

## **UM 13**

### **Urgent Motion from the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) on the state of newspaper media in Venezuela**

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), meeting in Angers from 7 to 10 June 2016,

Whereas between January 1 and June 7 of 2016, in Venezuela three regional print media outlets have been closed: *El Mío*, *La Mañana* and *Nueva Prensa de Guayana*, generating a serious impairment of the right to information and also significant job losses;

Whereas over the past two years, a total of 15 print media outlets have ceased production, reducing the supply of information, inhibiting the debate on matters of public interest and over a hundred workers losing their jobs;

Whereas Venezuela doesn't produce content for print media, the material needs to be imported from international markets;

Whereas the reasons for the closure of these media is not the lack of readership or advertising revenue, but the decision of the government of Venezuela to monopolize the import and distribution of newsprint in the domestic market;

Whereas the SNTP has noted the discretionary allocation that the government of Venezuela makes of paper, distributing it to friendly media, while it is refused to those who hold critical positions;

Congress urges the Executive Committee to:

Support the efforts and action of the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) on the defense of freedom of expression, the right to information and keeping jobs;

Urge the Venezuelan government to establish mechanisms to guarantee free access to information required by the media to maintain its production;

Keep an eye to the state of freedom of press and expression in Venezuela and to actively accompany the demands of their workers, members of the SNTP.