



Poster by Rizky Anwar Sadat

NEWSLETTER IMWU NL

APRIL-JUNE 2013



IMWU NL is a self-organisation, established by and for the Indonesian Migrant Workers in the Netherlands. IMWU NL aims to promote the labour rights for all workers particularly Indonesian, both documented and undocumented, in the Netherlands. We determine to eliminate human trafficking, jobs trade, abuses and various forms of rights violation and discrimination against all workers particularly the Indonesian workers in the Netherlands.

Nieuwe Herengracht 20, 1018 DP, Amsterdam
Kempstraat 124, 2572 GK, The Hague (Saturday 13.00-17.00)
contact number: +31685006458

email: imwu_nl@yahoo.nl / info@imwu-nl.com

facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000822359009>

facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indonesian-Migrant-Workers-Union-Netherlands-IMWU-NL/249827881709642>

Website: www.imwu-nl.com

KVK. 54442796

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL!

In the second quarter of 2013, IMWU NL really concern about the issue related to the proposal on the criminalisation of the undocumented migrants. As a migrant organisation consisting members of migrant workers, including the undocumented ones, such issue has become one of our priorities and attention.

The proposal on the criminalisation of the undocumented in the Netherlands has been brought to the parliament and will be adopted. This means creates the possibility of imposing fines and also detention to more undocumented migrants. Such proposal will only bring negative impacts especially because undocumented migrants are already in a vulnerable position to all forms of exploitation and abuse. At their working place, the undocumented are vulnerable to salary lower than the regulated standard, violations of their rights for vacation, rights to sick leave, maternity leave etc. In relation to housing issues, undocumented workers are vulnerable to the intimidation from their landlord, not only for the no payment of rent but also the confiscation of their documents. As undocumented, we face difficulties to extend/renew our passport at the embassy and this puts us in an a situation where we have no ID. Without ID, it is almost impossible to identify ourselves to obtain medical care at the hospital, to transfer money to our family back home, and in other significant occasions (police related matters etc). No one could raise up the issue and share the experience as well as struggle for migrant rights unless the migrants themselves who are supported by supporter. That is what we do!



On 3rd April, the coalition against criminalisation in collaboration with some other organisations including IMWU NL organised a dinner to discuss the proposal on the criminalisation of the undocumented.¹ Several politicians from various parties attended the gathering, such as from CDA, PVDA, Jongerenpartij, Locaalpartij, Groenlinks, Wethouders, etc. The event was expected to provide dialogue space between us. We presented ourselves as an effort to to approach those politicians to understand us better so as to support us in struggling against the proposal on criminalisation of the undocumented.²

SIGN THESE PETITIONS! <http://www.geenstrafbaarstelling.nl/> and <http://www.sanderterphuis.nl/zeg-nee-tegen-het-oppakken-en-opsluiten-van-illegalen/>

Also from Amnesty, "Ik schaam me diep" : <http://www.ikschaammediiep.nl/petitie>

¹<http://www.scribd.com/doc/130694111/Gezamenlijke-Maaltijd-3-April-Uitnodiging-UNDANGAN-MAKAN-BERSAMA-POLITIKUS-DISKUSI-Mengenai-Kriminalisasi-Undocumented>

On 12th may, PVDA had a meeting in Utrecht. Vluchtkerk, Alliance of Human Rights for the Undocumented (AHRU which IMWU NL is a part of, took an action. We hope to prevent and to put a stop to the adoption of the proposal on the criminalisation of the undocumented!³



Domestic workers in Action as well!

Migrant domestic workers from IMWU NL and other migrant organisations (UMDW, MIGRANTE, CARE, PASAWAY, OTRADELA, etc) under the campaign of the rights of domestic workers FNV Bondgenoten, share the concern about the issue on criminalisation. We initiated the call against such proposal. Our call was sent to Volkskrant by our Domestic workers leader, Coring de Los Reyes.

Find the article here:

<http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2686/Binnenland/article/detail/3430288/2013/04/23/Illegale-werksters-sturen-noodkreet-aan-vakbonden.dhtml>

³ https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.515403941830346.1073741827.100000822359009&type=1



A CALL FROM DOMESTIC WORKERS NETHERLANDS

We, the domestic workers in the Netherlands, members of FNV Bondgenoten, urgently call on you to speak out with us and others against the proposed law to criminalize the undocumented migrants in the Netherlands.

It is a reality that domestic work is one of the sectors in the Netherlands which most of the work is being done by undocumented workers. The huge contribution of these workers to the society and national economy of the Netherlands has not been recognized formally by the government up to the present. In light of this, we decided to unite in the union to make an end to disrespect to our labour and human rights. Our rights are continuously violated as we work underpaid, without insurance, without social security, and holidays. Worst, the proposed criminalization of the undocumented will only make the most vulnerable workers more vulnerable to exploitation and abuses of their rights. Surely it will only bring more inhuman treatments and injustice in the society.

Therefore, we urgently call on you, our fellow workers in the union, to speak out and support the movement against the criminalization of the undocumented migrants in the Netherlands. You can sign this petition : <http://www.geenstrafbaarstelling.nl/nl/site/home> and this one: <http://www.sanderterphuis.nl/zeg-nee-tegen-het-oppakken-en-opsluiten-van-illegalen/>

Or find your ways! Geen Mens is illegaal!

EEN OPROEP VAN HUISHOUDELIJK WERKERS IN NEDERLAND

Wij, huishoudelijk werkers in Nederland, leden van FNV Bondgenoten, doen een dringend beroep op u om u samen met ons en anderen uit te spreken tegen het voorstel tot criminalisering van ongedocumenteerde migranten in Nederland.

Het is een realiteit dat huishoudelijk werk één van de sectoren is in Nederland waar veel werk wordt verricht door werknemers zonder papieren. De grote bijdrage van deze werknemers aan de samenleving en de nationale economie van Nederland wordt tot op heden niet formeel door de overheid erkend. Daarom hebben we besloten om ons te verenigen in de vakbond om een einde te maken aan het gebrek aan respect voor onze arbeids- en mensenrechten. Want deze rechten worden voortdurend geschonden bij onderbetaald werk, zonder verzekering, sociale zekerheid en vakantie. De voorgestelde strafbaarstelling van mensen zonder papieren zal alleen maar de meest kwetsbare werknemers kwetsbaarder maken voor uitbuiting en misbruik van hun rechten. Het zal zeker alleen maar meer inhumane behandeling en onrecht in de samenleving brengen.

Daarom doen we een dringend beroep op u, onze collega's in de vakbond, om u uit te spreken en om de beweging te ondersteunen tegen de criminalisering van ongedocumenteerde migranten in Nederland. U kunt deze petitie ondertekenen: <http://www.geenstrafbaarstelling.nl/nl/site/home> en <http://www.sanderterphuis.nl/zeg-nee-tegen-het-oppakken-en-opsluiten-van-illegalen/>

of uw eigen manier vinden om uw stem te laten horen. Geen Mens is illegaal!



Some responses were given as the reaction to the above call. FNV confirmed their support against the criminalisation.⁴ Some interviews and articles of voices of domestic workers Netherlands delivered by Mari Martin, FNV Bondgenoten and our leader in FNV Bondgenoten, Coring de Los Reyes were on media.

Picture from Matthijs de Bruijn.

⁴ Information from Marianne Jekkers, FNV Bondgenoten: <http://dichtbijnederland.ntr.nl/detail/795322>

We are also proud that FNV Bondgenoten brought Domestic Workers Netherlands to PVDA congress where Coring de Los Reyes had the opportunity to talk to SAMSON and delivered the petition. We sincerely hope that there will be positive changes!
Picture by Marianne Jekkers



In meantime on last June 26th, the Wereldhuis and STEK organised a dinner and discussion with a member of parliament, MARIT MAIJ, in the Hague. IMWU NL volunteered to cook the dinner. Our chairman, Ahmad Supriadi, voiced our issues and we performed a traditional Indonesian dance.⁵ We expressed to Marit Maij that we, domestic workers Netherlands give a

significant contribution to the society. We declared that we are hard workers who are willing to pay tax so that for sure it would be better to legalise us rather than criminalising us!



⁵ https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.531987640171976.1073741833.100000822359009&type=1

Domestic Workers Campaign!

Marianne Jekkers, FNV Bondgenoten, informed that the commission Kalsbeek will start to investigate the legal status of domestic workers. The current operational procedure of domestic work is done in the 'under the table' way (without paying taxes). Formalization of the market will create thousands of 'real' jobs.⁶



In the OC Meeting of Domestic Workers Netherlands, Jet Linssen, the leader of Cleaner Union FNV Bondgenoten explained about the work of an expert group consisting of the FNV, FNV Bondgenoten, FNV ABVAKABO, OSB (employer organisation) and 2 advocates (immigration & labour law). They were assigned to provide advices on the position of domestic workers within the Dutch Labour law & the convention 189 to the commission in which such advice will be presented to the ministry in the end of July. The Netherlands shown a good intention to ratify such convention but they need to know HOW.



The cleaners, member of FNV Bondgenoten, support domestic workers. They support that the domestic workers should also be regulated under the collective agreement. We really appreciate this valuable support. Together we are stronger!

⁶ <http://www.nu.nl/economie/3477164/kalsbeek-onderzoekt-positie-huishoudhulp.html>.



Domestic Workers Netherlands FNV Bondgenoten took part in the international justice day for cleaners on June 17th. The march starts from Schipol and continues to the parliament building in The Hague in order to send our message across.⁷

The artists group Noticias, bring also the issue of migrant domestic workers out. Our fellow, Siti Murwani took part in the documentary entitled 'This is the only job available for us' The life and work of the undocumented domestic workers in the Netherlands, a Video Report for 'Migratie in Beeld'. This can be accessed in: <http://www.laruta.nu/video/undocumented-domestic-workers-netherlands>

We are proud also to our fellow Cora Espanto, the president of Migrante Den Haag who is bravely delivering our voices against human trafficking. She fights for her rights together with Fairwork, the organisation which assists us against human trafficking. This struggle is important for us since a significant number of domestic workers face the issue of human trafficking. Picture by Cora Espanto at the exhibition of Fairwork in Amsterdam.



Domestic workers Netherlands FNV Bondgenoten gave presentation on Challenges domestic workers face in Dutch labor at The Hague University!

Empowerment!

IMWU NL attended the discussion organised by ISS & stichting OKIA with the Immokale workers/Farmworkers from Florida USA who came to NL. The workers were in Amsterdam for the Ahold (owner of Albert Heijn retail chain) shareholders' meeting. Through its US-American subsidiaries Giant and Stop & Shop, Ahold is involved in the exploitation of seasonal agricultural workers in Florida.

⁷ Pictures by Faisol Iskandar:

https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.528124637224943.1073741832.100000822359009&type=1



Lucas the farm worker (from Immokalee, Florida, USA) the tomato picker (<http://www.ciw-online.org/>) & Peter Sabonis, team from NESRI

(<http://www.nesri.org/>) gave presentation about their movement and campaign. They explained their struggle to fight for their rights since the farm workers are excluded from labour law in the US while the agricultural industry has a great role there. Some strategies they use are by approaching the grower, the

customer, the buyers and the big corporate of buyers as well as companies such as McDonalds, taco bell, subways, etc. They gained 1 penny more per pound of their tomatoes which adds up to their bonus of salary, and established a code of conduct to protect their rights! This is a great lesson for us. Students & communities such as youth, churches, etc have a great role as well in supporting their campaign! what an inspiration!!

IMWU NL organised Workshops film documentary in the Hague with [Irwan Ahmett](http://www.irwanahmett.com) (www.irwanahmett.com) for its members. The purpose of such workshop is to encourage the members to record by way of filming their daily activities and their life as migrant workers.

Our fellow from Noticias <http://www.noticias.nl/adres> was also supporting the workshop in Amsterdam.⁸ Picture by Tita Salina.



⁸ https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.521550814548992.1073741828.100000822359009&type=1



Cleaners & Domestic Workers Netherlands members of FNV Bondgenoten gained opportunities to participate in the Dutch course in order to empower them and to support them in integrating within the Dutch society.

Five of IMWU NL leaders have completed and received their diploma of Dutch Course from FNV Bondgenoten!



Lobby & Visibility!



Members of Indonesian Parliament from Commission III (Law & Regulation) were in the Netherlands. We presented ourselves to them in order to advocate the ratification of convention 189, revision of Law no. 39/2004 on the protection of migrant workers as well as the implementation of the sanction with

regard to the bad agency/ human trafficking.

On June 8th, IMWU NL in collaboration with the Indonesian embassy, Indonesian Diaspora, Indonesian Students association in the Netherlands, Nurses association, GKIN (Indonesian church), SKIN, OKIA and Fairwork organised one day seminar on the migration, labour market and labour rights in the Netherlands. ⁹ The seminar was aimed to examine the situation of labour migration and the opportunity of labour market in the Netherlands, share the experiences and issues as well as trying to find the recommendation for further action for the sake of the development of Indonesia.¹⁰

The presenters were Prof. Klara Boonstra (VU), Marijke Bijl (OKIA), Hans van Rhee (IOM), Eline Willemsen (Fairwork), Hauw Han (SKIN) and moderated by our advisory board member, Ratna Saptari (Univ. Leiden)



<http://ppibelanda.org/acara/one-day-seminar-labour-migration-labour-market-netherlands-and-labour-rights>

⁹ Pictures by risky anwar sadat:

https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.525964794107594.1073741831.100000822359009&type=1



IMWU NL is visible! We participated at the sport competition organised by PPI Groningen and Indonesian embassy.



As a member of Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), IMWU NL attended PICUM workshop on [Housing and Homelessness of Undocumented Migrants in Europe - Building Alliances and Developing Strategies](#) last June 28th.

Organise!

To be organised make us stronger. Together we can. On May 25th, We organised barbeque. In this occasion, our chairman, Ahmad, gave token of appreciation to all leaders, all members of IMWU NL.



Without solidarity among each other, we cannot be organised. Without being organised, we cannot be strong! No solidarity, not being organised, no strength!



We would like to introduce our new advisory board members, Ratna Saptari (Univ. Leiden) and Marijke Bijl (OKIA).

Another our new advisory board member, who has been supporting us from the beginning of the establishment of IMWU NL is Surya Tjandra from Trade Union Rights Centre (TURC) in Indonesia.

In this moment, IMWU NL have 4 advisory board members. In addition to the ones mentioned above, there is also Yulia Sugandi who is one of the founders of IMWU NL. With the extending numbers of our advisory board members, we hope that the movement of IMWU NL as newly-established self organisation would be getting stronger, wiser, and effective. Further information about the structure of IMWU NL including ones who are in charge of daily program activities, kindly refer to : <http://www.imwu-nl.com/structure.html>

Solidarity

To celebrate the independence day of Philippine on June 8th, organised by United Migrant Domestic Workers (UMDW) in collaboration with Domestic Workers Netherlands, Tiaongin Association and AHRU, along with the summer party of het Wereldhuis Amsterdam on 28 June, IMWU NL contributed Indonesian traditional dance (performed by Nova Marselline).



Photo by Coring de Los Reyes



IMWU NL sent out a solidarity statement to our Indonesian fellow undocumented migrant workers in Jeddah for their effort who to legalise their immigration status. There was a chaos in the Indonesian embassy in Jeddah when more than ten thousand undocumented workers tried to process their documents (Indonesian ID). IMWU NL have similar problem regarding our Indonesian ID. We share the concern about this tragic incident particularly since the undocumented were the ones to be blamed. In our statement, we firmly stressed that NO ONE WANTS TO BE UNDOCUMENTED!¹¹

Find the publication of our statement: <http://www.tribunnews.com/2013/06/13/siapa-sih-yang-mau-jadi-undocumented-workers>

Furthermore, IMWU NL is proud that our fellow Said Iqbal from FSPMI, Indonesia, has been awarded the appreciation from FNV.¹² And we are proud of our fellow Lita Anggraini who fights for the rights of domestic workers in Indonesia.¹³

Other information

Find our Newsletter Jan-March 2013 : <http://www.scribd.com/doc/138481450/Newsletter-Imwu-Nl-jan-mar-2013-Final>

Find our annual report 2012 at : <http://www.scribd.com/doc/138903992/Jaarverslag-Imwu-2012-Final>

find our Annual report & newsletter on our website: <http://www.imwu-nl.com/newsletter.html>

Find our statement on MAYDAY 2013 : <http://www.scribd.com/doc/139941317/Mayday-2013>

Next events

Juli 1st: The day against Slavery, action with FNV Bondgenoten in Amsterdam at 1pm

Juli 3rd Brainstorming meeting with GGD The Hague on 4-6pm on the dentist & undocumented

July 6th Ahru organise discussion on “The Prospect for Undocumented Migrants in the Netherlands: Legalization vs. Criminalization” on 15:00 to 20:00 hours in Nassaukerk, De Wittenstraat 114, Amsterdam

Ramadhan July 9th-August 8th 2013

Congress of Indonesian Diaspora , August 18-20th in Jakarta

¹¹ <http://www.scribd.com/doc/147305165/Pernyataan-IMWU-NL-Jeddah>

¹² <http://www.fnv.nl/themas/internationaal/nieuws/fnvprijs-voor-indonesische-vakbondsheld-said-iqbal/> and <http://www.industrialunion.org/fnv-trade-union-award-goes-to-said-iqbal>

¹³ <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/16/lita-anggraini-neverending-struggle.html#.UZO--yaRsKE.facebook>

Advocacy / List of Cases & Assistances IMWU NL January-June 2013

No.	Issues	Number of individuals involved	Type of support
1.	Health Care	13	- Assistance to hospitals, GGD, COA, apotheek, IND, Lawyer, Verloskundige etc - Providing information and advice about dentists, 'huisart', etc - Contacting doctor, hospital, etc - Seeking information about stay permit based on health problems. - facilitate on the issue of payment.
2.	Legal /arrest/ immigration issue & return	9	- Attending the court - Contacting the Indonesian Embassy - The mediator between the family and the arrested member - Delivering the luggage to the detention centre - Visiting the police station and the detention centre - Contacting lawyer & other organisations that could give further support.
3.	Labour/ employment relation	3	- Providing advice - The mediator between the employer and the worker - issue of human trafficking / bad agency
4.	Housing & working information & other issues	Among members Exploitation by landlord: 2 Marriage & children rightst: 3 Documentation: 2	- Network building, sharing information, and community building. - Contacting organisations that was able to offer further support. - providing necessary assistances & solidarity

MARHABAN YA RAMADHAN! IMWU NL WISH YOU HAVE A GREAT RAMADHAN THIS YEAR!!

MINAL AIDIN WAL FAIDZIN!!

