

# Support the BATU STRIKERS

## Real Trade Unionists don't pass pickets

**SIX STAFF of the Building and Allied Trades Union (BATU), four clerical workers and two union organisers, who are members of the UNITE trade union, are on all out strike since 9th May 2008.**

We are on strike following the threatened redundancy, without criteria or negotiation of the two members and the threat of imposed pay cuts and detrimental changes to conditions of office staff. In one case management have attempted to replace someone of eight years service with a person he trained who has only eleven months service!

Despite the fact that we work for a trade union, we were denied even basic union rights. BATU refused to recognize our trade union Unite. We were told we would have our money docked for attending union meetings. Personal lockers were broken into and rifled through. Staff with five years service were given 15 minutes to vacate the building. Once out on strike we have been subject to slander along with verbal and physical abuse. A female striker was physically assaulted by the General Secretary Paddy O'Shaughnessy in late September, a matter which is now with the police.

Meanwhile we have the obvious contradiction that four officials of BATU, a Congress affiliated union, are daily crossing the official pickets of another Congress affiliate and, once in the building are attempting to do the work of the strikers. There is only one word in the trade union vocabulary to describe people who act in such a way. The word is - Scab.

### THIS AFFECTS YOU

This situation is compounded by the fact that the BATU General Secretary Paddy O'Shaughnessy is a sitting Executive member of Congress, which means he would have been at the recent negotiations to discuss a new Partnership deal. This means that a man who sacks workers, refuses trade union recognition and assaults female strikers was negotiating on your behalf at the pay talks.

His membership of the Executive Council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is entirely unsustainable and we are calling on the ICTU to expel Paddy O'Shaughnessy from the NEC



**Strike breaker Greg Macken attempts to pass picket line.**

and to also suspend BATU from membership until the reasonable demands of the strikers are met.

We have received huge support from workers and trade unionists to date, with many people visiting our picket line in Blessington Street and organising workplace collections to help keep the strikers going. We are very grateful for all this help.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Sign our petition calling for the removal of Paddy O'Shaughnessy from the ICTU Executive and the suspension of BATU from Congress.
- Take petitions and leaflets into your workplace.
- Ring or write to David Begg, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to tell him you don't want a strike breaker representing you. david.begg@ictu.ie / phone: 889 7777)
- Visit the picket line at 13 Blessington Street.
- Organise collections for the strike fund

## BATU STRIKERS...

# LOCKED OUT

SINCE 9<sup>th</sup> MAY

## ICTU must take action NOW

Invited speaker  
**DAVID BEGG**  
plus other speakers

**PUBLIC RALLY**  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
October 8pm,  
Teachers Club

No strike-breakers in the Trade Union Movement  
For more info batustrikers@gmail.com / 0872253755