



ALL PAKISTAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION

Thousands Workers Mark 123rd International Labor Day with Great Fervor



A worker from All Pakistan Trade Union Federation chants slogans during a Labour Day rally in Lahore May 1, 2012. Placards in the background read in Urdu, (R-L) "Will continue fighting together", "We will keep moving forward, Give facilities to laborers

All over the world the working class commemorate the 125th martyrdom day on 1st May 2012 in respect of workers who scarified their lives for better living and working conditions.

All Pakistan Trade Union Federation hold rally to pay tribute to Chicago's martyrs in which thousands of workers including large nos of women from home based workers, textile, garment, chemical, printing, rubber, food& beverages participated. Rally led by Rubina Jamil, General Secretary APTUF, Fazal-e-Wahid, President. Its started from different industrial area and gathered in Gulberg industrial area march towards GPO, at Mall road turned into a mass rally when it reached the GPO Chowk with Pakistan Workers Confederation, Employees of WAPDA, Irrigation department as well workers of the banking, participated in the rally, which was led by Confederation General Secretary Khursheed Ahmed, Rubina Jameel, President PWC-Punjab, Akbar Ali Khan, Sultan Khan and Fazal- Wahid, President APTUF and Nasir Gulzar, Chairman APTUF and others.

Workers hold red flags, banners inscribed their demands during protest rally and chanted slogans enthusiastically” “Comrade Gulzar Zinda Bad” “Long live Chicago martyrs, Down with Imperialism”

“Longlive working class” No to foreign intervention” Change for Laborers, Peasant Raj” Women Right are Human Right” “No to anti labor code” . “We want peace, we want employment, not war, “Social security for all”” No to anti worker labor code”.

** Demonstrators demand government fix Rs. 20,000 as minimum wage for laborers*

** Call for economic, social reforms to reduce sufferings of downtrodden people]*

** Call for unity of working class for bring peace*

While addressing rally Rubina Jamil, Khursheed Ahmed, Akbar Ali, Fazal-e-Wahid, Sultan Khan, Nasir Gulzar threw light on the history and significance of May 1, and pay great tribute to Chicago’s martyrs and also Comrade Gulzar, Murza Ibrahim, Hasan Nasir and Abdurrehman who laid down their lives to protect the rights of workers and never compromise with capitalist and imperialist powers. Speaker said that the current socio-economic conditions of the working class, situation in industrial and other sectors is alarming; only 4% of the total 53 million workforces are covered under the unions. Speakers urged the government to evolve far-reaching economic and social reforms in the country in order to minimize the sufferings of the downtrodden people. Speakers criticized rulers policy, putting people in the dark, more than 10,000 industrial units close down and 10,00000 workers lost their jobs, rulers are imposing imperialist policies which is anti laborers and people, country is in the war, drone attacks are going on in which 35,0000 innocent people lost their lives, law & order situation is going worst. In Sind-Karachi target killings, kidnapping is going on. Hundreds of people are missing, in province of Balochistan and NWFP situation is deteriorated. They urged the government to overcome the menace of unemployment, price hike and load shedding, besides abolishing the outdated system of feudalism, and stopping privatization of public-sector institutions. Speakers further said that government should reinstate sacked workers of Pakistan Tele-communication NADRA, Karachi electricity and other institutions, find solution to the problems faced by paramedics, teachers clerical staff of the country and withdrawal of the condition of “minimum 50 workers for registration of a trade union” in Punjab. It was also said that working class reject anti labor codes.

Working class reject government anti workers policies, increasing Contract Labor System and we strongly condemned capitalist and local police registering false & bogus cases against trade union representative under the (Terrorist and army Act), and demand to immediately withdrawal these cases.. Brick kiln workers should registered and implement social security, minimum wage. “The labor laws of the country need to be brought into line with Article 17A of the Constitution and the international obligations that Pakistan ratify 36 ILO Convention. As you know that in informal sector economy, women are nearly 20 million, out of which approximately 12 million are home-based workers, they are the most vulnerable and the condition for agricultural workers are the same, they are 44 percent of the labor force, but the centuries-old feudal system and the hegemony of feudal class on the political system has not allowed legislation of any law for the well-being of the workers engaged at agricultural fields. So government should formulate legislation for informal sector workers.

Speakers said that the political situation is very critical, 60% young unemployed youth is moving towards criminal activities, jihadis organization hiring them, looting banks, and rulers should take serious steps towards solving the economic and social hardships facing the working class. Issues like subsidies on petroleum, sugar, ghee, rice and wheat; cheaper electricity rates for low income consumers; growing unemployment; en exploitation of peasants and the privatization of public utilities at the behest of the World Bank, eliminate Section 27B in the Banking Company Ordinance (BCO).

Speaker said that the working class showed its anger against the economic policies run by government and announce that if government not pay attention on working class /people issues, we will continue struggle united to end discriminatory system where rich is going to rich and poor is poor, and no one get justice. The working class will move forward stop discrimination, exploitation, extremism bring peace. If government not pays any attention to our hue and cry than we will start protest agitation all over the country for the acceptance of workers demands.



Pakistani women shout slogans, during a protest calling for better wages, on May Day, in Lahore, Pakistan, Tuesday, May 1, 2012.



Pakistani workers shout slogans during a rally to mark May Day, in Lahore, Pakistan, Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Long live Working Class Unity!

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All Pakistan Trade Union Federation
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Lahore-Pakistan
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