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On behalf of the Global Union IndustriALL, which represents 50 million workers in the manufacturing and energy sectors in 140 countries, I am writing to inform you that we have been closely monitoring recent events in Ciudad Juarez, including the case of workers at the Lexmark factory who were fired for protesting unjust working conditions and attempting to organize an independent union.

We are aware that on Tuesday, March 28, the Conciliation and Arbitration Board in Ciudad Juarez will be holding a hearing to determine whether the unjustly fired Lexmark workers will be reinstated.

On March 23, our organization, along with 32 other union and NGOs based in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Mexico, sent a letter to Lexmark demanding that they reinstate the fired workers and respect the workers' right to be represented by a union of their free choice, a right guaranteed under Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organization (ILO). (Attached is a copy of that letter.)

We strongly urge that you also demonstrate your commitment to these internationally recognized workers' rights by ordering the reinstatement of these workers and ensuring that their right to freedom of association is respected. I can assure you that Mexico's compliance with these internationally recognized labour standards and the case of the fired Lexmark workers are the subject of much discussion internationally.

We look forward to hearing that there has been a prompt and just resolution to this case.

Yours truly,

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary