

**International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,
Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations**

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URGENT ACTION: E-MAIL CIRCULAR

Geneva, 26 April 2006

To: IUF Tobacco Sector Affiliates

Concerns: RJ Reynolds/BAT anti-union campaign in the US

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Reynolds American, formed from the merger, in 2004, of RJ Reynolds and Brown & Williamson, BAT's US subsidiary, has launched an anti-union campaign in the run-up to a union vote which is to take place on May 11.

IUF affiliate BCTGM (Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union) and the IAM (Machinists and Aerospace Workers) are jointly organizing Reynolds American's 2 tobacco manufacturing plants in Winston-Salem in the US state of North Carolina. Together, these two unions represent over 9,000 workers in the US tobacco industry. Although the majority of the 2,000 production and maintenance workers at the plants signed a petition in favor of union representation earlier this month, the company has opted to call for a ballot under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board - and is using this time to conduct a hostile, anti-union scare campaign.

What you can do

BAT has a 42% stake in Reynolds American, which effectively gives it control of the company as the largest shareholder. Please send **protest messages** to BAT CEO Paul Adams insisting that the company put a stop to the vicious campaign its subsidiary is carrying out in the United States. A model letter is attached.

Solidarity messages go a long way in giving the workers the support they need to stand up to the intimidation and coercion they are experiencing from the company. Please send messages to the BCTGM at the following e-mail address:

ddurkee@bctgm.org

Time is of the essence. The company will do all it can to prevent a vote in favor of union representation on May 11.

The IUF is calling on its tobacco membership to do all it can to ensure a positive outcome of the vote for the workforce and for the BCTGM and the IAM!

Yours in solidarity,

Jacqueline Baroncini

Ron Oswald
General Secretary

ro/jb/20-2006