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April 23, 2018

BY E-MAIL ONLY

gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br

Michel Temer
Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil
Palácio do Planalto
Praça dos Três Poderes
Brasília, Federal District, 70150-900, Brazil

Dear President Temer:

Re: Imprisonment of Former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we write to protest the imprisonment of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – a violation of the Brazilian Constitution. This arbitrary arrest only serves to undermine democracy by denying the people of Brazil the right to choose their president.

Lula has been subjected to political persecution. The regional appeal court which found him guilty, Judge Sergio Moro and the Federal Prosecutors, have violated Lula's rights to privacy, rights to a fair trial, freedom from arbitrary arrest, the right to freedom of movement, and the right to be presumed innocent until found guilty.

The actions of the Brazilian judiciary, in conjunction with the national media, demonstrate to the world that Brazil does not operate under the rule of law, but the rule of expediency. To use the law to thwart the aspirations of the Brazilian people is, at best, a cynical exercise. To those outside Brazil, it looks like a continuation of the unwarranted impeachment of Dilma Rousseff in an effort to dash the hopes of millions of Brazilians for an improved life.

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MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CHARLES FLEURY

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorier national

DENIS BOLDUC, FRED HAHN, DANIEL LÉGÈRE, KELLY MOIST, MARLE ROBERTS

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

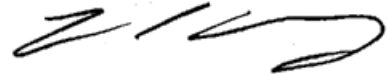
We call on the government of Brazil to comply immediately with its treaty obligations, and customary international law, and protect the fundamental rights to due process of law and to a fair trial, by pursuing immediately the following measures:

1. the immediate release of Lula, at a minimum, until the appeals process has been completed in accordance with the Brazilian constitution;
2. an impartial review of Lula's case by judiciary not connected to the Temer government;
3. that Lula be allowed to run for the presidency in this year's election.

Yours truly,



MARK HANCOCK
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

:cc/cope 491

cc: T. Jarzebiak; M. Butler; D. Ivanochko; K. Cameron; CLC International;
Jocelio Drummond, PSI Inter-America; PSI International; Brazil Embassy in Canada;
Riccardo Savone, Canadian Ambassador to Brazil