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Director

Daniel Blackburn, MA, barrister

Researcher

Ciaran Cross, LL.M.



International Centre for Trade Union Rights

*Centro Internacional para los Derechos Sindicales
Centre International pour les Droits Syndicaux*

E-mail: ictur@ictur.org
Web: www.ictur.org

ICTUR was founded to
defend and extend trade union rights and
to raise awareness of these rights and their violations
around the world

By e-mail:

premier@mail.gov.cn
english@mail.gov.cn
minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

Attn:

Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai
No. 174 Xi Chang'an Jie
Beijing 100017 China

CC:

Zhang Jinan, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security
Fu Zhenghua, Minister of Justice
Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

November 2018

Dear President,

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights is writing to express serious concerns about the arrest and continuing detention of labour activists in China.

ICTUR understands that in early November, at least twelve student labour activists were rounded up, arrested and detained in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Wuhan. It is reported that unidentified men approached the activists, beat and dragged them into cars, and drove them away. One of the activists, Zhang Shengye, has been prominent in the campaign to release the many student activists arrested in August this year while they were supporting workers trying to set up a trade union at Jasic Technology in Shenzhen. It is understood that several of those students also remain in detention.

ICTUR wishes to remind the government that the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted in 1998, commits all ILO members to respect and promote the principles of freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, as enshrined in ILO Conventions 87 and 98. The labour activists targeted by the government are engaged in defending and promoting these rights. The arrest and detention of trade unionists and labour activists constitutes a serious violation of the principles of freedom of association.

ICTUR calls on the government to secure the immediate release of all of the activists arrested and to drop the charges against them. ICTUR further calls on the authorities to undertake all necessary measures to ensure the fundamental freedoms of workers to join and form unions and to take action in defence of their interests. ICTUR will report these incidents in the journal *International Union Rights*, which was established in 1993, and which enjoys a readership in more than 100 countries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Blackburn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Blackburn, Director