



10 August 2023

Mr Guillermo Lasso
President of the Republic of Ecuador

Your Excellency,

The **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**, which represents 190 million workers in 167 countries and territories, and has 336 national affiliated organisations, joins with its regional organisation, the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**, which represents 50 national organisations on the continent, with a membership of over 55 million workers, in **condemning** the assassination of Mr Fernando Villavicencio, a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Ecuador, and expresses **grave concern** over the political and social violence in the country.

The process of political and social violence that Ecuador has been enduring for months now, and that has claimed several lives, is a serious blow to the rule of law, threatening the exercise of freedoms and, in the immediate term, the personal safety of those most directly engaged in social and political life.

We therefore urgently call on the government to:

- a) Guarantee the fundamental rights to life, security and freedom of members and leaders of trade union organisations and other organisations representing civil society and political activity, as well as the people of Ecuador in general;
- b) Ensure that the murder of the Construye candidate and other victims of violence does not go unpunished and that it is thoroughly investigated using the relevant procedures with the guarantees inherent to the rule of law;
- c) Safeguard, by so doing, the system of democracy in Ecuador.

We reaffirm our commitment to the defence of human rights, social justice and the active participation of workers in the political and social life of our countries. We urge the authorities to take concrete measures to prevent future acts of political violence and to guarantee the safety of all political actors and citizens taking part in the democratic process.



CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL DE TRABAJADORES/AS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL INTERNACIONAL



The TUCA will continue to keep a close watch on the situation in Ecuador and to defend democracy, justice and human rights throughout the region. We urge the international community to join in the condemnation of this tragic event and to support the efforts to ensure that peace and justice prevail in Ecuador and on the continent as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Rafael Freire Neto
TUCA General Secretary

Luc Triangle
ITUC Acting General Secretary