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*Secretariat*

**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

December 1, 2008

Mr. Yuri Y. Chaika  
General Prosecutor's Office of the  
Russian Federation  
125993, Moscow, GSP-3  
Dimitrovka building 15a  
Russia

Via Fax: 011-7-495-692-96-00

Dear Mr. Chaika:

I am writing because I am both concerned and disgusted by the violent assaults committed in recent days in Taganrog upon trade unionists Alexei Gramm and Sergei Bryzgalov of Taganrog and Alexei Etmanov of Vsevelovshk in the Leningrad Region. In addition, a fourth activist, Vladimir Lesik received a death threat in which he was explicitly warned to end his activity with his Union. All four of these workers are members and activists of the Russian Interregional Trade Union of Autoworkers (ITUA). I am even more concerned because I have received word that your office and your subordinate offices in Rostov-na-Danu and in the Leningrad Region have failed to investigate these crimes or do anything substantial to bring the perpetrators to justice.

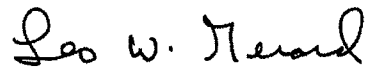
As I am sure you are well aware, the right of workers to organize into unions of their choosing is guaranteed by ILO Conventions 87 and 98, to which the Russian Federation is a party. For union activists to be assaulted and threatened with death for exercising their rights under these two conventions is not the mark of a decent society. Even worse is the failure of the proper authorities to investigate and arrest those responsible for these vile crimes. It is as if your office is ratifying the work of the thugs who assaulted the unionists.

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers throughout North America and the Caribbean, I call on you to direct your offices in Rostov-na-Danu and the Leningrad Region to vigorously investigate these crimes and bring the criminals to justice. Union activists and other workers must be safe to exercise their rights under the ILO



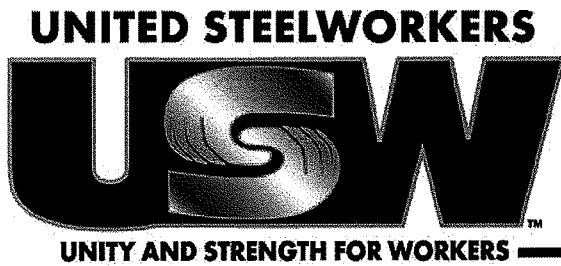
Conventions and prosecution of the criminals who planned and carried out these vicious assaults will send a message that the Russian Federation is a country that supports human rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

c: Mr. Sergei V. Romanyuk, Public Prosecutor's Office of the Leningrad Region  
Mr. Valeriy A. Kuznetsov, Public Prosecutor of the Rostov Region  
Ms. Tatiana A. Golikova, Minister of health Care & Social Development, Russian Federation  
Mr. Marcello Malentacchi, General Secretary, International Metalworkers' Federation  
USW International Executive Board



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

December 1, 2008

Via email: profsoyuz@ford-profsoyuz.ru

Russian Interregional Trade Union of Autoworkers  
13/14 A Sablinskaya  
197198 Saint Petersburg  
Russia

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing to offer you the solidarity and support of the 850,000 members of the United Steel, Paper & Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial, and Service Workers International Union (USW). Our members work in a wide variety of industries including automotive parts.

When I read about the assaults upon Brothers Gramm and Bryzgalov in Taganrog and of Brother Etmanov in the Leningrad Region and the death threat to Brother Lesik, I was outraged. I was further angered when I found that the prosecutors' offices in your respective regions have neither properly investigated these cases nor brought any of the criminals to justice.

I have written to the General Prosecutor's office in Moscow with copies to the Public Prosecutors in Rostov and the Leningrad Region to protest their unwillingness to investigate these crimes or to bring the thugs to justice. Also I have reminded them of Russia's obligation under ILO Conventions 87 and 98 to protect the right of workers and their unions to organize and to bargain collectively.

Furthermore I wish to express the USW's strong support for your Union's work at both ZAO <<Ford Motor Company>> and OAO <<TagAZ>>. I am confident that the work you are doing will lead to an improved standard of living and substantially greater rights at work for millions of Russian workers.

In solidarity,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

c: Mario Malentacchi, General Secretary, International Metalworkers Federation  
Ron Gettelfinger, International President, United Auto Workers  
USW International Executive Board

**United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union**

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