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Executive Director

August 9, 2016

Augusto Espinosa Andrade
Minister of Education of the Republic of Ecuador
Quito
Ecuador

Dear Minister Espinosa Andrade:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association (NEA) of the United States. Our organization shares affiliation with Unión Nacional de Educadores (UNE) in Education International, the global union federation. NEA is deeply concerned with the procedure initiated by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Ecuador to dissolve the teachers' union UNE.

In January this year, the Ecuadorian government assured the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that Decree 16 on the registration of non-profit organization does not apply to trade unions. The decision by your ministry violates your country's international commitments.

NEA urges your ministry to halt the legal proceedings against UNE, to respect the fundamental rights of the education employees and their organization, and to act in accordance with its international commitments as a signatory to ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

Thank you for your consideration on this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Copies:

Education International

Todd C. Chapman, United State Ambassador to Ecuador

Rafael Correa Delgado, President of the Republic of Ecuador

Peñañiel Larrea Freddy, Vice-Minister of Education of the Republic of Ecuador

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations Office in Geneva