



CNM-CUT Internacional

Confederação Nacional dos Metalúrgicos da CUT

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The Machine-builder Grob fired a Union Director about 2 months ago. Brother Luis B. Oliveira decided, with full support of the Union, to camp in front of the plant in Sao Bernardo, Brasil, ever since.

Unjust Dismissal of Union Director, B. Grob

Dear Colleagues,

Please see the attached letter sent today from Marcello Malentacchi to Dr. Andreas Pleßke, Chairman of the Board of Grob-Werke. The letter calls for reinstatement of an unjustly dismissed union director at B. Grob do Brasil S.A. and in terms of monitoring raises several international framework agreements.

Ron Blum
Automotive Director
International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF)
54 bis, route des Acacias
CH-1227 Geneva



IMF IMB Fiom
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INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER METALLGEWERKSCHAFTSBUND
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE TRAVAILLEURS DE LA METALLURGIE
INTERNATIONELLA METALLFEDERATIONEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES DE LAS INDUSTRIAS METALURGICAS
FEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI SINDACATI METALMECCANICI

54 bis, route des Acacias
Case Postale 1516
CH-1227 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: ++ 41 22 308 50 50
Telefax: ++ 41 22 308 50 55
E-mail: info@imfmetal.org
Website: <http://www.imfmetal.org>

President: Jürgen Peters
General Secretary: Marcello Malentacchi

Switzerland

18.10.05
sent by fax and e-mail

Dr. Andreas Pleßke
Chairman of the Board GROB-WERKE
Burkhart Grob e.K.
Unternehmensbereich Werkzeugmaschinen Industriestrasse 4 87719 Mindelheim Germany

Re: Unjust Dismissal of Union Director at B. Grob do Brasil S.A.

Dear Dr. Pleßke,

On behalf of millions of our members worldwide, the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) calls on your company to immediately recall to work an unjustly dismissed union leader at the Grob plant in Brazil. We are aware that management at the B. Grob do Brasil S.A. operation, located in Sao Bernardo do Campo, unjustly dismissed a union director several months ago.

This dismissal violates internationally recognized worker and trade union rights. The union in Brazil has protested at the gate of the plant since the firing of the union director occurred. The International Metalworkers' Federation joins the union in condemning the action of local management and we ask that you intervene promptly to settle the violation by rehiring the union director.

Among the global customers of Grob-Werke are DaimlerChrysler, Volkswagen, BMW, Bosch and Renault. The International Metalworkers' Federation has signed an international framework agreement with each of these companies. These agreements commit the signatory companies to fully respect internationally recognized worker and trade union rights at their operations worldwide.

Each of these international framework agreements also hold as a beneficial condition for ongoing business relations the full respect of worker and trade union rights by the respective suppliers of the signatory companies. I again urge your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Marcello Malentacchi
General Secretary

Solidarity to Grob Brasil Workers

Yesterday we stopped production at some of the 30 Ford's Grob machine-tools in Taubate, Brasil, for 1,5 hour. With the stoppage dozens of other machines after those in the production sequence were unable to work, and the protest involved 400 out of the 1,500 workers at this plant that produces powertrain.



Machine-builder Grob fired a Union Director in early August. Brother Luis B. Oliveira decided then, with full support of the Union, to camp in front of the plant in Sao Bernardo, Brasil, ever since.

Grob machine-tools stopped production at Ford unity in Taubate

Last week some Grob machines were stopped at DaimlerChrysler in Sao Bernardo. Grob is a supplier of DaimlerChrysler in which International Framework

Agreement (Social Responsibility Principles, signed with the World Employee Committee at DC and the International Metalworkers Federation, in 2002) is clearly established that every supplier should cope to the same principles, among them, the respect of Union organization.

Other actions will follow at other companies that have Grob machines until the company negotiate the reinstatement of brother Luis Oliveira's job and Union position reestablishing the respect for in-plant Union organization.

Grob machines were stopped at DaimlerChrysler in Sao Bernardo.



More information on Grob struggle :

Valter Sanches
Secretário de Organização CNM/CUT
Al. dos Tupinás, 248
04069-000 São Paulo - SP - Brasil
cel: + 55 11 9104-2236
e-mail: sanches@cnmcut.org.br

Metalworkers conquest increase in wages

State of Sao Paulo

The 320.000 metalworkers of CNM/CUT in the State of Sao Paulo are about to conclude this year's contract negotiations with lots of improvements. Sao Paulo is mostly like the headquarters' homeland of the largest and most important companies in Brazil and concentrates the largest number of workers, the largest plants and better-organized workers.

1. Auto-assembly sector (VW, GM, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, Scania, Toyota, Honda)

Beside the renewal, with some improvement, of the social clauses for 2 years, the 64.000 workers in this sector got a total of 8,9% increase, with 3,7% "real increase" (above inflation) for the year 2005 (effective from 1st of September) and a minimum of 1,3% "real increase", plus inflation for the year 2006. That together with the agreements of the last 2 years sums a total "real increase" of 11,44% plus inflation of the period (4 years).

2. Auto- parts and Foundries sector (Mahle, Magnetti Marelli, Dana, TRW, Bosch, Delphi, etc.)

Beside the renewal with some improvement, of the social clauses for 2 years, the 85.000 workers in this sector got a total of 8,16% increase, with 3,0% "real increase" (above inflation) for the year 2005 (effective from 1st of September) and a minimum of 2,0% "real increase", plus inflation for the year 2006. That together with the agreements of the last 2 years sums a total "real increase" of 11,09% plus inflation of the period (4 years).

3. Machine-building and Electro-electronic sectors (Index, Heller, Grob, Bardella, LG Phillips, Flextronics, etc.)

As the employers' proposal so far reached only a "real increase" of 1,6% for 2005, it was not accepted and strikes are taking place at several of these companies. These sectors have about 105.000 workers.

4. Aerospace and other sectors

These sectors still didn't succeed to change the date for bargaining, and that remain for November.

Other States

In the 1st half of the year about 250.000 workers in the regional Unions affiliated to CNM/CUT had its contract negotiations/struggles. All of them had "real increase" of (average) 2,5% plus inflation. Among these is the outstanding agreement in Volta Redonda (region which includes VW-Resende and PSA-Porto Real) for about 40.000 workers, that reached a real increase of 3,8% plus inflation. It's the first time in 11 years that the Regional Union, now led by CNM/CUT, conquers a real increase.

In July the 7.800 workers at Ford-Bahia and its suppliers got 11% increase in which 4,4% "real increase", the highest increase so far.

In October/November take place the bargaining for several States, among them the Steelworkers of Minas Gerais.

The 11.000 Auto-workers in Parana (VW-Audi, Renault and Volvo), led by CNTM/Força Sindical, got the same agreement of the ones of CNM/CUT in Sao Paulo.

Employment increase

The fast growing economy and industry made possible that the workers have more power at the bargaining table. The Metal Industry is growing even stronger. The Auto Industry, for example, grew 21% in 2004 and had grown already 16% in the 1st half of 2005.

The employment, that had declined constantly from 1987 to 2002 (1,5 million jobs at the Metal Industry in Brazil were lost) in the neo-liberal governments (what obliged the Unions to make some defensive agreements), returned to increase in 2003. From January 2003 to June 2005, employment grew 247.000 work posts or +18,7%, reaching a total of 1,57 million metalworkers in Brazil due to several positive measures in terms of Industrial policy of the Lula government.

Brazilian Workers and its Unions are back in the offensive. (Valter Sanches)

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✉ internacional@cnmcut.org