



International Commission for Labor Rights

Critical Assistance for Working People and Trade Unions Worldwide

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January 30, 2015

Hon. Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto
President
Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos
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Request for Advisory Opinion by the Government of Panama

President of the Court,

On behalf of the International Commission for Labor Rights (“ICLR”), I write to support the letter of the International Trade Union Confederation and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas regarding the Government of Panama’s Request for Advisory Opinion concerning the scope of the term “person,” as defined in Article 1(2) of the American Convention on Human Rights (the “Convention”).

The International Commission for Labor Rights is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in New York, which coordinates the pro bono work of a global network of lawyers and jurists who specialize in labor and human rights law. The ICLR has an interest in the outcome of this case given its primary purpose of ensuring that the fundamental freedoms of working people are effectively realized through the application of international and state jurisprudence.

We hereby associate ourselves with the legal analysis and conclusions contained in the aforementioned letter, which represents customary and *jus cogens* international law as well as treaty obligations and other international and national legal instruments.

ICLR holds that the Inter-American Court must uphold the right of freedom of association of individual workers and their organizations and therefore find the rights of trade unions (as well as their members) protected under the instruments of the Inter-American System. Any other outcome would jeopardize the inalienable right of workers to collective bargaining, to strike or to exercise many other expressions of free association.



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We also fervently urge the Court to refrain from recognizing corporations as “people” entitled to human rights, which would vitiate its own jurisprudence and violate human rights law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeanne Mirer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Mirer
President