

Pakistan: Working Women Organization seeks support and solidarity against anti-worker laws

The Working Women Organization of Pakistan seeks the support of trade unions, workers and human rights organizations around the world to condemn the Pakistani Government's anti-worker practices; and to put pressure on Pakistani authorities to rescind amendments to labour laws that:

- ❖ **make a 12-hour working day standard in factories and exclude piece rate workers from overtime payment.**
- ❖ **Remove the Labour Department's rights of inspection of factories (Industrial Relation Ordinance 2002);**
- ❖ **Allow the Government to dismiss employees without a hearing opportunity (IRO 2000).**

The Working Women Organization wants the Pakistani government to give assurance that any legislation regarding workers meets ILO conventions.

The Working Women Organization and its thousands of members have been agitating and expressing their intense anger and unrest about the worsening conditions of workers, the shameful amendments to the labour laws and violation of ILO labour standards. The government of Pakistan once again demonstrates its anti-worker policy that just protects employers' interest and profit.

These changes in labours laws will just give employers an open hand to exploit workers under the protection of laws, especially women workers already experiencing irregular work, long working hours, dangerous working conditions, very low wages and no right of organization. The Government has used all the tactics to shut down workers' voices. When all kind of suppression, threats and dismissal couldn't stop workers raising their voices for their rights, then it started to modify labor laws and seize the rights workers had won through long struggle and enormous sacrifices.

Please send messages of support to:

- **Aima Mahmood**
Coordinator, Working Women Organization.
E-mail: wwo@brain.net.pk
- ✿ General **Pervez Musharraf**
President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Email: <http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>
- ✿ **Mr. Jim Baker**
Director, Bureau for Workers' Activities
International Labour Office, Switzerland
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