

Geneva, 21 March 2017

Mr. Joko Widodo, President
Republic of Indonesia

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URGENT appeal to Government of Indonesia to defend the fundamental rights of workers at Grasberg

Dear President,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Indonesia, to make an **urgent appeal** again to the Government of Indonesia to defend the fundamental rights of workers at PT Freeport Indonesia at the Grasberg mine.

Even though an agreement was reached with PT Freeport Indonesia, thousands of workers, who were fired for striking, still continue to suffer tremendously.

Freeport embodies the absolute worst of the global mining and metals industry. It provoked a strike by refusing to negotiate with CEMWU, then leading to some striking workers to die, as a result of taking away their health insurance--sixteen strikers have reportedly died as of February 2018, after being unable to access medical services.

We all have fresh in our memories the statement from the Manpower Minister of the Republic of Indonesia in his keynote speech at the opening of the SDGs Conference in Jakarta where he said that "Indonesia is committed to realize decent work for all. The Government of Indonesia would obtain valuable inputs from Indonesian key labour actors on opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly its Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth". Decent work covers four main elements guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection, promoting social dialogue and creating jobs. It is obvious that, in the case of Grasberg, all these elements are absent, forgotten and violated.

It is imperative that the Government of Indonesia—also in its capacity as a stakeholder of the mine—intervene immediately to avert a humanitarian crisis.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union urges the Government of Indonesia to defend the fundamental rights of Indonesian workers against this type of abuse. We urge you to ensure that the fired strikers' health insurance is immediately reinstated, that Freeport is held accountable for its illegal and immoral actions, and that you ensure the strikers no longer bear the brunt of these actions.



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Sincerely yours,

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