



Int Dept/Leif Isaksson/gp

DATE  
2010-10-22

OUR REFERENCE  
LI/gp

YOUR DATE

YOUR REFERENCE

Mr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of  
India  
Prime Minister's Office  
South Block  
NEW DELHI 110 001  
India

### **Trade union leaders and workers at Foxconn India in prison**

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) representing 1.6 million members, I wish to protest against the continued imprisonment of 12 union leaders and workers in Vellore central prison.

The LO has been informed by ITUC that criminal cases have been filed against trade union leaders and workers at the Foxconn plant located in a Special Economic Zone in Chennai, India, after they took strike action for union recognition and wage rises.

We are informed that twelve Foxconn workers and union leaders remain in prison in Chennai after hundreds of workers striking the plant were arrested on October 9.

More than 1,200 permanent workers belonging to the Foxconn India Thozhilalar Sangam (FITS) union, which is affiliated to Center For Indian Trade Unions (CITU), at the plant have been involved in weeks of struggle to have their union recognized by management so as to negotiate wage rises and other demands.

On October 9, police arrested hundreds of workers who had been picketing and striking the plant for several days. Around 319 workers including the trade union leaders were remanded into judicial custody and transferred to Vellore central jail. Remaining workers were let off and around 200 women workers were taken to a bus stop and asked to leave. When the women refused and demanded to be arrested also, they were abused and forced off the police vehicle.

On October 13, the court granted bail to 307 workers. The remaining 12 workers and union leaders remain in jail, including A. Soundhirarajan,

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](mailto:mailbox@lo.se) HOMEPAGE [www.lo.se](http://www.lo.se)

**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

CITU State General Secretary and E. Muthu Kumar, CITU District Secretary, Kanchipuram and FITS President.

The Deputy Labour Commissioner (DLC) has asked the company not to take action leading to the victimization of the workers, however, police have been used to repeatedly harass, arrest and detain the striking workers.

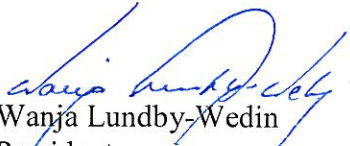
As a member of the International Labour Organisation, the government of India has an obligation to uphold the principle of freedom of association and collective bargaining, and refrain from using police forces to prevent workers from the enjoyment of these rights.

We therefore urge you to ensure that all trade union leaders and workers are released from prison, and that the criminal charges against them be dropped. We also urge you to ensure that Foxconn will respect fundamental workers' rights in India.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)

  
Wanja Lundby-Wedin  
President