# **Model letter**

Contact information of IndustriALL Global Union affiliates in Belarus: <http://www.industriall-union.org/affiliates/belarus>

# **[name of your union] in solidarity with the workers and people in Belarus**

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am writing to you on behalf of **[name of your union]** to express ourfull support and solidarity with the workers and people in Belarus in their struggle for democracy and respect of fundamental labour rights.

**[name of your union]** supports the workers of Belarus, who are exercising their right to industrial action in defence of democracy and human rights. **[name of your union]** condemn all forms of repression against workers' and members of their families.

Presidential elections were held in Belarus on August 9. They were once again blatantly falsified in favour of the long-serving ruler Lukashenko. This caused a storm of popular protest. The security forces responded with an unprecedented terror: mass arrests, beatings and torture of protesters. A wave of spontaneous work stoppages swept across the country.

Workers started to form strike committees to prepare for a nationwide general strike in support of democratic change. **[name of your union]** supports the strikers’ demands to:

* recognise the results of the presidential elections as invalid, release all political prisoners and demonstrators,
* prevent the persecution of the strike participants and cancel the system of short term contracts.

The administration and security services are putting tremendous pressure on the strikers, members of the strike committee and their families. Many are threatened with dismissal. Activists are being detained by security services.

We demand an end to the wave of violence.

In solidarity,

**[name of your union and signature]**