(*Insert the letterhead of your organisation*)

To Prime Minister/HE Ambassador (*Name here)*

(*Insert Government/Embassy name and address*)

*(Day), (Month)*, 2014

Your Excellency (*name*),

I write to you on behalf of the (*insert the name of your organisation*), an affiliate of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), to urge you and your government to support the right to strike of workers throughout the world.

The fundamental right to strike is being attacked by employer representatives at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the international body that gives an equal voice to workers, employers and government to ensure that their views are closely reflected in labour standards and in shaping policies and programmes. For much of its history, the ILO has supervised the application of conventions and recommendations with the support of its three groups.

However, since 2012, the Employers’ Group at the ILO has embarked on a sustained and deliberate attack on this system by seeking to undermine the authority of the ILO’s independent Committee of Experts, which has determined what conventions mean since 1926.

In particular, the Employers’ Group is attempting to strip back ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association which guarantees workers the right to take strike action.

The IFJ believes that the right to strike is protected under international law and must not be changed. The (*insert name of your organisation*) is giving its full backing to the IFJ stance and we appeal to your government, (as a member of the ILO governing body) to give its backing to this position.

In particular, (as a member of the ILO governing body) we appeal to your government to support the call of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) for the dispute on the right to strike to be referred to the International Court of Justice.

The ITUC, the IFJ‘s fellow member of the Global Unions Federation, contends that the Employers’ Group has a deeply flawed understanding of the right to freedom of association. View the ITUC’s legal brief on the right to strike, available at: [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc\_final\_brief\_on\_the\_right\_to\_ strike.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_final_brief_on_the_right_to_%20strike.pdf).

The Employers Group has made it clear that it will continue to disrupt the ILO supervisory system on Convention 87 and the role of the Committee of Experts. As a result, the ILO governing body must take action to protect the system and refer the right to strike to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.

The (*insert name of your organisation*) joins the IFJ in urging your government to join the Workers Group in supporting this decision at the forthcoming session of the Governing Body in November 2014.

Failure to do so will mean that governments can expect the Employers Group to return, year after year, with further, unfounded challenges to the Committee of Experts, and a forever weakened and dysfunctional supervisory system. This must be prevented.

We hope that you will give due consideration to our request and look forward to seeing positive reaction by your government in addressing this issue of the highest importance.

Yours sincerely,

(*Insert organisation name here*)