

Geneva 14 September 2016

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IndustriALL Global Union calls on Anglo American to resume collective bargaining negotiations in good faith

Dear Mr. Cutifani,

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, including Australia and Chile, to call on Anglo American to take the necessary steps to normalize industrial relations and thus resume collective bargaining negotiations in good faith with mineworkers at the German Creek Coal Mine in Australia, and the Los Bronces Copper Mine in Chile.

Anglo American is involved in costly enterprise collective bargaining disputes in both Australia and Chile. In both Australia and Chile, Anglo American has adopted an attitude that is meant to frustrate endeavors to reach collective bargaining agreements that are in the interest of sound industrial relations and has instead forced a strike in all the cases involved.

In the case of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, (CFMEU) in Australia, the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) at German Creek Coal Mine expired on April 2014 and 16 separate enterprise agreements and two years later, failure to reach an agreement has led to a protected strike. The fact that the strike is protected has not deterred Anglo American to bring in scab labor, a move designed to break the strike. Anglo American has not responded to a single demand from the CFMEU's list of demands simply calling for the protection of the interests of members and merely seeking a commitment to job security. Anglo American has provided no reasonable argument against the CFMEU's demands. Furthermore, using the commodities crises as an argument not to meet the legitimate demands of the mineworkers is untenable.

It is disturbing that the Los Bronces Copper Mine strike in Chile, involving 1,700 unionized workers bears striking similarity to the German Creek Coal Mine dispute. Again, Anglo American cites the commodities crises as an excuse for not meeting the demands of mineworkers. The strike comes after 45 days of negotiations aimed at improving the conditions of mineworkers. Anglo American has been accused of adopting "an inflexible" attitude and thus being unwilling to extend the negotiations to find an agreement.

It is ironic that the strike at Los Bronces comes on the back of another strike at the Soldado Copper Mine in Chile that forms part of the Anglo American Sur venture. The strike, which began on 8 July, ended on 9 September, at the same time the Los Bronces strike began.

IndustriALL Global Union calls upon you to ensure that Anglo American takes appropriate steps to normalize industrial relations and bring the strikes to an end and to resume collective bargaining negotiations in good faith. We stand by the reasonable demands of the mineworkers and urge you to find accommodation for their demands.

I am looking forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line in the middle, and a diagonal line on the right that extends downwards and to the right.

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union