

# Those who want unions to die are murdering our members.



## March for those who can't on April 28

It's a fact. Most workers who are killed in the course of their job work for companies who are anti-union. The sort of companies who won't let unions enter on site to spot check on safety procedures. In most cases, 24 hours notice has to be given, with many companies delaying the process. In those cases, a hurried scramble takes place to try and make a site look superficially safe. (It's a bit like a quick clean up before your mother-in-law visits.)

Many workers are intimidated and threatened with the sack if they speak up. Meanwhile more workers die and families suffer. This senseless attitude to not allow unions to do their job on all sites has to stop.

April 28th, is the official 'International Day of Mourning' for killed and injured workers, as proclaimed by the United Nations.

**Join our march for those that can't. Your attendance could help to save a life. Maybe even your own.**



**RALLY AND MARCH: All members out to march: Tuesday April 28th, assemble on the Perth Esplanade by 9.30 am sharp and then march to Solidarity Park at Parliament House. All welcome.**

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING 2009

## History and statistics

In 1984, the OH&S committee of a Canadian union organisation recommended the creation of a remembrance day for workers killed or injured on the job. By 1991 the Canadian government passed legislation declaring each April 28 'a day of remembrance for workers killed or injured at work.' Recognition of this 'Workers Memorial Day' spread, and it was adopted internationally in 1996. Now the day is marked in countries all around the world.

Since 1997, the Australian union movement has observed the day with commemorative events organised by the state and territory trades and labour councils.

The day highlights the preventable nature of the majority of workplace accidents and ill health, and promotes campaigns and union organisation in the fight for improvements in workplace safety. The slogan for the day is MOURN THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

Every year around 440 workers are killed in work-related accidents (that equates to more than 8 per week). Diseases such as cancer and asbestos related illnesses cause an estimated 2,300 additional deaths per year (or 44 a week). Road accidents in Australia claim about 30 lives per week.

On April 28 each year, unions, workers and their families and friends, in over 100 countries gather to remember the men, women and children who:

- were killed or injured at work, or became sick from exposure to hazardous substances
- were tortured, imprisoned, murdered or oppressed because of their trade union activities
- suffered degradation, pollution or destruction of their communities due to unsustainable work practices.

### IN AUSTRALIA...

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- According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more that 15 serious injuries occur every hour (or 1 injury every 4 minutes).

### WORLDWIDE...

- There are at least 1.3 million worker deaths per year. This is nearly double the number of deaths due to war.
- 12,000 of those killed are children.
- Over 160 million new injuries and work related diseases are reported each year.
- International unions estimate that each year over 200 trade unionists are killed or 'disappear', 8,500 are arrested, and 3,000 injured and almost 20,000 fired for trying to improve basic working conditions.

The vast majority of work related deaths are preventable. The union movement actively campaigns on occupational health and safety, and those efforts are partly reflected by the fact that the greater the degree of unionism in a workplace, the safer it is.

***Already this year there have been 20 deaths in WA – 20 too many! We need safer work sites not grave sites.***