

Sappi Attacks South African Workers

On January 31, the USW received the following communication from Pasco Dyani, the president of CEPPWAWU, the paperworkers' union in South Africa.

Dear comrades,

2006 started with a very negative note between CEPPWAWU and Sappi in terms of our industrial relationship.

1. Last year 2005 our members were on strike at Sappi Enstra **because they were alleging that the company is practicing racism and is hell bent of employing and or in promoting only white people in senior positions with-in the company** and the Employer gave all of them final warnings, the Employer is further in a process of taking disciplinary action against all shop-stewards.
2. CEPPWAWU has also been advised that the company was seeking a court order that says CEPPWAWU must pay all cost lost during the strike.
3. CEPPWAWU declared a dispute against Sappi for failure to agree to the union demand of extending the bargaining unit to the white collar workers.

It is a disgrace to say the least that an international company like Sappi will be at war with the union and hell bent to destroy the voice of workers for fighting racism, as CEPPWAWU we have been in the struggle against the apartheid regime and we won, and this time around we will win again because good and evil are always at war.

As workers we have contributed in the struggle through our blood and we are prepared to defend these gains till our last breath no matter what.

As workers we quite prepared defend our liberation against those who seek to reserve our gains and the price is very bitter, but we are prepared to make these sacrifices and fight racism till to the end.

Kindly inform all our comrades in the world that CEPPWAWU need their help.
International solidarity is needed more than before, we must defend each other.

Regards

Pasco Dyani
CEPPWAWU National President

Please let your local managers know we stand with our sisters and brothers of CEPPWAWU, and tell Sappi we want the company to reach a fair agreement to resolve the issues listed in this letter.

Sappi Workers Stand Together – Everywhere!