

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TUCA

On the Coup d'État in Honduras

Sao Paulo, Brazil - 8 July 2009

The Executive Board of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), meeting in Sao Paulo on 8 July 2009, in light of the coup d'état in the Republic of Honduras, adopts the following resolution:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

That TUCA strongly and resoundingly condemned the military coup carried out in Honduras on 28 June with the abduction, overthrow and expulsion from the country of President Manuel Zelaya Rosales.

That the military coup in Honduras constitutes a step backward in the evolution and consolidation of the democratic process initiated in Honduras and Central America in the nineteen eighties with the triumph of the Sandinista Revolution in 1979 in Nicaragua and the holding of elections in Honduras in 1980 to form a Constituent Assembly, together with the Peace Agreements signed at the end of December 1996 in Guatemala, strengthening the process of transition towards democracy in Central America.

That TUCA, as a regional trade union organisation for the Americas, committed to democracy, human rights, peace and self determination, has called for the immediate return to power of President Manuel Zelaya Rosales as the country's highest executive authority, together with full respect for the will of the people in the Republic of Honduras.

That the international community, through the United Nations General Assembly and the Organisation of American States (OAS), has expressed its condemnation and rejection of the military coup and has unanimously and resoundingly called for a return to constitutional order and respect for the rule of law through the restitution of Manuel Zelaya as the constitutional president.

That the "de facto" government of Roberto Micheletti, to maintain its hold on power and prevent any reaction from the people, has declared a night-time curfew and has suspended the constitutional rights of the Honduran people: the right to freedom of movement, freedom of association and demonstration, the inviolability of the home, the right to private property, freedom of the press and the dissemination of ideas and opinions, personal freedom, including the right not to be held in administrative detention by the police for over 24 hours or in judicial detention for questioning for over six days, giving way to indefinite detentions, etc.

That the repressive strategy of the coup government has not had the expected result of silencing and immobilising the Honduran people. On the contrary, popular discontent is growing and, every day, ever-increasing numbers of citizens are joining in the demand for the restoration of constitutional order through the return and reinstatement of Manuel Zelaya.

That certain members of the business community have played an active role in the coup, taking part in the marches of the coupsters, accompanied by political figures and employers protected by the armed forces, forcing their workers to take part in them, whilst the

demonstrations in favour of a return to democracy are repressed, crushed and their participants imprisoned.

That the coup government, in a bid to immobilise the people, divert attention from the coup d'état and to unite the people behind the supposed need to defend national sovereignty, has been creating a climate of fear over a possible invasion of Honduras from Nicaraguan territory.

That the de facto regime has rejected the OAS's call for a return to constitutional rule and has taken an intransigent and non-negotiable stand, refusing, among others, the intervention of the secretary general of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, to overcome the crisis. It, furthermore, prevented the return to Honduras of President Zelaya on Sunday 5 July, and the military forces used brutal repression against the citizens awaiting him at Toncontín airport, leaving many of them injured and killing two.

That the detentions, threats and attacks levelled against those protesting against the coup are being intensified. Such measures include the invasion and destruction of the head office of our affiliate the CGT.

That polarisation and popular discontent continue to grow, highlighting the need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict. That the de facto government of Micheletti has now requested OAS mediation of the conflict and on Tuesday 7 July the mediation of President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica was confirmed.

THEREFORE

The government installed in Honduras and headed by Roberto Micheletti is illegitimate and unconstitutional and is not recognised by the OAS, the international community and broad social sectors of Honduran society.

The abduction and expulsion of Manuel Zelaya constitute a violation of the fundamental principles of democracy as well as those enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras, and a military force, instigated by other political forces, has acted in the face of alleged offences committed by the legitimate president of Honduras, without respect for the minimum precepts of due process and the right to legal defence.

This coup represents a step backward in the consolidation of democratic processes, not only in Honduras but in all the countries of Latin America. The Charter of the OAS, a historic document synthesising the democratic values and the political will of the peoples of the Americas, as well as the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes the commitment of the regional community to refuse to accept any militarily-imposed government within the OAS, have been violated.

RESOLVES

1. To stand in solidarity with the Honduran people and their social organisations, which, in defence of Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic, have stated their intention to engage in civil disobedience and permanent peaceful resistance until constitutional order is restored. In particular, we express our steadfast solidarity with our affiliates, the CUTH, CGT and the CTH and their leaders, who have from the very outset been heading actions in favour of a return to complete democracy in their country.

2. To welcome the speed, firmness and resolve of the OAS in responding to the political crisis in Honduras, calling for respect for its Constitution and for the Inter-American Democratic Charter as a fundamental pillar of the exercise of democracy in the continent. We also welcome the reaction of all the governments in the region that have condemned this undemocratic act.

3. To join with the social organisations of Honduras in their request that the OAS should ratify and take every step necessary to force the de facto government to restore constitutional order by reinstating Manuel Zelaya as president of the Republic of Honduras.

4. To value the decision of the government of the United States to deploy every legal, political and economic recourse at its disposal, including the suspension of military aid, to isolate the de facto government of Honduras and to press it to restore constitutional order.

5. To also call on the governments of the European Union to consider the measures adopted by the OAS and all the governments of the Americas and, in this respect, to break off diplomatic and political relations with the coup government, to establish economic sanctions and, in particular, to suspend the benefits of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP Plus), under which Honduran businesses are exempted from duties on the entry of their products to the European market.

6. To remain on the alert as regards the coupsters' strategy of diverting public opinion with claims of a supposed invasion of Honduras from Nicaraguan soil. To inform the Honduran people that the international community respects the principle of national sovereignty.

7. To uphold that any negotiated settlement to the crisis must be based on the return to office of the legitimate president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, and the full restoration of institutionality and democracy, which includes the establishment of political, legal and penal responsibilities with regard to these attacks on the country's democracy. Impunity in the face of serious violations of democratic and human rights constitutes a motivation for the reproduction of such condemnable practices.

8. To conduct a mission of solidarity with the Honduran people, in coordination with our affiliates in Honduras, and with the participation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), and the Global Union Federations (GUFs).

9. To strengthen the continental day of trade union solidarity action with the Honduran people and to deliver the present Resolution to all the Honduran Embassies and all the governments in each of the countries in the region on Wednesday 15 July.

Sao Paulo, Brazil - 8 July 2009.