

International Labour Office: a workshop in Turin on putting an end to media neglect of work throughout the world

Original article written by Fabrizio Salvatori and published in *Liberazione* on 25 October 2007

Without labour rights, even information rights come to nothing. This observation gave the ILO (International Labour Office) the idea of holding the first workshop for journalists on the state of rights in the globalized world of work, in Turin. The course will be attended by about 30 media workers, the vast majority of whom come from developing countries. It will be a chance not only to let them know about standards concerning labour rights and working conditions but also to take an all-encompassing look at places where the battle for rights has made some progress. The course, which will take place in Turin from 29 October to 2 November, was presented to the public at the national headquarters of the FNSI, the Italian journalists' union. This was to underline the very close link between labour rights and all aspects of information rights. Statistics reveal them to be two sides of the same coin. Where labour rights are treated with most contempt is also where the media are most heavily muffled, with grave consequences for the ability of media professionals to operate. According to the FNSI secretary, Paolo Serventi, the repression of journalists "is already at unsupportable levels" in the world. "And it is in the developing countries," he added, "that journalists are in the weakest position". The ILO's Cecilia Brighi accordingly pointed out the need for greater coverage of awareness-raising campaigns to bring to light the dramatic situation in countries like China. The workshop will also be a chance to make known the work of the ILO, which publishes highly detailed reports every year on the state of trade union rights, discrimination, child labour and forced labour. All those who spoke were unanimous in their opinion that on work, especially on international work, there was a total news black-out.