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*President: Jörg Hofmann  
General Secretary: Valter Sanchez*

Geneva, 5 January 2017

Dr. Keith Rowley M.P.  
Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago  
13-15 St. Clair Avenue  
St. Clair  
Port of Spain

By e-mail at [LawrenceE@gov.tt](mailto:LawrenceE@gov.tt); [pmsec@opm.gov.tt](mailto:pmsec@opm.gov.tt)

## **IndustriALL Global Union Urges the Government of Trinidad & Tobago to seek a resolution to the impasse in collective bargaining negotiations between Petrotrin and OWTU**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors in 140 countries, including Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) in Trinidad & Tobago, to urge your government to intervene to ensure good faith negotiations between the state-owned Petroleum Company Petrotrin and our affiliate OWTU.

Negotiations covering the period of 2014-2017 collective agreement have been dragging on for far too long, with the company refusing to negotiate a fair and justified raise for its workforce. Hiding behind the excuse of low oil prices, the company has doggedly refused any increase over a six year period.

This unreasonable position disregards the vital contribution of workers to the company and the economy of the country. It also disregards the reality that it is workers who have held the company together despite its many inefficiencies.

Our affiliate OWTU has worked tirelessly during two separate periods with the Petrotrin management and the government to ensure a fair deal for workers and is now poised to take strike action to defend the rights of its members.

I therefore urge your government to seek a resolution to the impasse in order to ensure a fair deal for workers and to avert costly strike action.

I anticipate your quick reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valter Sanches". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping initial 'V' and 'S'.

Valter Sanches  
General Secretary

CC:  
Ancel Roget, President, OWTU  
Fitzroy Harewood, President, Petrotrin