

Why French Workers Won

From Solidarity 3/92 27th April 2006

For two months growing mobilisation of French students and workers confronted the French government.

For two months, France's right-wing government said it wouldn't budge. It passed the CPE — a measure allowing bosses to sack young workers without having to prove any good cause — into law.

Then, on 10 April, the government backed down. It withdrew the CPE. Solidarity won.

Every single bit of the strike action that won in France would have been illegal in Britain.

Britain's "most restrictive labour laws in the western world", as Tony Blair smugly described them in 1997 when promising to keep them, forbid any strike action that isn't directly about your own terms and conditions with your own immediate employer.

To save the Health Service; to save our schools; to help workers in contracted-out jobs; to combat privatisation; to win workers' rights — we need solidarity action.

On 1 May workers marched in London on a TUC-backed demonstration for a Trade Union Freedom Bill to re-establish some rights to solidarity action. We should make that the start of a huge campaign.

FROM IRAN TO FRANCE

Message of Congratulations and Solidarity of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company on the victory of the workers, students and people of France. 11 April 2006.

Over the past few weeks, the people of Iran, the working people, students and our union, have been closely and with much interest following the news from France, hoping in our hearts for the victory of the just movement of the great workers' and students' unions and the people of France.

The news of this movement was inspiring and exhilarating for the imprisoned union activists in Iran. The Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company extends its congratulations and solidarity for this victory to the people of France and in particular the workers' and students' unions.

We hope that as in your country the labour rights of the working people in defence of their interests in accordance with Convention 87 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) would be fully realised in our country too as soon as possible.

In the hope of that day! With warm greetings and wishes for a better world.

Leeds June Public Meeting will be with a speaker from Iran, Call 07740009199 for more details

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