

March 23, 2009

Mr. Juan Somavia, Director General  
International Labour Organization  
International Labour Office  
4, route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Director-General Somavia:

Please find attached a Statement of Evidence prepared by United Food and Commercial Workers Canada (UFCW Canada) on behalf of agriculture employees in the province of Ontario (Canada).

The Statement of Evidence is in support of a complaint that UFCW Canada would like to submit against the Government of Ontario (Canada). The complaint is against the *Agricultural Employees Act, 2002* which denies all agriculture workers employed in the province of Ontario the right to join a union and engage in collective bargaining.

As is shown in this Statement of Evidence, this legislation denies agriculture employees in Ontario their fundamental right to freedom of association. UFCW Canada is of the view that the *Agricultural Employees Act* is in violation of the constitution of the ILO and its core Conventions: No. 87 – Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize and No.98 – Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, as well as the ILO's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

I would request that you forward the attached documentation to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association in order that it may process our complaint through its well-respected investigative process. Please advise the Committee that UFCW Canada is more than willing to provide any further documentation or answer any questions the Committee may have with respect to our ILO complaint.

Sincerely,

Wayne Hanley, National President  
UFCW Canada

c.c. Kenneth Georgetti, CLC President  
Joe Hansen, UNI President  
Philip Jennings, UNI General Secretary  
Wayne Samuelson, OFL President