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Geneva, 4 October 2017

To: Kumho workers in Macon, Georgia
Sent via email to: kjohnsen@usw.org

Solidarity message with the Kumho workers in Macon, Georgia, USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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 the US and South Korea. I want you to know that we fully support you in your effort to form a union, and that we are demanding that Kumho Tire respect your rights at its site in Macon, Georgia, United States.

The union that you will join, the United Steelworkers, is a famous union throughout the world. The USW always stands up for its members, as well as for workers in other countries. You can be proud to become a USW member. When you become a USW member you will also become a member of our global trade union IndustriALL.

We know that your important ballot is next week, 12 and 13 October. We have condemned the aggressive reaction by your management to the authorities in Korea. Your management is clearly trying through a number of ways to persuade you that it is a bad idea for workers to have a voice at the plant.

They know that without a union they are free to keep salaries and conditions low, to make changes to your daily work without taking your concerns into account, and to ignore workers' demands.

We know that your main concerns that you want to deal with through your new union are: **fair and equal treatment; seniority; and safety.**

Kumho has hired seven union busters to work in the lead-up to the ballot, holding daily captive audience meetings, and threatening workers with the lie that the plant will close if you form a union.

Instead of hiring these expensive union busters, Kumho should respect the employees' right to union recognition, and should commit to work with your new local to collectively bargain a new work contract. This is what the company does in its home country Korea.

We hope that you will ignore the company's threats and harassment, and stand strong together to vote in the union at your plant.

Good luck. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you and we look forward to working with you after you have your union officially formed and recognized.

Solidarity!

Valter Sanches
General Secretary