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Buenos Aires
25-27 September 2012

Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

Buenos Aires, 26 September 2012

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Doctor
Ignacio Mantilla.
President National University of Colombia

cc: Higher Council of the University

See to obtaining extra time from the External Regular Commission for Dr Miguel A. Beltran

Dear Mr. President,

Education International (EI) is a worldwide federation of teaching trade unions representing more than 30 million members in 173 countries, including the Teachers' Federation of Colombia – FECODE and the Trade union Association of University Teachers - ASPU in Colombia.

The participants to the VIII World Conference on Higher Education and Investigation, gathered from 25 to 27 September in Buenos Aires, Argentina, have heard about the case of Doctor Beltran who is prosecuted for his academic work and has been in jail for two years, during which he suffered torture and bad treatments. In 2011 he was released for lack of evidence in support of the charges of "rebellion" and "conspiracy". Once released, Doctor Beltran suffered heavy harassment together with menaces of death, without getting due protection from the authorities of Colombia, reason why he was forced to leave the country in order to save his life.

Professor Beltran requires currently that he should be allowed extra time that would allow him to continue his academic work outside of Colombia until they will be able to offer him guarantees for the protection of his life in that country.

We are writing you in order to utter our solidarity with Dr Miguel Angel Beltran Villegas and join at the same time the numerous international and national appeals asking the Faculty of Human Sciences of the National University of Colombia and the University itself to afford the formalities of extra time with the External Regular Commission for Dr Miguel A. Beltran, and we are appealing to the National University of Colombia to review this situation, allowing our colleague to continue his academic work while preserving his physical integrity.

It is a duty of the public authorities to defend and guarantee the right to life of the workers of education. This is why in the Education International at worldwide level and in particular in this VIII World Conference on Higher Education and Investigation, we hope that the collegial bodies of the National University of Colombia will pay attention to the human requirement not to impose to Doctor Beltran requirements implying, under the current conditions, some risk for his person and a serious influence on his activity and that they would demonstrate at the same time an effective compromise with the democratic freedoms.

We shall remain on the alert with this respect and hope that you will make your best efforts to guarantee that Dr Beltran might profit by the extra time.

Yours sincerely

De Feo Carlos – Argentina

Sanllorenti Pedro- Argentina

Bethencourt Verónica – Argentina

Antonini Florencia- Argentina

Matamala Sergio- Argentina

Socolovsky Yamile- Argentina

Sotelo Maria Belén – Argentina

Liwsky Marisú- Argentina

Toer Mario – Argentina

Adaro Jorge – Argentina

Luscchini Ilda- Argentina

Maria Segienovich – Argentina

Escujuri Juan.- Argentina

Ivorra Miguel- Argentina

Malvitano Beatriz- Argentina

Pauli Cristina –Argentina

Mc Culloch Grahame – Australia

Van Renterghem – Belgium

Deckers Hugo - Belgium

Thlong Tumelo Maud – Botswana

Reis de Figueiredo Gil Vicente – Brazil

Rolim De Oliveira – Brazil

De Menezes Aparecido Junior – Brazil

Gomide Luis Carlos- Brazil

Hagemann Lucio – Brazil

Wayne Peters – Canada

Rea Jeannie- Australia

Turk James- Canada

Bérubé Bernard – Canada

Girouard Pierre – Canada

Roy Max – Canada

Marois Sylvain Canada

Peñalillo Norma – Chile

Hernández Castillo Pedro – Colombia

Arboleda Fernández Gloria Cecilia - Colombia

Sondergaard Leif- Denmark

Vraa- Jensen Jens – Denmark

Lassarre Dominique – France

Godoy Carmen- Chile

Gómez Carlos- Chile

Radek Igor – Croatia

Stage Ingrid – Denmark

Hamming Anders – Denmark

Matilainen Riku – Finland

Frean Hernández - France

Cohen Jean – Hervé – France

Monfort Patrick – France

Delepouve Marc – France

Keller Andreas - Germany

Addai Poku Christian – Ghana

Nabome Stanislaus – Ghana

Jennings Mike – Ireland

Clarke Marie – Ireland

Kenny Aidan – Ireland

Arienzo Alessandro – Italy

Scout Nadin – Jamaica

Mc Carthy Philmore – Jamaica

Trapenciere Ilze – Latvia

Gendenjamts Tsetsegmaa – Mongolia

Grey Sandra – New Zealand

Rognmo Unn- Norway

Lied Ragnhild – Norway

Ryssevick Torjorn – Norway

Convery Ingrid- Norway

Lem Sigrid – Norway

Dababat Amjad – Palestine

Iberico Gustavo – Peru

Raymundo Sarah Jane – Philippines

Jovellanos Joseph – Philippines

Mosakowski Ryszard – Poland

Dos Santos Manuel – Portugal

Hadar Anton – Rumania

Sylla Cheikhou Issa – Senegal

Jovovic Djurdjica – Serbia

Fenyane Samuel – South Africa

Dolopi Nkosna – South Africa

Gonzáles López Pedro – Spain

Sánchez Simón Marisa - Spain

Taylor Kathy – United Kingdom

Renton Simón – United Kingdom

Copeland Rob – United Kingdom

Nightingale Jack – USA

Mc Donald John – USA

Eskelsen Lily – USA

Christianson Hill- USA

Koffman Maury – USA

Haecker Rita- USA

Mosley Ronald – USA

Combertty Rodríguez – Costa Rica