

2nd ITUC-AP Regional Conference

Resolution No. 1

PROMOTING AND DEFENDING WORKERS RIGHTS

The 2nd Conference of the ITUC-Asia Pacific Meeting in Singapore, on 11-13 May 2011 reaffirms that promoting and defending workers rights every where is and will be our primary task.

The Conference is alarmed at the increasing incidence of blatant violation of trade union rights, more particularly the right to organise and collective bargaining. Such cases are reported even in those countries which claims to respect these rights; governments are increasingly becoming intolerant of trade unions. Trade union activists are facing victimization, arrests, dismissal, transfer, physical assaults and even deaths; the cases of “missing” and execution are also on the increase.

Several countries in the region have not ratified the core labour conventions and even those who have they are not implemented in letter and spirit. Labour laws in many countries do not fully conform to the core labour standards and even where they do enforcement leaves much to be desired; enforcement machinery is found erratic.

The Conference reiterates that it is the inalienable right of every worker to form and join union of his/her liking. Right to form and join trade union, to bargain and to free and independent trade union are essential for all working people. We will fight and promote these rights everywhere in the region, irrespective of whether we have representation or not.

The Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and the GUFs to:

- to campaign for labour law reforms to allow unrestricted workers right to organise and bargain collectively in compliance with the ILO conventions No. 87 and 98, irrespective of the ownership, nature, size, composition of the workforce, employment status, and location of the workplace;
- to assist affiliates in capacity building to address the deficiencies in labour legislations in the region and to ensure effective implementation so that the workers enjoy their fundamental rights to freedom of association and to organise as per universally accepted standards;
- continue to intensify campaign to promote ratification of the ILO core conventions and their effective implementation;
- monitor and act appropriately to oppose cases of violation of workers fundamental rights and human rights wherever they occur in the region and mobilise solidarity of workers organisations to strengthen such efforts;
- support the affiliates in all possible ways in their fight for defending workers;
- campaign vigorously for the release of all imprisoned for trade union activities;
- work to obtain full respect for fundamental workers’ rights for the workers in the informal economy, irrespective of their employment status, in particular for their right to organise and bargain collectively;
- work with the ITUC to use the ILO mechanisms to present complaints to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association and Committee on Application of Standards and follow up;
- encourage and support establishment of independent democratic trade unions in countries where they do not exist;

- work with the ITUC and the GUFs to continue engagement with various multilateral economic integration processes;
- make effective use of all available means including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to address unfair labour practices adopted by multinational corporations, and to implement Framework Agreements with multinationals to ensure adherence to Core Labour Standards; and
- monitor labour inspection machinery.