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President: Jörg Hofmann  
General Secretary: Valter Sanches

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**Mr. Gilbert Durand**  
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**Mr. Alain Vilard**  
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## Violations of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 at Interamerican Wovens (IW) and Sewing International SA (SISA) in the export processing zones of Haiti

Dear Mr. Gilbert Durand and Mr. Alain Vilard,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents 50 million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors in 140 countries, including Haiti, to firmly condemn the union busting operations and the serious violations of Haitian workers' rights, such as the right to freedom of association and social dialogue, currently taking place within your export processing zone companies, Interamerican Wovens (IW) and Sewing International SA (SISA).

We should remind you that Haiti, on ratifying ILO Conventions 87 and 98, undertook the commitment to respect and to implement these conventions. Likewise, your company, on joining the Better Work programme, also undertook a commitment to respect all the fundamental ILO conventions.

As you are aware, workers' organisations have been mobilising since the month of May to make their voice heard and claim their right to decent work and a decent life in the face of the high cost of living (driven by the increase in fuel prices), the intransigence of employers and their refusal to negotiate agreements on better pay and working conditions, the government's interference in trade union affairs, the circumvention of the tripartite dialogue on the reform of the labour law, with the imposition of flexibility and the eradication of existing rights, and the total absence of freedom of association and a culture of social dialogue.

The only response to the workers' desperate cries and their legitimate demands has been a brutal offensive, which has translated into violent police repression, the militarisation of the SONAPI industrial zone, the confiscation of trade unionists' telephones, the abuse of pregnant women, jailings and the dismissal of large numbers of workers taking part in trade union actions to denounce these injustices and defend their rights. In short, fierce retaliatory measures are being taken to punish anyone daring to defend and promote decent work in Haiti.

In light of the above and pursuant to Haiti's commitments with regard to the implementation of the ILO Core Conventions that it has ratified, IndustriALL Global Union hereby condemns these blatant trade union rights violations and calls for your company, operating within the Haitian state and as a

member of the Better Work programme, to assume its obligations in terms of respect for freedom of association and all the legal rights and guarantees provided for under ILO Conventions 87 and 98, with regard to trade union representation, social dialogue, trade union freedoms, the right of workers and their organisations to strike and hold public demonstrations, pay and working conditions, social security, and the principle of non-interference in trade union affairs and the appointment of their representatives; the reinstatement of all the workers (around 200 in total) dismissed from SEWING INTERNATIONAL SA (SISA) and INTERAMERICAN WOVENS since the month of May (see partial list attached); and the unconditional reinstatement of all the executive members of the trade union at Interamerican Wovens.

IndustriALL Global Union stands in solidarity with the struggle of our Haitian colleagues and will support and assist their trade union organisations in all the legal actions taken at national and international level to defend their rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sanches". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Valter Sanches,  
General Secretary

C.C.:

- Jovenel Moise, president of the Republic of Haiti
- Roosevelt Bellevue, minister of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST)
- Guy Ryder, director-general of the ILO
- Maria-Helena André, director of ACTRAV
- Carmen Moreno, director of ILO Costa Rica
- Dan Rees, director of Better Work
- Claudine François, general coordinator of Better Work Haiti
- Buyer companies
- Trade union organisations in Haiti