

ACTIVITIES OF PRIAMA AKCIA IN 2022

The past year has been quite varied and challenging at the same time. In addition to a number of workplace issues, we have been preparing quite intensively for the 28th Congress of the International Workers' Association (IWA/AIT) in Spain. We supported a number of activities in Slovakia and abroad, took part in fundraising events and took care of the preparation of the International Week Against Unpaid Wages. And there was more. Find out more in this annual report.

CAMPAIGNS

"Problems At Work?"

Most of the problems we dealt with were related to catering business. At the beginning of the year we published an article about problems in a catering company in Bardejov (Eastern Slovakia) where the employer refused to pay a worker. We discussed the problem with her and eventually she managed to get the money.

Another case was related to common problems in catering business - sexist behaviour, sexual harassment and the use of women's bodies to make better sales in a vegan restaurant in Bratislava. We wrote an article that included tips on what to do in such situations.

A former worker contacted us in case of unpaid money in a café in Bratislava. Her boss also demanded that she pays for a company phone stolen during her shift. We discussed possible courses of action and the worker decided to try it nice with the boss one more time. In this case, she was lucky and the problem was solved.

Owner of another restaurant in Bratislava failed to pay former worker agreed wages and also caused a debt to her health insurance company. The problem has not been resolved yet.

We were also contacted by a worker who was dismissed from the language school in Košice (Eastern Slovakia) without notice. After our follow-up questions, he did not communicate further.

In another case, we dealt with two female workers from mid-Slovakia who were owed wages. They filed a criminal report and then contacted PA. In the end, they decided to first wait and see how the investigation turns out.

A worker at another restaurant in Bratislava did not receive her tip despite owner's promise. In our communication we encouraged her to persist in her demands, which paid off and the owner paid everything.

We wrote about all these cases here: <https://priamaakcia.sk/Successful-and-unresolved-cases-of-unpaid-wages-over-the-last-year-Priama-Akcia---Slovakia-.html>.

In addition to these problems, we were also approached by people with problems of a more community-based nature. In one case we discussed what could be done in a neighbour-related dispute, in another case we discussed bullying in a primary school.

International Week Against Unpaid Wages

From 10 to 16 October, IWA organizations drew attention to the problem of unpaid wages in various ways. Our stickers and posters appeared on the streets of Bratislava and Košice and we published on our website a text about the cases of unpaid wages that we dealt with over the last year. We informed about similar cases abroad, and promoted a brochure about how we deal with workplace issues. A summary of the “Week” can be found here: <https://iwa-ait.org/content/report-international-week-against-unpaid-wages-10th-16th-october-2022>.



SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES

Kurier Union In Russia

In early August, we published a call for solidarity with the Kurier union in Russia and for the release of their imprisoned activist Kirill Ukraintsev. He was arrested in April for calling on social media for mobilisation against labour rights violations in delivery services and taxi companies. He faces up to five years in prison for "convening or participating in an unauthorized assembly more than twice in 180 days."

Financial Support To WSF In Pakistan

We supported Workers Solidarity Federation financially in their activities to help people who lost their homes due to the floods.

Financial Support To “Assembly” In Ukraine

Thanks to the financial contribution of PA it was possible to raise money for a communal heating project in the suburbs of Kharkiv before the coming winter.

Solidarity With CNT-AIT Dispute Against Carrozados Tecai In Spain

We joined the CNT-AIT Toledo call and sent protest emails in support of a comrade fired for union activities in Tecai.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CLIMATE CRISIS

We prepared and published an interview with a 14-year-old primary school student about mobilisation for the climate change strike at her school.

We organized a collective reading/discussion of Hope Against Hope, a book that explores the libertarian-communist view of the climate crisis.

We have been involved in the IWA working group on climate crisis from the anarcho-syndicalist perspective and prepared outputs for further discussion at the 28th IWA Congress.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Open Meetings In Bratislava, Košice And Trnava

After the pandemic, we have successfully restarted open meetings of our union with people who are interested in a class based approach and who want to take part in existing activities or propose new ideas for action.



PA Congress

In May, we held a congress where we evaluated various activities with the aim of improving our functioning and to plan the next period of activities.

IWA Congress

In December, we took part in the 28th IWA Congress in Alcoi, Spain where several of our proposals in the agenda were discussed (for example related to climate crisis, strategy for development of small or starting anarcho-syndicalist organizations, but also other topics).



Contacts With Anti-authoritarian Collectives In Bratislava

We were involved in meetings that help to get to know people in other anti-authoritarian collectives in Bratislava better.

Informal Events

We also met for recreational activities - we organized two hiking trips and two barbecues.



May Day and barbecue in Vienna

On May 1, we accepted the invitation of WAS to their picnic and we also participated in the May Day demonstration. Read more: <https://priamaakcia.sk/Mayday-in-Vienna-with-the-participation-of-Slovak-and-Austrian-unions-of-the-IWA-AIT.html>.



In August, we met with WAS in Vienna again at their barbecue.



WAR IN UKRAINE

We have responded to the war by supporting internationalist activities in Ukraine and Russia and by translating statements opposing both the Ukrainian and Russian states (text from CNT-AIT Spain, interview with KRAS and interview with anarchist collective Assembly from Kharkiv).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Get Involved In Your Region

For the purpose of launching activities in other regions of Slovakia, we created a short online questionnaire describing ways in which people can get involved in our activities or start their own activities. We made contact with several people, even in regions where we are not currently active.

Cultural And Educational Events

Our member was a guest in a discussion in Liptovský Mikuláš (mid-Slovakia) about problems related to organizing in workplaces where together with other invitees she shared her experience of concrete struggles in workplaces.



We took part in events accompanying the anti-fascist festival Uprising Continues, where we had an infostall and helped to prepare a banner.



Demonstrations

We participated in two bigger protests in Bratislava. The first was an anti-poverty protest organised by the Confederation of Trade Unions (the biggest union confederation in Slovakia), for which we prepared a leaflet and a critical statement.



We also participated in the demo organized after the murder of two people from queer community, during which the systemic context of oppression was discussed. See: <https://priamaakcia.sk/A-demonstration-we-have-never-seen-in-Bratislava-before-photo.html>.



PLANS FOR 2023

We plan to focus more on our "Problems at work?" campaign and we plan update related promotional materials.

We hope that in the new year we will get in touch with people in more regions of Slovakia as we did in the last two years (partly thanks to our short questionnaire: www.priamaakcia.sk/zapoj-sa).

We are looking forward to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the IWA, with several internal and public events. The main events with international participation will take place in Bratislava (4.3., FB <https://www.facebook.com/events/1293387704728198>) and Košice (1.4., FB <https://www.facebook.com/events/1222223088718011>), but they will not be the only ones and we hope more will be organised upon interest of people in other regions.

We will continue with our open meetings, practical workshops, tasks in the IWA working group on the climate crisis, collective reading of interesting publications and we are also planning other informal meetings.

See also report on our activities in 2021 in English and Spanish: <https://priamaakcia.sk/Activities-of-Priama-Akcia-in-2021-report-in-English-and-Spanish-.html>