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## **Violation of the fundamental trade union rights of the Communication Workers Trade Union of Georgia**

Mr. President,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents 170 million workers through its 312 affiliates in 157 countries throughout the world, was informed by its affiliate the Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC) that the state controlled enterprise Georgian Post continuously violates workers' and trade union rights and undermines trade unions.

According to our information, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, thirty employees of the head office were forced by management to sign a statement confirming that they are to leave the Communication Workers Trade Union of Georgia (CWTU). Recently, the trade union local committee was deprived of its office and the membership fees of the trade union members were no longer transferred to the trade union bank account. Furthermore, the management neglected existing collective agreements. Short-term employment has become usual practice in Georgian Post. The salaries of the 1,500 workers have been systematically delayed.

The ITUC is writing to you to emphasize that these events represent clear violations of the fundamental trade union rights as enshrined in the ILO Conventions 87, on Freedom of Association, and 98, on Collective Bargaining, which have been ratified by your country.

I trust that you will address this important matter and ensure that Georgian Post respects fundamental workers' rights. In its support to the GTUC complaint to the ILO Committee of Freedom of Association (CFA), the ITUC reserves its right to submit additional information related to CWTU to the CFA.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

cc: Zurab Pololikashvili, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia  
David Khutsishvili, Georgian Post – General Director