

Geneva 26 May 2014

Hon Nicholas Goche
Minister of Labour, Zimbabwe
By email: monalisajudith@yahoo.com and missionzimbabwe@bluewin.ch

Unfair dismissal of ZEWU President by ZESA

Dear Honorable Minister of Labour,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 140 countries. We recently held a World Energy Conference, which brought together over 250 delegates from energy industry trade unions representing members in 48 countries in Madrid, Spain, on 10-11 April 2014.

One item discussed at the conference was the case of unfair dismissal of Angeline Chitambo, President of Zimbabwe Electricity Workers Union (ZEWU) by the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) for allegedly having disclosed confidential information at a press conference damaging the image of the company. Angeline Chitambo was dismissed without a fair hearing, which took place in her absence and in the absence of her legal and union representatives. Delegates were appalled to hear of the continued harassment and failure to reinstate this important trade union leader.

We find it deplorable that ZESA continues to refuse to reinstate Angeline Chitambo, despite the reinstatement of other suspended union leaders and dismissed managers. It is clear that the case is a blatant attack on an effective trade union leader and an attempt to remove her from her trade union position as well as her employment. As such, this situation is in total violation of core ILO conventions and damaging the international reputation of Zimbabwe.

I therefore kindly ask that you urgently intervene and compel ZESA to reinstate Angeline Chitambo immediately. We understand that there is a further hearing of the Chitambo case set for 29 May 2014. We also ask that you instruct ZESA to immediately engage with the union in constructive dialogue and to stop the victimization of Angeline Chitambo.

We will continue to support ZEWU and Angeline Chitambo until this matter is successfully resolved, and we would like to contribute to the restoration of harmony and fairness at ZESA.

Yours sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union