



U.S. Labor Education in
the Americas Project
Proyecto de Solidaridad
Laboral en Las Américas

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His Excellency Ollanta Humala Tasso
President
The Republic of Peru
Palacio de Gobierno
Jr. de la Unión – Lima, Peru

Dear President Humala,

The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF), a human rights organization that advocates for workers globally, is extremely concerned with the Government of Peru's recent adoption of an economic stimulus plan (Ley 30222), which weakens the Labor Inspections Law (Ley 29981) and the Occupational Health and Safety Law (Ley 29783).

As you know, the adopted revisions to the Labor Inspections Law provide employers with a grace period of three years for violations of most labor laws, and the payment of fines during this period is capped at 35% of their value. Furthermore, the law narrows criminal penalties for labor infractions to only those cases in which employers have "been previously notified by labor authorities and have chosen not to adopt measures in response to a repeated infraction." Taken together, these and other reforms represent a significant step backwards in your government's efforts to promote greater respect by Peruvian employers for labor and employment laws.

We are especially concerned of the impact of these measures on workers in the textile, apparel, and agro-export industries, many of whom already fall under special labor regimes that provide fewer protections than the general labor code. As you know, a number of large companies in these sectors, who together export products worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the United States, have repeatedly violated key labor laws and refused to pay fines even when compelled by court order. Weakening these laws may also violate Peru's obligations under the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, under which Peru has committed to effectively enforce its labor laws, including those regulating acceptable conditions of work with respect to occupational safety and health.

The ILRF stands with its Peruvian partners in urging you to reconsider these regressive revisions to the labor code. We ask that your government enters into a dialog with Peru's labor organizations and other interested parties about promoting economic development that fully respects the rights of workers.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judy Gearhart'.

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF)

