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| His Excellency Mr Eduardo dos Santos  Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary Embassy of Brazil  14/16 Cockspur Street  London SW1Y 5BL | contact: Owen Tudor  direct line: +44 20 7467 1325  email: otudor@tuc.org.uk.uk |

23 January 2018

Dear Ambassador

Prosecution of former President Lula da Silva

In solidarity with the trade union movement in Brazil, the TUC calls on the Brazilian government to abide by its international obligations and halt the politically motivated judicial harassment of former President Lula da Silva.

The right to a fair trial and the due process of law are bedrock principles of a democratic order. These rights have been enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments, including article 14 of the International Covenant and Civil and Political Rights and article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights. They are also recognized as customary international law.

Despite having ratified these instruments, the Brazilian state has violated and continues to violate these fundamental human rights by engaging in a nakedly political criminal investigation of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to prevent him from running for office in the elections later this year. To date, the prosecution has not been able to produce any evidence of corruption.

We call on the government of Brazil to comply with its treaty obligations and customary international law, and protect the fundamental rights to due process of law and to a fair trial. If it fails to do so, it will cause irreparable harm to democracy in Brazil.

Together with the trade union movement in Brazil, and the International Trade Union Confederation to which we all belong, we are also urging the international community to echo our call for the rule of the law and democracy in Brazil.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCES O'GRADY

General Secretary