

IndustriALL Global Union's Glencore Global Union Network 26-27 September 2019, Valledupar, Colombia

Solidarity Statement for the Locked-out members of United Steelworkers at Glencore's Brunswick Smelter in Canada

Meeting in Valledupar, Colombia on 26-27 September 2019 for the Glencore Global Union Network Meeting of IndustriALL, around 30 union representatives from Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, South Africa, USA and Zambia are outraged to hear that since April 24, 2019, members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7085 were locked out of their jobs at Glencore's Brunswick Smelter, in Belledune, New Brunswick, Canada.

The delegates are very upset that Glencore imposed this lockout in an attempt to strip away existing conditions for the 280 smelter workers, particularly regarding union representation and health and safety protections.

The meeting expresses its profound anger that Glencore wants to eliminate the two essential union positions, as well force other concessions on workers since the union plays a critical role in making sure workers have a voice on the job and that they can refuse unsafe work and access proper training and safety equipment.

The delegates consider that this shameful attack is against fundamental workers' rights and protections that have existed for decades at the Brunswick Smelter, as well as Glencore's operations elsewhere in Canada. It is obvious to the delegates that Glencore is specifically targeting New Brunswick workers to eliminate these rights and protections.

Therefore, all the delegates express their full support and solidarity to their locked-out Canadian sisters and brothers, and urge Glencore to end its lockout of its Canadian workers at the Brunswick Smelter and to negotiate a fair collective agreement with the United Steelworkers without any delay.