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Secretariat ✓

Reference MS
Date 2008-11-22

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Human and trade union rights violations in Russia

The Swedish national trade union IF Metall, with approximately 400.000 members in several industry sectors, have been made aware of serious violations on human and trade union rights taking place in Russia.

We have received alarming information from the Interregional Trade Union of Autoworkers (ITUA), about increasing threats, assaults and battery of union leaders and activists in response to their demands for the respect of the fundamental right of workers to organize and form unions.

On June 24, 2008 in the city of Taganrog, trade union activists of the primary organization of the Russian Interregional Trade Union of Autoworkers (ITUA) at OAO «TagAZ», Alexei Gramm and Sergei Bryzgalov, were assaulted and beaten.

The day before they had participated in a picket at the entrance to the enterprise demanding that management provide employees with information on wages and compensation to verify that proper payments had been made to workers. They also called for recognition of ITUA.

One month later, on July 24, 2008, following another unsuccessful attempt to officially receive requested information from the accounting department of the enterprise, Sergei Bryzgalov was again beaten when returning to his home from work.

The police have refused to carry out a thorough criminal investigation of these assaults and bring to justice those responsible.

On November 7, 2008, three unknown assailants armed with brass knuckles attacked Alexey Etmanov outside his home. Etmanov is the ITUA co-chairperson and also the chairperson of the ITUA primary organization at ZAO «Ford Motor Company».

A day later on November 8, 2008, Vladimir Lesik, Vice-Chairperson of the ITUA primary organization at ZAO «Ford Motor Company» received a call from an unidentified person saying that the attack on A. Etmanov was only a mild warning and made a death threat if he did not cease his activities.

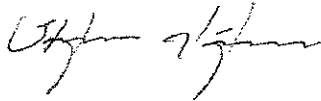
The last days we have just received notice of another assault, which occurred on November 13 against Etmanov. This time, with assistance from accompanying comrades, Alexey managed to neutralize the assailant and to hand him over to the police.

IF Metal is deeply alarmed about these attacks and threats to trade union leaders and activists. We are gravely concerned about the authorities' indifference to violations of fundamental human and labour rights and the failure to act promptly and effectively to ensure these rights are fully upheld and protected against any such attack.

It is absolutely unacceptable that trade union representatives should be beaten and threatened to death because they fulfil their fundamental right to represent workers and protect their rights.

We demand you to take immediate action to ensure full compliance by all employers with ILO Conventions 87 «On freedom of association» and 98 «On the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining», which has been ratified by Russia.

Yours sincerely
IF Metall



Stefan Löfven
President



IFMETALL

Reference MS
Date 2008-11-22

Mr. Chaika Y. Yuriy
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RUSSIA
Fax: +7 (495) 692-96-00

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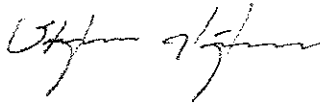
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Date 2008-11-22

Ms. Golikova A. Tatiana
Minister of Health Care and Social Development
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RUSSIA
Fax: +7 495 628 09 48

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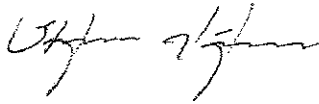
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Date 2008-11-22

Mr. Kuznetsov A. Valeriy
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344082, Rostov Region,
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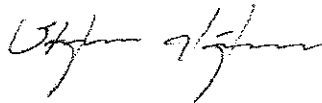
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