

Geneva 12 June 2013

The Office of the Prime Minister
Harare
Zimbabwe

By email to edithmunya@gmail.com; missionzimbabwe@bluewin.ch

Unfair dismissal of ZEWU President and outstanding labour issues at ZESA

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Tsvangirai,

May I call for your urgent attention to the case of unfair dismissal of Angeline Chitambo, President of Zimbabwe Electricity Workers Union (ZEWU) by the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) for allegedly disclosed confidential information at a press conference damaging the image of the company. Chitambo was dismissed without a fair hearing, which took place in her absence and in the absence of her legal and union representatives.

ZESA tried unsuccessfully to use the suspension of 135 workers in July 2012 over allegation of a threatened strike to force ZEWU to abandon its collective bargaining agreement with the company reached in January 2012. We are dismayed that ZESA has still not implemented the agreement despite an arbitration award upholding the agreement and a criminal court ruling compelling the company to pay workers according to the agreement as well as arrears due to them.

We also find it deplorable that ZESA continues to refuse to reinstate Chitambo and two other trade union leaders, Dickson Nyika, a ZEWU Branch Secretary and Dennis Mukote, a ZEWU National Executive Member.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I therefore kindly ask that you urgently intervene and compel ZESA to reinstate Chitambo, Mukote and Nyika immediately. We also ask that you instruct ZESA to immediately implement the collective bargaining agreement, to engage with the union in constructive dialogue and to stop victimisation of union leadership.

We will continue to support ZEWU and Angeline Chitambo until this matter is successfully resolved and would like to contribute to restoration of harmony and fairness at ZESA.

Yours sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union