CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN UNIONS
CONFÉDÉRATION DES SYNDICATS CANADIENS

P.O. Box 1117, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K1P 5R2

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July 29, 2010

Mr. Dmitry Anatolyevich
President of the Russian Federation
Ilyinka Street No. 23, Moscow, Russia
103132

Dear Mr, Anatolyevich,

I write on behalf of The Confederation of Canadian Unions to urge you to intervene in the case of Valentin Urusov, the trade union activist, and to secure his immediate release from imprisonment.

Mr. Urusov, a mineworker employed by the Alrosa diamond mining company, was convicted for possession of drugs and sentenced on December 26, 2008 by the Mirinsky district court in Yakutia. On May 12, 2009 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Yakutia overturned the conviction and Mr. Urusov was released on bail. The illegal and flawed nature of the prosecution's case was widely publicized. Nevertheless on June 26, 2009 the Mirinsky court confirmed the original conviction and sentence of six years hard labour.

We have no doubt that the case against Mr. Urusov is fabricated and could not be sustained in any just court hearing. We believe this has occurred because Mr. Urusov was active in recruiting his fellow mineworkers to a trade union organization and sought to represent their interests. He has been the victim of a witch-hunt against trade unionists.

The Confederation of Canadian Unions supports the rights of all workers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining. Our Membership views the imprisonment of Mr. Urusov to be a violation of the principles of fundamental justice, basic human rights, and a stain on the record of the Russian legal system.

Yours sincerely,

John Hanrahan
Vice President
Confederation of Canadian Unions