

**RESPECT & SAFETY NOW!**

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**International Transport Workers' Federation  
Taxi Workers Conference and  
Road Transport Sector Conference  
June 7-9, 2011  
Gothenburg, Sweden**

ITF

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CAW-Canada





## Summary

I want to thank CAW-National (in particular Peter Kennedy) for giving me the opportunity to attend the ITF Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden.

I was attending on behalf of our union as well as Harry Ghadban from the CAW Ottawa Office.

The conference was well represented by about 20 different countries and about 70 participants.

### TAXI CONFERENCE

The Taxi conference started off on the first day and it was an excellent forum to find out what is going on in other parts of the world. It doesn't seem to matter everywhere is going through the same downloading of services and moving away from typical employees in the industry. Owner Operators, Sub-leases and for daily hires are becoming the norm throughout the world. Many examples of how once company owned cars are now being privatized and then leased out to drivers to take on all the responsibilities and away from any normal employee / employer relationships. Some Taxi companies are hanging onto the old ways and trying to establish the best service practice available. In Sweden there is a successful "Fair Conditions" campaign in Gothenburg that encourages Taxi companies and drivers to sign on with this campaign to show pride and excellence in the industry.



Harry Ghadban speaking to one of the Taxi Drivers displaying his Taxi during the conference. "Fair Conditions" Campaign.

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It was very interesting to hear the country reports on the impact of deregulation to the taxi industry and its impact on the working conditions, employment status and trade union organizing that is going on.

Harry Ghadban (CAW Area Director Ottawa) gave an excellent report on the taxi industry in Canada and his expertise was greatly appreciated by all in attendance. Brother Ghadban also took part in the panel discussion and was a great source of information in the panel discussion.



Harry Ghadban speaking to the delegates about the Taxi industry in Canada.

The next two days we attended the Road Transport Workers' Section Conference.

The host union, (Svenska Transportarbetarefobundet) Swedish Transport Workers' Union welcomed everyone to their country and gave an overview of the work they do and especially spoke about the "Fair Conditions" campaign.

Mac Urata (ITF) and other members of the Secretariat gave a brief review of the activities of the Road Transport Workers' Section since the Section Conference in September 2009, based on the Report on Activities document.

## SOLIDARITY

We then turned to the "Solidarity" section of the conference in which the ITF Road Transport Workers' Section continues to regard promotion of workers' rights and global mobilization of solidarity as one of its top priorities in its activities. Mac Urata gave an overview of the ITF's activities in solidarity with TUMTIS in Turkey and the Tehran Bus Workers' Union in Iran.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Workplace health & safety is an important issue for road transport workers and the ITF Road Transport Workers' Section has a long history of support for affiliates challenging sub-standard health & safety. Janina Malinowska (ITF) updated us on the new initiatives that the Section has been

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involved in, including the newly-established health & safety working group in the Section and the launch of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. Malinovska also reported on the Section activities on HIV/AIDS, which includes the development of organizing programmes via wellness centres.

Mac Urata and Claire Clarke (ITF) updated the meeting on the outcomes of the recent ILO Global Dialogue Forum on container safety in the supply chain. Clarke also presented a brief overview of the ITF's "No to Violence" campaign that was launched in 2009. The delegates got to see a preview of the campaign movie on violence (ITF Film – Violence – It's Part of Our Job, But It Shouldn't Be!) after the debate.

## PRECARIOUS WORK

Lennart Skold and Hakan Lovgren (Sweden) presented a report on temporary workers.

## REPORT FROM THE ITF TAXI WORKERS' CONFERENCE

A report was then given to the conference on the Taxi Conference that was held the day before.

## QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

The ITF, working closely together with the PSI (Public Services International), and other members of the Global Union family, have been engaged in launching a major campaign for the promotion of Quality Public Services (QPS). This programme follows the successful QPS conference that the ITF, together with other Global Unions such as the PSI, held in Geneva in October 2010. Mac Urata provided an update to the meeting on the ITF's programme of activities on QPS, including the planned Action Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

## CAMPAIGNS

The ITF International Road Transport Action Week campaign has become a big and influential event in the activities of the Section. The Section Conference held during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress in Mexico City agreed that the Action Week should continue. In 2011, it will be held on October 7-14<sup>th</sup> under the slogan "Safety Now!".

I got up to the podium and spoke about how important the Action Week is and that the CAW has been involved in the Action Week for many years.

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*"Participating in the ITF "Day of Action" and now the "Week of Action" has been a great learning and educational experience for our members to participate in. We have taken "rank and file" members as well as the professional organizer out to the streets and areas that transport workers frequent throughout their work day. Using ITF material with its global message gave us the opportunity to approach workers in a more general way (with a global message to initiate conversations)".*



Bill Gaucher speaking about the ITF "Action Week" in Canada

## STRONG UNIONS – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

There was a good discussion and focus on particular strands of work that the Section has been working on since the ITF Congress in 2010 as part of the theme "Building Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport" including multinational corporations, cross-border cooperation and networking and women bus drivers and conductors. As part of the discussion, there were speakers who shared their experiences of the different projects and their activities to organize different road transport workers. For example, Nazi Kabore (ITF) reported on the ITF/SASK West Africa Road Transport Workers' Capacity Building Project and amongst other things, on the recent meeting of the ITF/UNI Global Delivery Network.

## MOTIONS

There were two document motions that were passed.

- 1) Motion to Secure Safety and Employment of Transport Workers in Times of Disasters.
- 2) The Protection of Trade Union Rights for Transport Workers.



## MANSOUR OSANLOO FREE AT LAST

The ITF was delighted to announce that imprisoned trade unionist Mansour Osanloo was freed on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from jail in Iran almost four years since his arrest and imprisonment, which set off a storm of international protest. His release is conditional on his "good behaviour" and the payment of a bond.

"He is free because trade unionist worldwide demanded justice."

Mansour Osanloo was a bus driver and is the president and one of the founding members of the Vahed Syndicate, a free trade union representing Tehran's bus workers.

I have also attached all the documents that were handed out at both conference and there is some good information in the reading.

I found the ITF conference to be a rewarding experience and very educational. I got the opportunity to speak to many road transport workers from around the world and do some networks along the way.

Harry Ghadban (CAW Ottawa Office) thanks for everything and your participation at the conference and experience in the Taxi Industry and in Road Transport helped to make this a very successful conference. I know that Mac Urata (ITF) was very impressed with you and your knowledge in the Sector.

Thanks again to CAW National (Peter Kennedy) for giving me this opportunity of a life time.



Bill Gaucher and Harry Ghadban attending the ITF Taxi and Road Transport Section Meeting in Sweden June 7-9, 2011