



BWI • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

54, route des Acacias Tel.: + 41 22 827 37 77
CH-1227 Carouge / GE Fax: + 41 22 827 37 70
Switzerland www.bwint.org

16 March 2020
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr Santiago VILLALPANDO,
Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs
UNESCO
7 place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France
By Fax: +33 (0) 1 45 68 55 75

Re: Violations Freedom of Association and the right to collective bargaining at West Mebun temple restoration site

Dear Director Villalpando:

We are writing to you concerning violations of the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining of the West Mebun temple restoration workers site at the Angkor UNESCO World Heritage site, located in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The complaint is attached to this letter.

Beginning in May 2018, the Authority for the protection of the site and the management of the Angkor Region (ASPARA National Authority) has engaged in union-busting activities, violating the rights of 126 highly skilled restoration workers.

These actions have been undertaken with the knowledge of the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) and the French Embassy in Cambodia, which is a financial supporter of the restoration activities. Neither have intervened to correct these severe and long-standing attacks on human rights. Changes in legislation and practices in Cambodia have created these radically deteriorating conditions, which had prompted the EU to take action under its trade agreement with Cambodia.

The workers' union is a part of the Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC), which is, in turn, an affiliate of the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI).

As you will see in the complaint, we are urging UNESCO to use its good offices to help resolve these conflicts.

Yours Sincerely,

Ambet Yuson
General Secretary

CC: Guy Ryder, Director General, ILO
Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO