

IndustriALL Global Union Executive Committee Resolution:

No to the coup in Brazil

26 May 2016, Frankfurt, Germany

On 12 May, the Brazilian Senate and House of Representatives approved in a majority vote to begin impeachment proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff, forcing her to step down, and installing an interim government. This is an outrageous violation of the constitution and a direct attack on democracy, given that there is no crime nor responsibility on the part of the president. It is an affront to the sovereignty of the 54 million majority votes president Dilma received in the October 2014 elections.

There's no soft word to define this: it is a COUP! It is a takeover of power against the will of the people, led by conservative forces at the service of major national and international corporate business groups.

The political groups that lost four consecutive elections to the popular democratic project led by former President Lula and President Dilma, are the very ones who now emerge as members of the interim cabinet, several of whom are themselves accused of corruption.

This ongoing illegitimate process is not aimed simply at overthrowing a president. In the space of two weeks this "new government" has shown what lies behind it: austerity measures to deny the social and labour rights of the poor, including putting an end to the appreciation of the minimum wage; declining wages; greater flexibility in labour relations; attacks on the public pension system; civil rights abuses; privatization; as well as the reduction of public investment in social policies, including education and health. In this regard there is a consensus among the trade union movement to defend the workers' and social rights.

Currently there is massive resistance on a daily basis on the part of various sectors of the social movement, with hundreds of thousands of people taking to the streets from the North to the South of the country.

In this regard, the Executive Committee of IndustriALL Global Union, representing 50 million industrial workers in 140 countries:

- expresses its solidarity to the Brazilian people by strongly rejecting the ongoing coup in Brazil;
- encourages its members to join actions at Brazilian embassies worldwide;
- demands that governments do not acknowledge the illegitimate interim government.