

PRESS RELEASE

Pakistani workers express solidarity with Maruti-Suzuki workers in India

KARACHI, April 5: Labour and trade union leaders have expressed their solidarity with the workers of Maruti-Suzuki India, who have been recently convicted of life imprisonment on false charges of murdering a Manager of the factory and demanded the Indian government to release them.

At a joint meeting of trade unions and labour supporting organizations attended by leaders of National Labour Council and Sindh Labour Solidarity Committee, a resolution was passed and endorsed by the participants.

The resolution decided to send a letter to the High Commissioner of India at Islamabad so he can forward the resolution to the Government of India, a statement issued here Tuesday said.

At least 13 members of the Maruti Suzuki Workers Union (MSWU) have been sentenced to life imprisonment and four more workers handed five-years of imprisonment by the Gurgaon Sessions Court on 18 March 2017, without a shred of evidence, and solely on the false witness accounts by the management.

“We express our serious concern and anguish over the sad news and lodge a strong protest with the Indian government against these barbaric sentences to the union leaders, who have been struggling for the rights of workers,” the resolution stated. The MSWU members have been targeted because they have been the leadership of the struggle since 2011 against illegal contract worker system and for trade union rights and dignity of labour, it added.

All workers in the South Asia know that this manifestly unjust verdict was to a ‘teach a lesson’ to the union members by those in power that they should not fight for their rights and dignity on the shop-floor and beyond. Pakistani workers have been in solidarity with Maruti Suzuki workers for many years and demanding solution of their problems.

According to our MSWU friends in India the workers had no involvement in the unfortunate death of the pro-worker manager Mr Avanish Kumar Dev who helped in registering the Union. This was conclusively proved in the legal case from the Defence, the resolution said.