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Mr Alexander Agranovich
Director
“Bobruisk Plant of Tractor Parts and Units”
JSC
Bakharova Str. 225, C. Bobruisk
213805 Republic of Belarus
By e-mail: bztdia@minprom.by
cc: BKDP

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 1 April 2014

Dear Mr. Agranovich,

We have learned with great concern that 12 workers of your enterprise felt forced to go on hunger strike from 25 to 27 March, 2014 because of continuous pressure, intimidations and reprisals against members of the free trade union by the enterprise administration only because they have exercised their legal right to join a free trade union. This right is guaranteed by the Constitution of your country and by the Convention of the International Labour Organization (ILO) No 87 ratified by the Republic of Belarus.

It is not the first time that the international community, including the world trade union movement, expresses its anxiety and concern with blatant and systematic violations of the rights of workers and trade unions in Belarus. The country was repeatedly condemned for such practices by the ILO and the European Union which have resulted in direct economic losses.

We regret that instead of responding to these appeals and legitimate demands, the state authorities and enterprise directors would prefer to continue conducting a dangerous policy of violence against dissidents and of the elimination of trade union pluralism in the country. We regret that your enterprise management, despite and in violation of assurances that we thought were given to ITUC representatives at a recent meeting with a representative of the enterprise management, was not able to respond in a civilized way to voiced concerns of your workers leading them to take desperate means of protest. Their anger and despair is shared by millions of workers of the ITUC family around the world.

I urge you to immediately stop the repression against workers - members of free trade union!

The ITUC and its members have been carefully monitoring the trade union situation in your country and will not hesitate to inform international and national authorities and businesses about the persistent practice of labour rights violations at your enterprise and your personal responsibility in these violations.

Yours sincerely,

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary

