

## **The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (STSS) breaches constitutional rights and those established by International Law, of the Maquila Workers of Honduras.**

The Honduran Women's Collective CODEMUH, commemorating the International Workers' Day, denounces the violations of the rights of maquila workers and demands the President Juan Orlando Hernández to ensure respect for the human rights of Honduran workers.

We share with the public once again that the Executive and Legislative powers, instead of implementing public policies and legislate to ensure the social, cultural and economic rights for the workers and prevent the increase of work-related deaths and injuries, have approved the continuity of temporary employment on an hourly basis. They have also allowed that maquila companies implement unconstitutional allocation of working hours (4X4, 5X2, among others) which mean working shifts of 11 hours and 30 minutes, and exhausting and inhumane production goals of 500 dozen per day.

On the other hand, through the bill project introduced by the parliament member Cortés from the Anti Corruption Party (PAC), Anibal Cálix is attempting to "legalise" in the National Congress the work per hours system of 4X4, arguing fallaciously that it would improve the quality of life of the workers. We ask this "illustrious" representative how many hours a day does he work and what is his salary? The health risks of this type of work are well documented and made evident in the investigations carried by the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana de México and CODEMUH on people working under these allocation of working hours: 46% suffer from depression, 46% from labour distress symptoms, and 62% have symptoms of occupational musculoskeletal disorders, with the aggravating factor that this is a young population; 79% are 35 years old or younger.

To the national and international public, especially to the North American and European consumers, we hold the transnational clothing brands, the President of the Republic, the National Congress and particularly the Minister of Labour, responsible for the damage caused to workers' health in the maquila industry. We hold them responsible for the physical and psychological injuries, the emotional suffering, for the wage discrimination and the disabilities experience by those who worked in the maquila; the consequences of which do not only affect them but their families as well.

Engineer Carlos Madero, Labour Minister, remember that the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court (CSJ) raised in the Protection Resolution #AA332=12 on January 23, 2015, on behalf of 49 maquila workers, that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has violated their rights. That it ordered to adopt an inspection mechanism to reduce health risk in maquila factories, to amend the work shifts of almost 12 hours a day to a reduced and legal 8 hours a day, and to review the salaries. Remember that the Protection Resolution is of immediate effect and so far you have ignored it.

Carlos Madero, Minister of Labour, you know that in Honduras the life and health of the workers of the maquila industry is in danger, therefore it is your duty to act promptly.

**“STOP violence in the workplace”**

**Work yes, but with dignity!**

Honduran Women's Collective CODEMUH and the Central American Network of Women in Solidarity with the Maquila Workers REDCAM.

**Choloma Cortés, May 1, 2015**

