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International Centre for Trade Union Rights

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

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

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Attn:

Marie Elise Brisson Gelin
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Port-au-Prince, HAITI

CC:

Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
Trade unions: CTSP, CSH, PSI, ITUC

March 2019

Dear Minister,

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights is gravely concerned for
the safety and security of trade unionists in Haiti.

ICTUR understands that Jean Bonald Golinsky Fatal, president of the
Confédération des Travailleurs-euses des Secteurs Public et Privé (CTSP),
was recently named on a list threatening five individuals, one of whom was
murdered in December 2018. Lionel Alain Dougé was assassinated at his
home in Pétion-Ville. As executive director of the Tripartite
Implementation Commission of the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity
through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE) law, Dougé had been
responsible for ensuring textile companies' compliance with HOPE,
Haitian law and International Labour Organisation standards in order to
access preferential trade advantages. It is reported that Dougé and the
CTSP had recently complained about attempts by companies to channel
clothes manufactured in China through Haiti in order to benefit from tariff-
free access to the US market.

In the climate of escalating social unrest, in which at least four people have
been killed and dozens injured in national anti-corruption protests in
February, this development is highly alarming. The International Trade
Union Confederation and the Confederación Sindical de los Trabajadores y
Trabajadoras de las Americas (CSA) have long reported on widespread
anti-trade union discrimination, persecution and criminalisation of trade
union members and leaders in Haiti.

ICTUR wishes to remind the government of its obligations to protect and

promote the principles of freedom of association that are enshrined in the International Labour Organisation Conventions 87 and 98, which Haiti has ratified. The ILO's Committee of Freedom of Association has stated that these rights 'can only be exercised in a climate that is free from violence, pressure or threats of any kind against the leaders and members of these organizations, and it is for governments to ensure that this principle is respected' (*Freedom of Association: Compilation of decisions of the Committee on Freedom of Association*, ILO. 6th Edition, 2018. para. 84).

ICTUR calls on the authorities to fully investigate the threat to Golinsky's life and the murder of Dougé, in order to identify those responsible and hold them to account. ICTUR further urges the government to take immediate and effective action to ensure that workers are afforded adequate protection in the exercise of their fundamental rights to organise and defend 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Blackburn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Blackburn, Director