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Mexico: New ITUC Report on Core labour standards

Brussels, 11 February 2008 (ITUC OnLine): The ITUC released a new report today on core labour standards in Mexico. This report coincides with the country's trade policy review at the WTO and highlights that despite the binding nature of the ILO core labour standards that Mexico has ratified, both in law and in practice the country is in breach of those conventions. Furthermore Mexico has only ratified six of the eight core labour standards of the ILO.

The report points out that violations regarding trade union autonomy are constant and that many obstacles prevent the effective right to form an independent union. There are numerous examples of government interference in trade union affairs. The ILO's supervisory bodies have urged the government of Mexico many times to amend its legislation on the right to strike, given the existing broad restrictions on its effective application.

According to the ITUC survey, legislation against discrimination is not enforced adequately in the country and there is a substantial gap between women and men in terms of remuneration, reaching 50% in many sectors. Sexual harassment is a common practice at the workplace, yet is not adequately addressed by the government.

Official figures show that there are at least 3 million child workers between the ages of 6 and 14 in Mexico. The ITUC report draws attention to the high degree of drop-out from school in order to go to work. Access to schooling in a language other than Spanish is frequently unavailable, preventing many children of indigenous origin from completing their education. Forced labour, including of children takes place in Mexico, again particularly affecting indigenous people.

The report ends with a summary of recommendations and conclusions addressed to the government of Mexico if it is to redress its non-compliance with the ILO core labour standards and implement effective policies that could tackle the many major problems the country is confronted with today.

To read the full report: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/TPR_Mexico.pdf

The ITUC represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates. Website: <http://www.ituc-csi.org>
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