EN 572/9991 UN D Dut 2

Update for Swaziland Petition June 1999

The Kingdom of Swaziland continues to violate internationally recognized trade union rights. The proposed changes to the 1995 Industrial Relations Act are not yet law. And, in practice as well, the Kingdom of Swaziland continues to deny workers their rights.

Freedom of Association

TUM

The Kingdom of Swaziland agreed to amend the Industrial Relations Act passed in 1995. The Labor Advisory Board, after months of work, reached consensus on a proposed draft industrial relations bill in March of 1998. Although the draft bill was submitted to the Parliament for action, the call for elections and the dissolution of the Parliament delayed consideration of the proposed bill until 1999. It is our understanding that the draft bill was presented to Parliament and is currently under consideration. The prospects for its passage seem unclear as press reports indicate.

Workers also must be guaranteed their rights to organize and bargain collectively in practice. A new Administrative Order repealing the Swaziland Administrative Order of 1950 was passed in November, 1998 by the Kingdom of Swaziland. This new Order permits local chiefs to introduced forced labor and impose penalties on citizens for non-compliance. The Order also denies citizens the right to representation before a chief's court and states that no other court has jurisdiction.

In addition, the government's policy of intimidating and harassing trade unionists has continued in 1998 and 1999.

Conclusion

The Kingdom of Swaziland should be removed from the list of eligible beneficiaries of the Generalized System of Preferences.

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 637-5000 http://www.aflcio.org

0

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

RICHARD L. TRUMKA SECRETARY-TREASURER LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Vincemt R. Sombrotto Robertt A. Georgine Moe Biller Arthur A. Coia Georgie F. Becker M.A. "IMac" Fleming Sonny Hall William Lucy Robertt A. Scardelletti Andrew L. Stern

Sandra Feldman

Bobby L. Harnage Sr.

Michael E. Monroe

JOHN: J. SWEENEY

PRESNDENT

Gerald W. McEntee Gene Upshaw Frank Hanley Frank Hurt Stephen P. Yokich Patricia Friend Sumi Haru Leon Lynch Robert E. Wages Edward L. Fire R. Thomas Buffenbarger Stuart Appelbaum Michael J. Sullivan John T. Joyce
Jay Mazur
James J. Norton
Gloria T. Johnson
Capt. J. Randolph Babbitt
Michael Goodwin
Carroll Haynes
Douglas J. McCarron
Jake West
Martin J. Maddaloni
Boyd D. Young
John W. Wilhelm
James P. Hoffa

Morton Bahr John J. Barry Michael Sacco Douglas H. Dority Clayola Brown Joe L. Greene James La Sala Arturo S. Rodríguez Alfred K. Whitehead John M. Bowers Dennis Rivera Elizabeth Bunn

June 16, 1999

Mr. H. Jon Rosenbaum, Ph.D. Assistant U.S.Trade Representative GSP Subcommittee Office of the U.S. Trade Representative 600 17th Street, N.W., Suite 518 Washington, DC 20506

Dear Jon:

The AFL-CIO hereby submits petitions to the USTR on the basis of worker rights violations in accordance with Section 502(b)(7) the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. The petitions include information on worker rights violations in Bangladesh and updates on the existing cases on Swaziland and Thailand. These petitions are submitted as required by the notice printed in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shailor, Director

International Affairs Department

BS/AK:tp opeiu#2aflcio

WORKER RIGHTS AND THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

SWAZILAND

The AFL-CIO Petition to the Office of the United States Trade Representative

June 16, 1999