

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS
JEUNESSE OUVRIERE CHRETIENNE INTERNATIONALE
JUVENTUD OBRERA CRISTIANA INTERNACIONAL



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PRESS RELEASE

"Guarantee our Jobs!"- Young Rural Workers voice their demands at the ILC

"To reach the Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction, we must have decent, secure jobs, and social protection guaranteed", says Thiruvalluvar Yovel, president of the International Young Christian Workers movement (IYCW).

As part of its global campaign for social protection, a delegation of young workers from the IYCW have presented their demands to the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva during the meeting of the 'Committee on the Promotion of Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction'.

"We need to empower workers in rural communities through policies that give them a stable income: not just to fulfil their needs, but to recognise their valuable contribution to society" says Mr. Yovel.

The demands of the IYCW come one month after the launch of a report "Social Protection, Our Right" - based on the findings of an enquiry into the reality of informal workers and social protection.

"Our movement's findings reveal the precarious nature of employment for young workers everywhere, but in particular the poor in rural areas, depending on home-based work and agricultural seasonal and casual work. For these workers, there is no access to any protection through labour laws, labour inspection policies or social protection policies."

The IYCW movement is present in more than 48 countries, working in more than 2,000 small grassroots groups in order to motivate social change through training and formation through action. Representatives will continue to lobby for change at the local level and through partner organisations to ensure that the campaign continues to develop, before, during and after their World Council, to take place in Tamil Nadu, India, in September-October 2008.

"We don't know when we will work. We have to wait until the landowners call us, and this is never certain" says Mardiyono - a young rural worker from Indonesia.

The IYCW is asking the public to sign its petition for "Social Protection for All", as part of its campaign development towards its World Council, through its website www.jociycw.net. The movement is hoping to gain the support of its partner organisations and other social movements to insist on changes in policy in support of just and secure employment for all, including social protection against the negative effects of informal work, unemployment and temporary employment.

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