

Air Traffic Services Committee Meeting

Madrid, 10 March 2015

Agenda item 7: Disputes

Draft Motion: Government attack on the Dominican Air Traffic Controllers Association (ADCA)

The Air Traffic Services Committee of the ITF, meeting in Madrid on 10 March 2015:

1. DISCUSSED, in depth the sustained government attack on the Dominican Air Traffic Controllers Association (ADCA). This is a clear violation of ILO Conventions No. 87 and 98 that allows the Right of Freedom to form a Trade Union and the Right of Collective Bargaining that has been ratified by the Government of the Dominican Republic.

2. NOTED, with great concern that the safety of the country's airspace is now in jeopardy due to the government's anti-union attacks.

3. NOTED, the kinds of incidents that the ADCA has warned the authorities about include:

- a total communications failure in Punta Cana, with controllers coordinating by mobile phone;
- unserviceable navigation aids at La Isabela International Airport, forcing pilots to complete all approaches visually;
- the distance measuring equipment at El Catey Presidente Juan Bosch Airport going out of service;
- the control tower at Puerto Plata Gregorio Luperon International Airport working with only an emergency radio for over a year, and suffering frequent communications failures.

4. FURTHER NOTED THAT the ADCA has tried its best make the authorities address these and other safety issues. The response was and still is suspensions followed by sackings, demotions and retaliation against the air traffic controllers. This includes arrests of members making peaceful protests on three occasions in the last two weeks and the arrest of three of its officials last year.

5. CONDEMS the arrest of the ITF Americas regional secretary Antonio Rodriguez Fritz, who was arrested in the Dominican Republic during a fact finding mission to investigate air traffic control problems there, on 9 February 2015.

6. RECOGNISES that the dismissal of ADCA members and leaders is totally unacceptable and warrants solidarity action by the ITF and its affiliates worldwide.

7. URGES, the ITF and its affiliates to press upon the Government of the Dominican Republic and the ATS Administration to immediately reinstate all dismissed ATCOs due to their involvement in trade union activities.

8. CALLS ON ITF civil aviation affiliates to send a message of protest to the President of the Dominican Republic and organise legal and visible protest at Dominican Republic embassies and diplomatic bodies (<http://www.itfglobal.org/en/campaigns-solidarity/campaigns/stop-air-traffic-controllers-sackings>).

9. FURTHERMORE RESOLVES to take up the matter with the International Labour Organisation on a priority basis, to save the dignity and lives of ADCA members and consider any other means deemed appropriate by the ITF.