



## StreetNet News

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*StreetNet News* is the newsletter of StreetNet International, an international federation formed to promote and protect the rights of street vendors. Address: N228 Diakonia Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001 South Africa. e-mail [stnet@iafrica.com](mailto:stnet@iafrica.com) visit the website: [www.streetnet.org.za](http://www.streetnet.org.za)

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### Urban policies - Inclusive planning for the urban poor

Representatives of international informal economy workers' organisation - street vendors, homeworkers, wastepickers and migrant workers gathered in Durban to share the platform with urban planners and researchers to discuss the inclusion of informal economy workers in urban planning in global cities. The two-day urban policies colloquium "'World Class Cities' and the Urban Informal Economy: Inclusive Planning for the Working Poor", held from the 24th -25th April 2006, was co-hosted by StreetNet, WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Organising and Globalising) and the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Colloquium coincided with the 4th WIEGO General Assembly. The colloquium attended by 150 people from more than 40 countries sought an answer to the question: "What are the conflicting interests that have to be managed in integrating informal enterprises and workers into cities in the developing world as cities strive to achieve 'world-class' status?"

On the 24th April, representatives of international informal economy workers' organisation - homeworkers, wastepickers and migrant workers offered perspectives on urban planning, sharing the platform with planners. On the 25th a Policy Dialogue on the regulation of public spaces within cities heard street vendor organisations and policymakers give their different perspectives of the problems of management and allocation of public space for informal trading.

Ela Bhatt, founder of Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), said in the opening session that the Colloquium was well timed when half the developing world's people live in cities, and the rate of migration from urban areas is swelling many urban areas. The urban poor and informal economy workers were too often treated as undeserving beneficiaries of urban infrastructure investments. She said that ironically research has established that the working poor in fact make a sizeable contribution to city and national economic growth.

Caroline Skinner, University of KZN, said one of the greatest challenges to inclusive planning for the urban working poor was the focus since the mid-80s on the ranking of cities in the global hierarchy on the economic power they command. The notion of global cities shifts priorities away from people-centred development. This results in increasing spatial segregation between rich and poor and regulations that limit the activities of poor households.

Marty Chen, WIEGO CEO, in her presentation on "Urbanisation and Informalisation", said global cities had broadly three choices in approaches to the informal economy.

- Inclusion and development;
- Regulation and containment;
- Exclusion and marginalisation.

In the presentations that followed on the first day examples were provided on interventions and policies that could improve conditions as well as those that had failed because they did not take into account the needs and concerns of the workers in the informal economy.

### **Homeworkers' discuss problems**

Sapna Joshi, of HomeNet South Asia, that represents a network of homeworkers in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, talked about the problems that people have working from the space in which they also live.

In South Asia, there are about 50 million homebased workers, out of whom 80% are women. Homeworkers need storage for raw materials and the finished goods that are produced. Many live in slum settlements and because of leaking roofs lose income when their goods are soiled during the rainy season.

Several problems relating to the lack of infrastructure were raised, one being the higher unit costs of electricity and another was the insecurity of eviction which contributes to fear of the loss of place of production.

Renana Jhabvala (SEWA) made a presentation on the Parivartan Slum upgrading program in Ahmedabad, India, which was an example of a project where people in the informal settlement were able to come into the policy mainstream and governance, as well as receive the infrastructure through public/private partnership. Sixty percent of the occupants involved were home-workers. As a result of the project there was an increase in the level of productivity of homeworkers as they were able to work longer hours, they had lower monthly health costs and more children attended school.

### **Wastepickers' organisation**

Laxmi Narayan of KKPK wastepickers organisation in Pune, India, said that wastepickers contribute an important economic role to the city and have created a whole new network of jobs in the recycling chain, but experience hazardous and dirty work conditions for very low incomes.

The 5 000 waste pickers in Pune salvage almost 150 tons of recyclable material per year, and as a result have reduced the city's costs of handling waste by US\$1.5 million/year. They have also had to face competition from multinationals who local government has outsourced to. KKPK distributes safety gloves and has negotiated for free health services for officially registered wastepickers.

Martin Medina, a researcher, described how waste-picker cooperatives have been formed to stop repression and change hazardous working conditions in Brazil. A battle for recognition of wastepicker rights was fought and led to the formation of MNCR the world's largest wastepicker organisation with 500 co-operatives and (60 000 members) that has fought successfully for integration of their participation in waste management programmes at local government level through public partnerships.

Richard Dobson, a planner in the Warwick Junction Development Project, Durban, said that there was a role for the city to intervene positively. In Durban, 30 tons of cardboard are collected everyday as a result of an initiative which eliminated a middleman who had collected cardboard only late at night, making the collectors more vulnerable. Dobson said, a 'buyback centre' was developed to stop this exploitation and as result the income earned by collectors has doubled.

### **Migrant workers confront discrimination**

Gaby Bikombo, a refugee living in Durban spoke of the obstacles created by local government for migrant workers who found their attempts to earn an honest living blocked by red tape and discriminatory practices.

Bikombo who is a street barber, described how the Siyagunda Association of street barbers had been formed to tackle these problems and through negotiations and discussion with local government some of the problems that are faced in earning a living, such as the issue of permits to registered refugees, have been solved.

### **Street vendors face poor regulation**

The presentations by street vendors on the problems of regulation of public space showed that while inclusive policy-making involving street vendors as stakeholders is important, without implementation its benefits are not felt. The failure to manage permit systems and markets and the problems and vulnerabilities this creates was raised by Elvis Chishala, president of Alliance of Zambia Informal Economy Associations (AZIEA) and Luciana Itikawa a researcher from University of Sao Paulo.

Chishala recounted the ongoing struggle with municipalities who charge high levies but deliver no infrastructure or services. The state holds the right to manage markets and 'fast track courts' have been started to prosecute street vendors who are arrested.

AZIEA has been involved in protests against unjust removals and arbitrary levy increases and been successful in lobbying government for dialogue on change and badly needed law reform. This led to a policy review process in which market and street vendors are represented as stakeholders but he said there is a need for ongoing vigilance to ensure the fundamental rights of street and market traders are not eclipsed by business and local government.

## **Black market trade in public space**

Itikawa painted a picture of Sao Paulo in which layers of informality exist. She revealed how the city's regulation falls short in meeting the needs of the street and market vendors, leading instead to a twilight zone that thrives on bribery and corruption and 'black market' regulation of public space.

Her research counted the bribes taken block by block in the city centre, where 90% of informal traders do not have official permits. Itikawa's maps showed that there are 945 official permits issued in downtown Sao Paulo, where in reality there are 10-15 000 street traders.

The vulnerabilities that result from the artificially low number of official permits means that a spot in a public space costs 10 times more than private space and is 30 times more than the annual licence paid to the municipality.

On the policy side, MEC for Local Government, Housing and Traditional Affairs, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Mike Mabuyakhulu said there has been a call to close the gap between what has been called the first and second economy in South Africa and what was also described as the formal and informal economies, through redistributive policies. David Genegan speaking for the Msunduzi Municipality (capital city of KwaZulu-Natal) said an Informal Trade Task Team which includes street traders faces several challenges in management of trading spaces.

In some areas congestion of street traders poses a problem for traffic and in some places pavements are too narrow to accommodate street trading. Other streets that are more suitable for street trading are underutilised because there are too few pedestrians.

Genegan said growth strategies have set goals to support informal activity and income generation, however, the by-laws and national policy need to be reviewed. He reported that interventions to create and build opportunities for street and market vendors by the city involved capital investment (street furniture and off-street markets), public/private partnerships to improve areas and education and training programmes. Paul Williamson, reported on the City of Cape Town's Informal Trading Policy and Management Framework which is being developed and said the old by-laws were redundant.

## **Four new affiliates for StreetNet**

The StreetNet International Council accepted the affiliation of four new organisations at its last meeting in April 2006. The following two organisations' request for affiliation was accepted and both have paid their affiliation fees to StreetNet.

- SUDEMS (Syndicat Unique et Democratique des Mareyeurs du Senegal)
- CTCP (Confederacion de Trabajadores por Cuenta Propia), Nicaragua.

The following two organisations' request for affiliation was also accepted and will commence once StreetNet has received their affiliation fees.

- KENASVIT (Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders)
- NUIEWO (National Union of Informal Economy Workers' Organisations), Uganda.

This will bring the number of StreetNet affiliates to 24 in 20 countries, representing over 300 000 street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers.

## **StreetNet and MUFIS denounce use of force against street vendors**

**By Kashiwa Lameck**

StreetNet co-ordinator, Pat Horn and Assistant-coordinator, Kashiwa Lameck, made a 5-day field trip to Malawi at the beginning May. The primary reason for the journey was to attend a two-day seminar in Malawi on 3rd and 4th of May in Lilongwe, organised by IFWEA (International Federations of Workers Education Associations) with the objective of producing a manual for organising workers in the informal economy in South East Africa.

The seminar was attended by partner organisations in the project in the south east Africa region including the following informal structures, StreetNet affiliates AZIEA (Zambia), MUFIS (Malawi), ASSOTSI (Mozambique) and two new organisations NUIEWO (Uganda) and KENASVIT (Kenya). Trade union centres from several countries in the region, global union federations and the ILO Harare office also sent representatives.

### **Street vendors evicted**

A strong motivation for the field visit to Malawi was to meet with Malawi Union for the Informal Sector (MUFIS) and street and market vendors who were evicted by armed police during a so-called 'clean-up' operation starting from 18th April that affected an estimated 30 000 street and market vendors in the country.

The objective of the visit to the MUFIS office in Blantyre on 11th May was to learn about the organisation of street vendors in Malawi at a time when the government had relocated them and dumped them in isolated areas without any facilities, and to look for possible ways to strengthen organisation at market and street level as well as informal economy organisation nationally.

### **Press conference**

MUFIS took advantage of our visit to call a press conference on 11th May to publicly encourage the Malawi government to engage in dialogue with MUFIS in finding a lasting solution to the problems of street vendors.

At the press conference, we denounced the unilateral decision by government and its use of force against street vendors.

We also called on government to respect the economic rights of its people and to use practices that are acceptable, citing the example of Zambia where dialogue with government has been productive, rather than the example of Zimbabwe whose 'clean-up' operation has left many thousands of people homeless and without means to earn an income.

We urged government to put in place facilities in all places where the street vendors have been forced to trade.

The press conference was attended by 10 media organisations. As a result, we had good coverage of MUFIS and StreetNet's opposition to the Malawi government's approach to the informal economy.

### **Market visits**

We visited the Limbe market on 9th of May and saw vendors at the new 'flea market' site which had been allocated to street vendors who had been evicted from their sites in Blantyre.

Contrary to the promises of the Minister of Local Government, the site was not ready for the large number of vendors who had been evicted and it had no facilities at all.

MUFIS members were trying to work together with other traders on the allocation of sites in the limited space available.

At Manase, on the same day, we met an all-women branch of MUFIS which was very well organised.

The Manase village market seemed to lack a structure where all traders and organisations can come together and share decisions. On May 10th we went to visit the Thyolo Market in the southern part of Malawi near the tea estates of Mount Mulanje. The vendors here had not been relocated.

On the same day, we met with MUFIS members at Bvumbwe where a new market has been built with some facilities.

### **Vendors negotiate over removal**

Vendors who had trading sites on the main road had been given notice to move. The committee was still negotiating with the authorities to delay the move as there was not enough space in the new market. We encouraged them to enlist with MUFIS and to approach the authorities for a meeting and to avoid unilateral action by government.

The next day we went to Lunzu where we met traders who had been relocated from sites on the main road to a newly built market set back from the road with much less traffic.

Following the crisis of removals, the lack of capacity to engage local authorities on the issues affecting the sector is problematic. We encouraged MUFIS to build the capacity of market leaders to engage local authorities in negotiations and to take advantage of the IFWEA informal economy training programme.

## **Bangladesh: National Street Vendors' Policy Workshop**

**By Repon Chowdury**

The Bangladesh Self Employed Union (SEU) held a workshop on the 24th-25th March 2006 to formulate recommendations and an action plan for the development of a national street vendors' policy.

The workshop was attended by 40 participants from 10 hawkers' organisations and six national trade union centres. Four members from the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) as well as representatives from four government and municipal agencies were invited by SEU to attend the workshop.

### **National policy**

During the presentations and group exercises, participants identified the urgent need for the following issues affecting street vendors to be addressed in national policy.

- Recognition of street vending as an occupation;
- Identification of the state body responsible for street and market vendors' and hawkers' issues;
- Registration of vendors and hawkers;

- Recognition of trade union rights;
- Prevention of illegal payment to police and gangsters;
- Welfare and social protection of street vendors;
- Extension of low interest financial support by government;
- Special protection to women vendors working on the streets;
- Elimination of child hawkers and social rehabilitation.

The participants called on the government to form a National Task Force to draft a national vendor's policy immediately' with the necessary representation from street vendor organisations in Bangladesh.

The workshop also demanded that government call an immediate halt to the eviction of street vendors from major streets and markets, and municipal corruption and bribery.

## **Recommendations**

The workshop recommended that participants:

- consolidate unity among street vendor's organisations to achieve common goals and greater welfare among those working in the sector;
- develop integrity with the trade union movement to promote workers' rights and social protection, position and strength;
- develop networks and collaboration among street vendors' organisations in which the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) can play the role of catalyst.

## **Action Plan**

- Arrange organisational level meetings to inform the members about the discussions and outcome of the workshop.
- Include the demand for a national policy in each organisation's demand list.
- Write a petition letter to the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and lawmakers to support the urgent need for a national street vendors' policy and to call for a National Task Force.
- Develop the necessary campaign and education materials for the leaders and members of hawkers' organisation on policy issues;
- Conduct a detailed base-line survey on street vendors in Bangladesh, by December 2006;
- Organise a national leadership course for street vendors' organisations to develop effective dialogue and negotiation skills;
- Organise follow-up meetings to review the progress of national policy campaign between May and December 2006;
- Develop a draft policy (seeking assistance of a policy development expert) and organise a workshop to finalise the draft for onward submission to government/National Task Force (January 2007 to June 2007).

This was the first time that different street vendor organisations had assembled to discuss the national policy issues affecting them.

The street vendor organisations present included Bangladesh Hawkers' Federation; Dhaka Zilla Mohila Hawkers Kallyan Kendro; Bangladesh Sinnamul Hawkers' Somity (BSHS); Sangbadparta Sinnamul Hawkers' Somity and Bangladesh Sinnamul Hawkers' League (BSHL).

The national policy workshop was funded by Street-Net. OSHE and the Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress assisted SEU in organising the workshop.

## **SEWA joins the ICFTU**

SEWA has been admitted as a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), joining 236 national trade union federations and 1.55 billion workers from 159 countries.

It has been a long journey to this point. When SEWA first started in 1972, since it was part of Textile Labour Association (TLA), a major trade union, it automatically became part of the international labour movement, a member of ITGLWF (International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation) and affiliated with the ICFTU through the National Labour Organisation.

However, as SEWA grew in size, conflicts with TLA increased, and in 1982 SEWA was asked to leave the TLA. With this action SEWA was cut off from the national and international labour movements and was suddenly on its own. SEWA continued to grow as workers were attracted in larger and larger numbers and as its methods of organising workers in the informal economy became more relevant.

### **Informal economy workers not recognised**

In the 1980s there were few efforts in the international labour movement to organise in the informal economy. It was believed that the workers in the informal economy were not really workers as no employer-employee relationship could be established.

In spite of this many trade unions still believed in SEWA's work and continued association with us. SEWA affiliated to the IUF (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association) and the ITGLWF.

There has been a long and fruitful relationship with both these global union federations which were in the forefront in SEWA's efforts to pass the Home Workers Convention in the ILO in 1996 and the Resolution on Decent Work and the Informal Economy in the ILO in 2002. SEWA also joined the ICEM (International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Union).

SEWA was invited to the ICFTU congresses and was able to speak about the workers in the informal economy there. In 2005 SEWA wrote to the ICFTU asking for membership.

### **Mission to consider application**

SEWA's application was not considered favourably by the existing Indian affiliates, so a mission from ICFTU headed by General Secretary Guy Ryder visited SEWA in April this year. The mission met the executive committee of SEWA and had two day-long discussions with them. The mission raised and discussed the objections about SEWA that they had received.

### **The objections considered**

The first objection: "SEWA is a trade union of small employers".

We explained that our members do not employ others. They either work for contractors or employers directly or indirectly; or they are own-account workers, like street vendors or marginal farmers. Paluben, a street vendor said, "I may be self-employed, but I sweat harder than any factory worker, and still my work is so insecure and my income so small".

The second objection: "SEWA does not do collective bargaining".

SEWA executive committee members listed 102 collective bargaining agreements that they had undertaken with bidi manufacturers, incense manufacturers, tobacco processing factories, municipal corporations, forest corporations and many more.

As Bhanuben an agricultural worker said, "If we do not unite and bargain for better wages the employers and contractors treat us like dirt".

The third objection: "SEWA organised only in one state of India and was not truly national".

In response, SEWA executive committee members from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh talked about their extensive membership and activities.

The Mission asked about SEWA finances, were we truly sustainable?

We showed them that over 55% of our total costs were covered by membership fees. Grants and donations accounted for the other 45% which were used mainly for education and publications.

The mission wanted to know why SEWA organised only women and the executive committee explained that in the Indian context when men and women organised, the men took over and women could not speak. "In our families we cannot speak in front of the elder men, and if they come into our union, we can no longer lead the union".

We thank the Mission and all our friends who have supported us and look forward to working closely with the ICFTU to promote organising of the workers in the informal economy. (Source: Report from *SEWA Newsletter 8*)

## **KENASVIT officially launched in Kenya**

**By Peter Odhiambo**

The Kenyan National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders (KENASVIT) was officially launched on the 18th April 2006 at an event at Safari Club Hotel (Lillian Tower) in Nairobi. The launch followed KENASVIT's registration with the Attorney General's office in February this year.

In 2004 an Interim Steering Committee was tasked with spearheading the formation of the national alliance and a consultative process in the main urban centres for the drafting of the constitution.

The constitution was adopted in March 2005 and KENASVIT's national office bearers were elected at a meeting in Mombasa by the founding urban alliances.

The official launch brought together about 90 participants from street traders' and informal trader organisations and local authority and central government representatives. Also present were organisations and structures that have worked supportively and cooperatively with street traders and the urban alliances: the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi; Unitarian Universalist Service Committee representatives; the Kenya Land Alliance; Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

The KENASVIT launch was officially opened by the Director of Small Enterprises on behalf of the Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resources.

KENASVIT's development partners from Unitarian Universalist Service Committee provided a training course for national executive committee members on conflict resolution and negotiation skills on the day before the launch. On the day following the launch they had the opportunity to visit the Nairobi, Kisumu and Migori alliances.

The official launching of KENASVIT has announced to the entire nation of Kenya that there is a street vendors' and informal traders' body they can work with on matters related to the sector. The launching occasion was successful and enabled various stakeholders involved in the sector's development to interact and get to know each other.

### **Member alliances**

So far, KENASVIT has brought on board seven urban alliances namely, Mombasa, Machokas, Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu and Migori, representing 3 000 members drawn from 140 local member associations of the urban alliances. KENASVIT is now in a position to forge a network with other stakeholders to realise its vision in the sector.

KENASVIT intends to recruit members in the main urban areas in order to build a strong force to advocate for street vendors and informal traders in Kenya.

KENASVIT is very grateful to StreetNet International and the Institute for Development Studies for the assistance which has brought the national alliance to where it is today.

## **Korean street vendors gather for 19th annual rally**

Korean Street Vendors Confederation (KOSC) held the 19th National Street Vendors' Congress and Rally on 8th June 2006 in Seoul, South Korea. Elvis Chishala Secretary of StreetNet International from the Alliance of Zambian Informal Economy Associations (AZIEA) attended the rally at the invitation of KOSC. About 12 000 street vendors participated in the event.

Street vendors are bracing themselves against expected nationwide raids and evictions from the streets and a revised but worse version of a law relating to evictions.

The local elections on 31st May gave a landslide victory to the most conservative political party, the Grand National Party.

The Korean government and most of the municipalities have subsequently begun to enforce a repressive policy on street vendors under the cloak of 'street beautification', 'street restoration' and 'developing and remodelling districts'.

### **New mayor of Seoul**

The newly elected mayor of Seoul metropolitan city, Mr Oh Se-hoon, has also threatened to evict 894 street vendors at Dongdaemoon Stadium in Seoul who have been trading in the stadium since early 2004 following the struggle against the restoration of Cheonggye-Chon.

Speakers and political leaders at the rally demanded that the Korean government and municipalities recognise and protect the street vendors and abandon the unprogressive and oppressive law being prepared against the urban poor of Korea.

StreetNet International Secretary, Elvis Chishala, the presidents of the Korean Peoples' Solidarity, Korean Peasants' League, the Seoul Democratic Labour Party, the Socialist Party and the vice-president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions were among the main speakers.

### **March to the city centre**

During the march to the centre of Seoul City, some KOSC leaders held a dialogue with the newly elected representatives of Seoul local government and other leaders and officers of the Korean national government responsible for the revised eviction bill.

The representatives apologised to us for not considering the human right to earn a living by street vendors during and after the local elections and promised they would not evict street vendors without any other measures being in place.

However, on the new eviction bill they said they could not make such a promise as this will be considered by Parliament in November 2006. The KOSC declared that it would organise more rallies against the expected evictions of street traders and the revised bill.

## **National Vendors' Martyr Day: NASVI calls for implementation of policy** **By Arbind Singh**

It is an alarming fact that today, the urban poor are taking their own lives in despair at their economic situation. The Government of India has created the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission to make our cities "economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive", but from the point of view of the poor - of the street vendor - the cities are creating economic deprivation and becoming more inequitable.

The Government of India had adopted the National policy for Street vendors in 2004, which was then endorsed by the UPA Government in 2005. The National Policy on Street Vendors is the means by which the livelihood of the ten million street vendors is to be protected and enhanced. Unfortunately, there has been no implementation of the National Policy for Street Vendors. Instead, the urban poor are facing circumstances more desperate than ever before. So difficult is their plight that they have begun taking their own lives. Gopal Krishna Kashyap, the leader of a group selling parathas in Patiala, died in January 2006 in flames, with over 200 people and a TV camera watching him. He had been displaced to "beautify" the city during the Indo-Pak games in 2004. He and his group had been promised, but never given, alternative sites.

Abdul Rafeeq Khan burnt himself to death in the premises of the Lucknow Municipality in May 2005, after many street vendors were displaced to accommodate a contractor. Pappu Rathore burnt himself to death on the Gwalior streets in January 2006, a year after he had been removed and could find no alternative employment.

The situation is getting worse, with several courts ordering "clearing" of all streets. For this reason, NASVI called for May 11th 2006 to be marked as National Vendors' Martyr Day and called on the Central Government to give teeth to the National Policy by enacting suitable legislation, in consultation with genuine organisations and representatives of street vendors. In response to our demands, the Central Govt organised a national seminar on 12th July. The seminar discussed methods to give more teeth to the National Policy and also the question of legislation.

## **Uruguay: Street vendors hold consultation on social security**

Lucia Melnikov of AFFE (Association of Vendors of Special Fairs) reports that street vendors in Uruguay have been involved in a consultation on the extension of social security benefits to street vendors and taxation. Internal discussions have been held on the issue of the contribution of taxes through the Intersectoral Plenary of the Street Vendors of Uruguay (PIVCU). Melnikov says that AFFE was visited by representatives of the workers of the Banco de Previsión Social.

The AFFE proposed consultation with the members of PIVCU and a day of information-sharing and debate to work towards a formula that will resolve the problem of social security.

Informal economy trade unions in other Latin American countries were asked to send reports on their experiences of taxation of the informal economy and autonomous workers and inclusion by their governments into the social security system.

"We have resolved that on the question of Social Security, we are working towards developing a proposal for inclusion in a system where rights and obligations of independent workers are set out in legislation", Melnikov said. "As we are managers of our work we demand solutions from and also offer solutions to the different agencies of the state." (Source:e-mail correspondence from AFFE 15th October 2005)

## **Guinee: Avaria market vendors displaced by road building**

At the Madina Market, Avaria sector, in Conakry, which groups together a large number of women market and street vendors, vendors have been evacuated by the local authority which is constructing a secondary road linking the highway to Niger.

StreetNet affiliate in Guinee, CNTG, reports that on March 10th, the CNTG StreetNet National Committee embarked on a struggle with the Avaria market women against administrative and police harassment

As a result of the intervention, fruitful negotiations are underway with the office of the Conakry Governor in order to find a lasting solution so that the vendors can continue to earn a living. (Source: e-mail correspondence from SYNCOTEG; CNTG report by Madeleine Tounkara)