

Geneva, 24 May 2017

Mr. Joko Widodo, President  
Republic of Indonesia

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## URGENT appeal to Government of Indonesia to stop workers' rights violations at Grasberg

Dear President,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Indonesia, to make an **urgent appeal** to the Government of Indonesia to intervene at Grasberg to help avert a social disaster in the community, resulting from the unlawful dismissal of more than 2,000 workers, and prevent any violence that might erupt, as a direct result of the inhumane and intransigent stance of PT Freeport Indonesia.

We have addressed several letters to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, calling attention to the urgent need for the Government to ensure that PT Freeport Indonesia respect workers' rights, and also respect their trade unions, as stipulated in Indonesian laws and regulations with specific reference to the Furlough Program, but to no avail.

It is therefore imperative that the Government intervene to achieve the immediate reinstatement of 2018 permanent workers that were unlawfully dismissed on 22 May, in addition to the 1,100 previously dismissed workers.

PT Freeport Indonesia must return to the negotiating table with CEMWU PT Freeport Indonesia. PT Freeport Indonesia should address the legitimate demands of the workers at Grasberg, as a precondition for the workers to discontinue the strike.

IndustriALL Global Union fully supports the call of its affiliate CEMWU PT Freeport Indonesia demanding:

- PT Freeport Indonesia must reinstate immediately the 2018 permanent workers that were unlawfully dismissed on 22 May;
- PT Freeport Indonesia must include CEMWU PT Freeport Indonesia in the negotiations that should result in the abolition of the Furlough Program, which is in sheer contravention of the Manpower Law;
- PT Freeport Indonesia should stop intimidating, threatening, evicting furloughed workers from their barracks, as well as using the Furlough Program not only arbitrarily but also as a veiled attempt to lay off workers;

- PT Freeport Indonesia must also guarantee the return of all furloughed workers to their jobs, once the company resumes normal operations, without any preconditions;
- PT Freeport Indonesia must stop discriminating and harassing workers, who are members of CEMWU PT Freeport Indonesia;
- PT Freeport Indonesia must reinstate immediately the workers, who were unfairly accused of absenteeism, without suffering any penalty or retaliation. Workers' protest actions are a legal and fair response to the unilateral unlawful decision of the company to implement the Furlough Program;
- PT Freeport Indonesia and the Government must recognize CEMWU PT Freeport Indonesia as the legal and equal partner organization in the industrial relations negotiations, including discussions on strategic policies concerning manpower;

Please note that I have been in touch with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) about the Grasberg situation today, and they are looking into the possibility of arranging a side meeting with an Indonesian government representative during the International Labour Conference (ILC).

We truly hope that it will not be necessary for IndustriALL Global Union, and other international organizations, to draw attention to the gross violations of workers' rights at Grasberg to the more than 4,000 delegates attending the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva from 5 to 16 June 2017.

In consequence, we urge you, in your capacity as President of the Republic of Indonesia, to intervene immediately to facilitate and ensure a fair, sustainable, and peaceful resolution of this conflict, which is severely impacting on the livelihood of thousands of workers and members of their families.

Sincerely yours,



Valter Sanches  
General Secretary