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8/10/2009

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Mr Carl Bildt,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
103 33 Stockholm

## **Guinea: Brutal repression of demonstrators**

Dear Mr. Minister,

On behalf of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), we wish to express our profound concern regarding the worsening climate in the Republic of Guinea, particularly in the wake of the bloody repression of demonstrators carried out at the start of this week.

Our organisation remains in shock following the dramatic events in Conakry on Monday 28 September, which left a death toll of 150, with 1200 injured and widespread raping of women in the streets. What is more, following these barbarous deeds the current situation provides no guarantee whatsoever of respect of basic freedoms, including trade union rights and freedom of expression. The head of the junta has, indeed, banned any groupings considered to be subversive. This climate of terror has been instilled even before the remains of the victims have been handed over to their families, whilst bodies have disappeared and other people have been placed under arbitrary arrest.

Given the exceptional gravity of this situation, we would urge you to do everything in your power to enable the restoration of stability and democratic guarantees in Guinea. We demand, in particular, that the regime release immediately and unconditionally all those who have been arrested. It is essential that all the victims' mortal remains are recovered and returned to their families, including those that have been hidden, so that proper burials can take place. The political leaders and all other severely wounded people (including the raped women) must receive full medial attention as soon as possible and all the victims must receive full redress for the injuries suffered. It is also vital that respect of the freedoms of expression and opinion are restored as a matter of urgency.

The impunity surrounding the events that have taken place since 28 September must not prevail. We therefore support bringing before an international criminal court all those identified as responsible for

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**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

perpetrating or ordering all these human rights violations, based on a list of charges including all reported deeds.

We also consider it vital that the Swedish government, both individually and within the international bodies to which they belong, exerts all possible pressure to ensure that targeted sanctions are imposed on all members of the ruling junta as well as the perpetrators of these violent acts, such as the freezing of their assets and the banning of their individual travel permits and those of their relatives. It is essential that such measures are taken immediately.

Lastly, the restoration of a climate of peace and security will only be possible through sending a peace force responsible for protecting the Guinean people. The ECOWAS, the African Union and the International Contact Group on Guinea will have a key role to play in arranging this as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Lise-Lotte Lenberg  
Head of the International Department  
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION - LO

CC: ITUC (International Confederation of Trade Unions)