General Otto Pérez Molina

President of the Republic

of Guatemala

National Palace

porozco@secretariaprivada.gob.gt

Dear Mr President

We are writing to inform you that our sister unions and PSI affiliates in Guatemala have advised us that you made statements to the media on 18 March in which you said you were issuing instructions to prohibit the authorisation and negotiation of collective agreements between trade unions and government ministries as well as other employment benefits that are the government’s responsibility on the grounds that these measures are needed to contain public debt because of the country’s fiscal gap.

In solidarity with the position taken by our sister unions in Guatemala, we emphatically reject this measure, given that Guatemala is believed to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a trade unionist. Many trade union leaders and activists have been killed or threatened and most of the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

Moreover, it is well known that Guatemalan governments do not promote collective bargaining or comply with existing agreements. We therefore believe that your statement did nothing to help progress or remedy the systematic violence currently inflicted on the country’s trade union movement.

We call on you to change your mind and continue on the path that your government and the Guatemalan state should take, that is, to respect and promote human rights, including the right to a dignified life, decent work, freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Sincerely,

**NAME OF UNION: COUNTRY:**