

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta.13.

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Press Statement:

17th May 1974

CITU APPEALS TO ILO TO INTERVENE AGAINST VIOLATION
OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION CONVENTION IN INDIA

Com.B.T.Ranadive, President, CITU, has issued the following statement to the press:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the reign of terror let loose by the police authorities in the railway colonies all over the country to intimidate the striking railwaymen and terrorise their women and children.

The CITU congratulates the wives and daughters of railwaymen for their exemplary courage while resisting the cowardly attacks of the police. It appeals to the working class and the people to rally behind the railwaymen and demand immediate end to these attacks.

The CITU appeals to the International Labour Organisation to take note of the gross violation of ILO convention relating to Freedom of Association by the Government of India and intervene without delay to stop the suppression of trade union and democratic rights of the workers. The mighty demonstration of solidarity of the railwaymen constitutes a serious rebuff to the repressive policy of the Govt. But the Govt. refuses to learn.

The CITU strongly condemns the arrests of over 15,000 trade union leaders and workers and large-scale summary dismissal of railwaymen for participating in the strike.

The CITU appeals to the trade union movement to redouble its solidarity with the railway workers so that the Railway Board and the Govt. are forced to retrace their steps and arrive at a negotiated settlement with the representative of railwaymen on their demands like parity with public sector undertakings, bonus and end to all victimisation.

The CITU calls upon the railwaymen to remain firm and united in carrying forward their just struggle and not to be misled by the false propaganda carried by the railway administration through the radio and the press.

For favour of publication;
To
The Editor,
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