Chairman Wang Zhanghou
All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU)
10 Fuxing Men Wai Da Jie, Haidian District
Beijing 100865
People's Republic of China

Dear Sir:

writing to express concern regarding ongoing reports of violations of workers' rights and the frequent harassment and even detention of workers who try to raise issues of concern in China.

The exploitation of workers exists on many levels because workers are restricted from exercising their right to freedom of association. The detention of workers for attempting to organize labor movements in response to rights violations is of serious concern. Such violations include abuses of basic rights and benefits such as payment of wages, reasonable working hours, retirement pensions, compensation for illness or occupational injuries, unemployment compensation, and maternity leave. Without independent workers' organizations, workers are limited in their ability to promote safer and fairer working conditions and other protections.

Although it has signed a number of international human rights treaties that apply to the human rights situation of workers, China has insisted on reservations to articles guaranteeing the rights to freedom of association and to form and join independent trade unions.

urge the All-China Federation of Trade Unions to condemn violations of workers' rights and to genuinely represent and support China's workers as they struggle to protect these labor rights.

Sincerely,