEWS

On 24 November **Volkshilfe** from Austria kicked off a campaign called "Stop Poverty!" [Read more about it...](#)

Read a [press release](#) by **Movimiento por la Paz** on Serbian authorities visiting Spain to consolidate a legal aid system in their country.

Read the **ARCI** [newsletter](#)...

**CSV / VOLONTEUROPE** is disseminating information about a conference organised by the European Commission on the European Year for Volunteering 2011 which will take place on 16 December 2009 in Brussels. [For more information and to register...](#)

Read the **Banana Link** Trade [News Bulletin](#)...

## PARTNERS NEWS

Read a [report](#) commissioned by the **Third Sector European Network (TSEN)** published in October 2009 to review the evidence of the impacts of the European Social Fund (ESF) programme...

Read the [invitation](#) from **Foco** to a conference on climate Change and the upcoming Copenhagen Summit.

The **European Disability Forum (EDF)** is looking for a [communication trainee](#).

European Women's NGOs demand European action to end male violence against women. Read their press statement ([EN](#) | [FR](#)).

The jury of the French National Consultant Committee for Human Rights in France selected the **Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)** as one of the five winners for the French Republic Human Rights Award 2009. [Read more...](#)

## AGENDA

2	SOLIDAR Round Table: social/active inclusion and decent work in Europe, Brussels
3	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels
9-10	Global Network Europe Seminar, Belgrade
12	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award 10th Anniversary, European Parliament

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SOLIDAR is a European network of 53 NGOs and labour movement organisations. Working in cooperation with progressive civil society and trade unions, SOLIDAR promotes equality, solidarity and social justice in the fields of social affairs, international cooperation and education. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from the SOLIDAR Network. If you have any comments or wish to have further information on any of the articles featured in the

Weekly Round Up, please do not hesitate to contact [SOLIDAR's Communications Officer](#)

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