

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

## ITUC OnLine

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### CHOGM: Trade Unions Release Report on Worker Rights Violations in Commonwealth Countries, Call on Governments to Act

Brussels, 19 November 2009 (ITUC OnLine): Trade union representatives attending this week's Commonwealth Peoples' Forum in the lead-up to Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting are calling on the governments to take action for reform and change to support workers' rights. The CHOGM takes place in Trinidad and Tobago from 27 – 29 November.

The ITUC has today released a report <http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/survey1.pdf> on violations of the rights to trade union organising and collective bargaining in 34 Commonwealth countries. The report draws on research done for the ITUC Annual Survey of Trade Union Rights Violations. Of the 52 Commonwealth countries, 18 have yet to ratify one or more of the eight ILO core Conventions, including two countries which haven't ratified any. The report identifies serious violations of these Conventions including in several countries which have ratified them.

"We are calling on the Commonwealth countries to commit to ratification of all eight Conventions by 2015, and to promote reform in those countries where the Conventions are being violated," said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder. "The Commonwealth has an established track record on human rights issues in a number of areas. It needs to recognise the fundamental importance of core ILO standards as part of its human rights priorities".

The Commonwealth Trade Union Group, which includes trade union centres with a total of some 30 million members, is working with other civil society groups at the Forum to ensure that labour standards issues are high on the CHOGM agenda, as well as for progress on other key issues such as climate change and HIV-AIDS.

The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates.

Website: [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org) and <http://www.youtube.com/ITUCCSI>

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