PSI in solidarity with Argentina trade unionism action against Milei’s ultraliberal measures

Dear comrades,

During Public Services International’s (PSI) 31st World Congress in October 2023, General Secretary Daniel Bertossa stated that our current global scenario is one of overlapping crises - the Covid-19 pandemic, the environmental crisis, wars and deepening inequality and poverty. However, there is another crisis: the crisis of political and democratic representation. This is a crisis in which the interests of the great majority of people are not represented, but rather, extremist minorities come to power who in the past only came to power through violent coups d'état.

This recent phenomenon (already experienced in the USA and Brazil, among others) is now being repeated in Argentina with the inauguration of the ultra-liberal conservative government of the extreme right. From the first days of its mandate, the Milei government has been working to stimulate an unprecedented ‘adjustment’ at global level. This has forced Argentinian trade unions to react swiftly by organising, mobilising and building alliances to confront regressive reforms.

PSI affiliates in Argentina, the national trade union centres and other allies in the broader trade union movement are preparing for a strike and mobilisation at the National Congress on January 24 to stop the advance of both the ‘Decree of Necessity and Urgency (DNU)’ and the so-called ‘Omnibus Law’ which contain a wide diversity of priority issues for Milei, many of with are clearly not urgent and won’t help the Argentine population to deal with the current crisis.

The decree modifies more than 300 regulations that affect and destroy critical areas of collective and public life in Argentina including health, tourism, medicines, trade, the media and regional economic integration. It presents trade unions as enemies and directly attacks the right to organise and to strike.
The ‘Omnibus Law’ has 1,649 articles that attack all areas of social and political life, including the fundamental architecture of the state. It is a law that would lead to the systematic dismantling of the public services upon which Argentinian citizens depend.

The National Strike, called by the General Central of Argentinian Workers, to which the other trade union centres (CTA-T and CTA-A), social movements and organisations, political parties, student organisations, and other allies will join, will confront and contest the use of unconstitutional legislative instruments that promote privatisation, austerity and the shrinking of the State, wage freezes, price liberalisation, precarious work, the handing over of land to foreigners, money laundering, and the increase of foreign debt.

For all of these reasons, PSI will join and promote the call for mobilisations and strikes on January 24 and fully supports the action plan of the Argentinian trade union centres.

In solidarity,

Daniel Bertossa  Federico Dávila  Britta Lejon
PSI General Secretary  PSI First Vice-President  PSI President