

## SOLIDARITY STATEMENT ON THE STRUGGLE AT MARUTI SUZUKI, MANESAR PLANT

The struggle at the Manesar plant of Maruti Suzuki is that of exercising the rights of workers to form a union of their choice – a right recognised internationally as well as by the Indian Constitution.

The permanent and contract workers at the Manesar plant of Maruti-Suzuki had sought to form a union of their choice in 2011. Following months of struggle, the union was granted registration in early 2012, but the management of Maruti-Suzuki refused to recognise the union and negotiate with them in good faith.

A violent incident at Maruti Suzuki plant in Manesar on 18 July 2012, which began when a workers was insulted using casteist remarks, resulted in the unfortunate death of a manager. There was a common charge against all workers, who were arrested in July 2012. In the aftermath, the company dismissed 546 permanent workers and more than 1,800 contract workers. Many workers were arrested and 148 workers were jailed for more than three and a half years.

On 18 March 2017, nearly five years after the event, the Gurgaon District and Sessions Court sentenced 13 of the accused workers to life imprisonment for murder, four to 5 years in jail for violent trespass, while 14 were convicted for causing grievous harm but released as they had already served out their sentence. Out of 148 accused, 117 were acquitted of all charges.

It is clear that with the acquittal of the majority of workers, the basis for the prosecution's case is lost. Furthermore, the police investigation was inadequate, and the evidence against workers weak. The convicted workers, who are all lodged in the jail at Bhondsi, are in the process of preparing their Appeals to be filed in the High Court at Chandigarh.

We, the members of the Executive Committee of IndustriALL Global Union, stand with the all the workers of Maruti Suzuki who have been fighting to exercise their legitimate right to form and be part of a union of their choice.