BWI
Building and Wood Workers' International

Victory for workers at Cambodian cement company linked to LafargeHolcim

27 May 2020 11:33

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Victory for the workers of the Cambodian cement company linked to LafargeHolcim

Workers at the Chakrey Ting cement factory in Kampo, Cambodia, have reached an agreement with the company that will see the reinstatement of the union's vice president, Houn Houen. LafargeHolcim is a 50.3 percent majority shareholder in China-based Huaxin cement, which has a 40 percent stake in the Chakrey Ting factory.

Building and Wood Workers' Union of Cambodia (BWTUC), have also secured an end to instant fines for workers for arriving late to daily company-mandated safety communications briefings outside of shift hours. of work.

"We first filed a complaint with the Arbitration Council, which ordered the reinstatement of Mr. Houen and the end of the 'instant fine' policy. However, when Chakrey Ting did not comply with this stipulation, we went to the Regional Department of Labor" said BWTUC Vice President Chhlonh Sou.

"Through negotiations at the Regional Department of Labor, we were able to obtain justice for Mr. Houen, including payment of back wages, and an end to the punitive policy of fining workers. Workers at this site are now hungry to pursue their rights after tasting justice."

Houen was fired in January 2020 after requesting a leave of absence to represent a group of eight workers who had a disagreement with company management.

"BWTUC knows how important worker safety is right now. However, the enforcement of safety practices through punitive fines represents a violation of basic workers' rights," said BWTU Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Apolinar Tolentino.

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