



## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR PRESS CONFERENCE USING ILO RIGHTS AND POSTER IN AN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [PROVIDE NAME AND ALL #S]

### **[City name here] Workers, Community and Elected Leaders to Spotlight [Local Employer's] Violation of U.N. Declaration on Workers' Rights**

[City; date]—[Local employer] is violating its employees' basic rights as spelled out in a United Nations declaration, say workers, community and elected leaders and union activists in [city here]. The U.N.'s International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work says that workers worldwide have the right to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor, to work free from discrimination and to form a union and bargain collectively.

The participants pointed out that [local employer] has ignored this U.N. declaration and undermined its workers' freedom to form a union to improve their lives. Workers at [local employer] came together in a union to address [issues here]. [Quote worker here on why they want a union.]

Yet their employer repeatedly has blocked their workers' choice by [employer's actions here].

"By ignoring its employees' freedom to join together in a union, [local employer] is violating its workers' internationally recognized, fundamental rights," said [community or religious leader]. "It's wrong, it's unethical and it's got to stop."

"[Local employer] is hurting our city by ignoring this U.N. declaration and fighting its workers' efforts to win a voice on the job through a union," said [elected leader]. "Union jobs are good jobs, and good jobs mean a stronger community."

The press conference was one of many such actions in cities across the United States and worldwide which will highlight these U.N.-recognized global workers' rights. Activities in the United States and across the world will feature colorful posters designed by the ILO, which promote the rights.

Workers at [local employer] are not alone in having their basic rights ignored by their employer. Human Rights Watch, the respected international human rights watchdog, recently reported widespread labor rights violations throughout the United States. The study found that each year, thousands of workers in the United States are fired illegally or discriminated against for forming a union.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) was founded in the aftermath of World War I and became a part of the United Nations in 1946. Its mission is promoting lasting peace through social justice and workers' rights. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

For more information on the AFL-CIO's movement for worldwide rights at work, visit [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org).

