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IndustriALL Global Union Demands an End to Preventable Deaths at Grasberg Copper Mine in Indonesia

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union representing more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 141 countries, to condemn the latest fatalities at the Grasberg Copper Mine in Indonesia and to call upon Freeport McMoran and Rio Tinto to implement immediately health and safety measures to ensure the protection of workers and the full respect of their fundamental rights to a safe and healthy working environment.

It is not long ago that IndustriALL Global Union_undertook a global solidarity mission to Indonesia to support and offer condolences to our affiliates and bereaved family members at the unnecessary deaths of 28 miners killed at the Grasberg copper mine, a mine majority owned by Freeport McMoran, which Rio Tinto also has a major investment in. The Global mission was also to protest to the government of Indonesia and Freeport-McMoran's management over this unnecessary loss of lives that could easily have been prevented and to call for the improvement in occupational health and safety. We made the call for an independent investigation on the causes of the accident and for those responsible to be called to account. We called on the Indonesian authorities to ratify ILO Convention 176 and its recommendations as this convention is central to improving health and safety in Mines.

It is with the deepest sense of shock, sadness and anger that we learn of another tragic mine accident at the same mine. This latest mine tragedy, which happened on 27 September 2014, has claimed 4 mineworkers' lives and injured another 5 mineworkers. In addition, two more fatal accidents had already occurred earlier in September.

How many more lives must be lost before Freeport McMoran at Grasberg takes the safety and health of mineworkers seriously and invest in health and safety.

In the wake of the mine accident at Grasberg on 14 May 2014, IndustriALL Global Union organized a high level delegation to Indonesia to protest at the senseless killing of mineworkers in accidents that have been shown to be preventable. At the end of that mission the delegation concluded that the accident clearly illustrated the urgent need for the ratification of ILO Convention 176 in Indonesia.

I once again urge and call upon you to collectively ensure that the spate of mine accidents associated with your operations comes to an end. You can do this by ensuring that the call for ratification of ILO Convention 176 that we, together with our affiliates, CEMWU-SPSI and FSPMI-KSPI make, is heeded and processes for implementation are undertaken immediately. In this respect, I urge you to actively participate and support the national ILO tripartite meeting on ILO Convention 176 to be held in Jakarta on 17 - 19 December 2014.

In addition, IndustriALL Global Union supports the demands of our affiliate to:

- Strongly urge the Police Chief Commander, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources to thoroughly investigate the accident and to seriously consider the Recommendation passed by the Human Rights Commission on the 14 May 2013 accident, which amongst other things, called for the implementation of law No. 1/1970 on Safety and Health.
- 2. To call those in charge to account for the accident and be held individually and collectively responsible.
- 3. Strongly urge the management at Freeport to commit to health and safety and to give assurance that such accidents will not happen again.

Yours sincerely,

Jyrki Raina

General Secretary

IndustriALL Global Union