

International Liaison Committee of Workers (ILC)

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Support the APTUF against attacks on the trade union rights Support financially the APTUF in its struggle for the re-instatement of the 41 workers of Capital Industry

The ILC wishes to inform that it received a letter of comrade Rubina Jamil, General Secretary of the All Pakistan Trade Union Federation, and one of the members of the Coordinating Committee elected by the Algiers International Conference Against War and Exploitation :

"Lahore, August 22nd, 2011

Dear Comrades,

Thanks a lot for your support. As you know, in a first appeal, we gave all the facts:

"The All Pakistan Trade Union Federation is a National Trade Union Center in Pakistan, having affiliation of 240 trade unions of public and private sector industries and commercial institutions.

• **Brief Scenario of Workers Struggle / Challenges in Capital Industry (Pvt) Ltd:**

Capital Industry (Pvt) Ltd. Manufacturing bicycles, located at Shahdra, Lahore, Pakistan. Capital Industry Workers Union got success in Referendum on May 2011 union is affiliated with All Pakistan Trade Union Federation. The management did not recognize the collective bargaining status of the union and used different tactics to harass the union leaders and workers. Union is peaceful element and trying to dialogue with the management for the acceptance of workers demand, but management does not recognize ready to start any negotiation with union, and instead of dialogue on demands, threatens the workers/union office bearers not to pursue the demand notice. **On 8th of August workers of capital industry went to factory in the morning outside the gate a notice was pasted in which they terminated 41 workers including six office bearers.**

• **Brief about Struggle:**

- Instead of management criminal tactics, workers of the factory and the main leadership of APTUF and Capital Industry Workers Union are facing threats and attacks by employers and its supported capitalists group. But workers are faithful to their cause and have shown great strength and moral to get their target
- *Workers Union of Capital Industry Won referendum on May 24th, 2011.*
- *Workers Union of Capital Industry (CBA) together with APTUF holding gate meetings*
- *Protest agitations in front of factory gate*
- APTUF/Union representatives meet District Labour Officer, Secretary Labour and Director Labour Punjab about the problems and issues of workers.
- Workers Union of capital industry file case against the management not negotiating workers union on demand notice.
- APTUF including Capital Industry Workers Union met SHO of Shahdra police on the issue of harassment of workers by the management of Capital Industry and the violation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 of Capital Industry Management.
- Labor Department representative visited factory for inquiry, District Labor Officer received an inquiry report and call to the management but management is not coming for meeting.

• **Our Demands:**

- * Immediately reinstate 41 terminated workers
- * Start negotiations with workers union of capital industry
- * Accept Union demand notice
- * Stop violation of labor laws
- * Restore already availed benefits."

Then the management of Capital Industry has been trying hard to hire some of the terminated workers on a contract basis and harasses them to prevent them from participating in any protest and gate meeting.

The economic situation of Capital industry workers is very bad, they are getting only 7,000 rupies monthly (approximately 70 dollars) and for the last three years they got no benefits.

Why did the management terminate 41 workers (which means that 41 families are on the road)? Because they are the most committed and active workers and strongly support trade union movement in Pakistan. The new leadership of Workers Union of Capital Industry, with the help of All Pakistan Trade Union Federation, is struggling to defend their trade union rights. Employer is openly violating ILO Convention 98 and 87. and Punjab government is not paying any heed to resolve Capital Industry workers problems.

Our federation is very thankful to the ILC and to all those who support us, and always gives us strength in our struggle whenever we face any attack by our enemies.

Our federation is going to file a case against the management, against their violation of labour laws, the arbitrary lay offs and we are asking for the immediate reinstatement of all those who were laid off.

The APTUF is developing a campaign of support and a financial campaign to cover the expenses of the legal action we are undertaking. We are asking for financial support from the workers in Pakistan. But we need also the help of our friends internationally.

We are asking for financial support from labour organisations and activists all over the world, to help us in defending trade union rights and the re-instatement of the 41 terminated workers and trade-unionists.

In solidarity,

*Rubina Jamil
General Secretary of the APTUF."*

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The International Liaison Committee of Workers answers to the appeal launched by the APTUF.

An injury to one is an injury to all

By defending trade union rights in Pakistan, we defend our own rights.

That is why the ILC sends this letter to all the organisations which were associated in the Algiers Conference held in November 2010, and to all trade union organisations and trade unionists world-wide.

Join the solidarity campaign with APTUF

Collect solidarity funds for the APTUF campaign!

For the Coordination Committee of the International Liaison Committee of Workers
Louisa Hanoune et Daniel Gluckstein

You can send your financial support through the ILC

Check order : CMO - Bank transfer : RIB (France) 10278 06076 00020050701 30

IBAN : FR76 1027 8060 7600 0200 5070 130 - CMCIFR2A

All trade unionists and activists can join this campaign by sending messages of support and solidarity to :
APTUF – email address: struggle0881@yahoo.com

Please send copies to Waqar Shafi, Executive director (fax : 92 42 36 28 25 03)
and to Shabaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab (fax: 92 42 35 881 383)