

Statement of the IF Metall Statutory Congress

The U.S. conservative government says they are symbolizing freedom and justice. But in a country where freedom and justice exists an employee should not be afraid of becoming a trade union member and letting the trade union negotiate the working conditions.

Despite the talk about freedom and justice there are millions of American workers that are too afraid to join a union. The fear of the employer's threats and harassments is big. Anti-union campaigns are an everyday event. The employees who vote yes for union membership risk being dismissed. Or the employer threatens to move the production to another place where the wages are lower and where the employees are not unionized. Often globalization is used as the official reason.

The threat towards the employees is coming from both American employers as well as foreign multinationals established in the U.S. The multinational companies are acting differently from how they act in their country of origin and are hiding behind American labor laws. A labor law that makes it possible to delay processes during years for a dismissed worker to get his/her job back or to pursue his/her rights.

In a joint statement the IF Metall Congress, representing 450,000 trade union members in Sweden, express their solidarity with and support to the employees in the U.S. who, despite the threats, vote yes for joining the union. The Congress also says no to all forms of restrictions of trade union freedom and rights and demands:

- that all employees in the U.S., as well as in all other countries, should have the right to join a union and engage in collective negotiations
- that the ILO is given possibilities to take considerable and necessary measures towards governments that prevent trade union freedom and rights
- that Swedish multinational companies sign global framework agreements for all employees within the multinational company
- that Swedish multinational companies do not use globalization as a reason to deny the workers' rights to join a union or to worsen the working conditions.

IF Metall Statutory Congress, November 24, 2005