

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations



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**To: Mr. Juan Somavia,
ILO Director-General**

Date: February 26, 2010
Ref: ro/sl/0154

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**Concerns: further urgent request for intervention to protect
Zimbabwe farmworkers' union leaders**

Dear Mr Somavia,

We have been informed by our affiliate, the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) that they are again under attack by the Zimbabwean security services.

I attach three documents which give background on the current situation. We are informed that Mrs Hambira, the union general secretary who we wrote to you about on November 10, 2009, has managed to get to a safe house but now other union officials are being harassed in an attempt to get them to reveal her whereabouts. Two officers were arrested – the assistant general secretary, Gift Muti, and president Manjemanje Munyanyi. Mr Muti was later released but Mr Munyanyi remains in police custody.

As we informed you before, Gertrude Hambira has been an official of GAPWUZ for many years and has consistently campaigned for justice for Zimbabwe's farmworkers. She has attended ILO meetings on several occasions.

We are again obliged to request urgent intervention from the ILO to ensure the safety of Gertrude Hambira and other GAPWUZ officials.

We request your office to contact both the President and the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe to convey our concerns and to insist that Hambira is not harmed and her physical and psychological well-being is fully assured.

Yours sincerely

Ron Oswald
General Secretary