



Geneva, 8 September 2014

Tomorrow's iPhone 6 release tarnished by illegal sackings

Press Statement from Jyrki Raina, General Secretary, IndustriALL Global Union

“As Apple’s PR machine hypes up the iPhone 6 for the big 9 September release, they don’t mention the [ethical flaw in its supply chain](#). Trying to bust the local union in the Philippines, Apple’s supplier NXP sacked 24 trade union reps on 5 May, on sham charges of not working on public holidays. This gross violation of labour rights fundamentally violates the [ethical supply chain commitments of Apple](#). Before you buy the new iPhone, remember those 24 families who are now without an income in the Philippines. No income means they can no longer afford to send their children to school. Apple cannot allow its suppliers to treat its workers in this way.”

Notes to editors:

- The affected trade union MWAP is an affiliate of IndustriALL Global Union. IndustriALL has 50 million members in 141 countries.
- NXP technology will reportedly give the new iPhone 6 the capability to wirelessly pay for items like car park tickets and groceries.
- Those 24 democratically-elected worker representatives were illegally fired at the Cabuyao facility near Manila on 5 May by NXP Semiconductors, a microchip giant supplying technology for the iPhone.
- Over 150,000 consumers and activists have written to Apple through a SumOfUs campaign to demand the technology giant intervenes and instructs NXP to act in line with Apple’s supply chain commitments.
- Just fewer than 14,000 people have officially registered their complaint with the supply chain management at Apple.
- The latest aggressive anti-union intimidation at the plant in the special economic zone outside the capital Manila include: filing “unruly behaviour” and “loitering” charges against remaining members who are protesting against the mass sacking of their elected representatives; security guards taking photos and video of remaining union members, including while they eat their lunch; surveillance cameras installed throughout the plant; and bans on wearing t-shirts or posting messages on social media with slogans supporting the sacked 24.
- While NXP claims that it is seeking a resolution, the reality is that management at the plant is stepping up efforts to bust the union. Its stalling tactics are designed to weaken the resolve of the 24 sacked workers into accepting a pay off. After four months without a job they are in serious financial hardship and many have been forced to take their children out of school.

Press contacts:

Communications Officer Tom Grinter, +41796934499, tgrinter@industriall-union.org
Communications Officer Leonie Guguen, +41 22 308 50 24, lguguen@industriall-union.org
www.industriALL-union.org