

**IBM ITALY WORKERS PLAN SL STRIKE!**  
By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

**With the compensation of 9000 employees at stake, UNI Global Union prepares for a demonstration unlike any the world has seen.** Planned for a day between September 17-30, "This very first Virtual world strike gives unions the opportunity to clearly state that Second Life is not only a business place. Workers and unions should have the right to strike and to be heard here too," says Philip Jennings, UNI's RL General Secretary.

UNI started supplying free strike kits at its headquarters on Commonwealth Island (88,160,22) on September 12. "We had lots [of people] earlier," commented ColinM Offcourse, a member of UNI in SL, during a short break in the flow of IBM Italy employees and their supporters coming to pick up kits. The kits consist of a t-shirt, several huge signs, and three giant fish that will float above strikers' heads.

"Some will see it as a game, but the workers' rights are at stake and this has a huge following," said ColinM.

HUNDREDS EXPECTED

"We expect hundreds of strikers to join us in the IBM-Second Life day of action. What's especially new is that workers will be anonymous!" says Philip. Their anonymity will help protect them from any possibility of retaliation by IBM.

We e-mailed Alessandro Ferrari, IBM Italy's press contact, for IBM's perspective on the strike, but he has not as yet gotten back to us.

Although strike t-shirts are not to be worn prior to the strike itself, Noone Soderberg tried his on for size. "Red for labour!!" said ColinM.

To get more information on the strike, UNIGlobalunion Oh advises: "Go to <http://www.uniglobalunion.org/secondlife>."

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