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Chief Minister Government of Punjab
Lahore

HTUR/JB

16 March 2020

ITUC urging investigation into murder and violence on factory workers in Ferozewala, Lahore

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) representing 200 million workers in 163 countries, including through the All Pakistan Trade Union Congress (APTUC) and the Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) in Pakistan, to express serious concerns about reported violence against Ravi Autos (RA) factory workers, including the assassination of young Mr Rizwan by the employer.

We are informed that on 17 February 2020, the management had called some workers and new people to the factory while it was a routine day off. The workers protested. At 1 PM the majority of workers who were protesting at the gate went for food and the owner sent in armed guards who, together with the factory owner, first fired in the air and later indiscriminately fired straight into the workers, killing Mr Rizwan and critically injuring 4 other workers who were taken to Mayo Hospital in Lahore. A complaint was lodged with the Ferozewala Police Station.

The ITUC denounces this barbaric act in the strongest terms and joins its local affiliates in urging your government to establish a thorough and independent investigation and judicial inquiry into the case to ensure that those responsible are held to account for their crimes. As your government has the ultimate responsibility to protect, it is to ensure that the workers and the families who have suffered these terrible human rights abuses are adequately compensated for moral and financial damages, in particular the family of Mr Rizwan. We demand that the lock-out by the employer be ended and all workers are reinstated as a matter of urgency, and that negotiations with the Ravi Auto Union on the submitted Charter of Demands of the workers are resumed immediately.

We request your urgent intervention in this matter and wish to be kept informed of the measures taken to address it.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary