



RESOLUTION ON HONDURAS

The 5th ITUC General Council meeting in Berlin, 6 – 8 October 2009:

CONDEMNS the military coup in Honduras of 28 June 2009, resulting in the detention and expulsion of the legitimate President of the country José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, and the adoption by the authors of the coup of a series of dictatorial measures, which violate fundamental democratic rights which are enshrined in the Honduran Constitution and in international law;

DENOUNCES the killing of innocent Honduran citizens and of 12 trade union leaders and militants by the illegitimate de facto regime and its continued use of torture, violence, incarceration, denial of freedom of speech, assembly and association, violation of international diplomatic convention at the Brazilian Embassy and the range of other actions aimed at repressing legitimate dissent and preventing a return to democracy and the rule of law;

DEMANDS that the regime immediately and unconditionally withdraw from their illegal occupancy of all positions of political and administrative authority to ensure the return of President Zelaya to the Presidency of the country, that they guarantee the security and physical safety of President Zelaya and all Hondurans and that they suspend without delay all the repressive measures which they have introduced;

PLEDGES the continued and fullest support of the international trade union movement to the ITUC's affiliates CUTH, CTH and CGT, which condemned the coup immediately it took place, and which continue, at the front of the alliance of democratic forces from diverse sectors and social movement, to resist the illegitimate regime and campaign for the return of democracy;

CALLS UPON The governments in the region and worldwide, and the international institutions including the United Nations, Organisation of American States, European Union and others which can bring effective pressure to bear, to act with determination against the violation of fundamental democratic rights in Honduras, to ensure that full authority is returned to the legitimate government of President Zelaya;

- CALLS UPON** the Honduran employers to respect ILO core labour standards, in particular Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise and Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining;
- INSISTS** that the intellectual and material authors of the coup are brought to justice for the crimes they have committed in relation to the launching of the coup and the events which have followed;
- SUPPORTS** the Honduran democracy movement in its demand for the convocation of a constituent assembly to resolve the social, economic and political problems which the country faces;
- RESOLVES**
- to intensify international trade union actions in solidarity with the Honduran trade union movement and people, including through the provision of material assistance;
 - promote international action, in coordination with the Global Union Federations, to increase international support for action to end the crisis in Honduras;
 - to continue to closely monitor events in the country, and maintain support for the Honduran trade union movement in its quest for a resolution to the crisis which is founded on democracy, social justice and the rights of Honduran working people;
 - to be ready to send a mission of solidarity with the people and workers of Honduras that have so bravely fought the military coup and to witness first hand the human and trade union rights situation in the country when required and appropriate;
- CALLS UPON**
- the European Union to suspend the GSP+ trade preferences to Honduras as a further means of pressure to obtain an immediate and total return to democracy in that country;
 - the International community not to send financial aid or observers to the elections of 29 November and not to recognize their outcome;
 - to end immediately all financial cooperation with the de facto government; and
- HOPES** that the talks that President Manuel Zelaya and the de facto government have agreed to begin next week under the auspices of the Organization of American States bring a solution to the crisis. For this dialogue to bear fruit, all coercive measures taken by Micheletti -the current state of siege; the decree restricting freedom of movement, assembly and of the press; and the closing down of two media loyal to Zelaya, Radio Globo and Channel 36 - must be lifted.