



DATE
8/12/2014

OUR REFERENCE
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YOUR DATE

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To the Head of the Government of The
Dominican Republic

Via: Secretaria Administrativo de la
presidencia
ericapina@presidencia.gob.do

Mr President,

In line with the position of the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation), The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO Sweden) strongly condemns Ruling TC/0256/14 adopted on 4 November by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, which deems the instrument accepting the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) to be unconstitutional.

By unilaterally interpreting the scope and meaning of its international obligations and by withdrawing from the Inter-American System, the Dominican Republic is jeopardising the main international mechanism for the protection of human rights in the Americas.

Moreover, this decision will have grave repercussions on access to justice for all Dominicans, including the citizens of Haitian descent.

LO Sweden supports the position taken by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) that the "Constitutional Court's judgment has no basis whatsoever in international law, and therefore it can have no effect".

The position taken by the Dominican government comes in the context of discrimination highlighted by the Inter-American System and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Over recent years, both organisations have repeatedly underlined the failure to comply with international agreements that guarantee the rights of people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic's repeated violations of ILO Convention 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) are extremely worrying, as

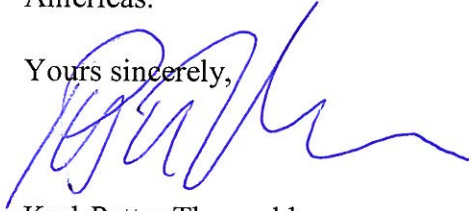
POSTAL ADDRESS 105 53 Stockholm
OFFICE ADDRESS Barnhusgatan 18
TELEPHONE +46 8 796 25 00 TELEFAX +46 8 24 52 28
E-MAIL mailbox@lo.se HOMEPAGE www.lo.se

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

are the various reports, hearings and precautionary measures monitored by the IACHR over the last two decades.

On behalf of the ITUC and LO Sweden, we urge your government to reaffirm the jurisdiction of the IACtHR in your country, in order to guarantee the protection of human rights in the Dominican Republic and the Americas.

Yours sincerely,



Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson
President of The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO Sweden)
Deputy President of the ITUC

CC:

Procurador General de la Republica

lcollado@pgr.gob.do, info@pgr.gob.do

Consultor Jurídico de la Presidencia de la Republica

rociocarrasco@presidencia.gob.do

Ministerio de Trabajo

consuelopg@gmail.com, consuelo.pineyro@mt.gob.do,

kendra.villilo@mt.gob.do,

Ministerio Administrativo de la Presidencia

kenyarodriguez@presidencia.gob.do

Ministerio de Administración Pública

sonia.mejia@map.gob.do

Director de la Dirección General de Ética e Integridad Gubernamental

info@digeig.gob.do

Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Sweden