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**Building and Wood Workers' International - BWI**  
**Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale - BHI**  
**Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen - BTI**  
**Internationale des travailleurs du bâtiment et du bois - IBB**  
**Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera - ICM**

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Dave Noonan  
National Secretary  
CFMEU

Geneva, 19 November 2008

Dear Dave,

I write to express our solidarity with the CFMEU in your fight against anti union laws in Australia. We support your efforts to protect trade union organising and industrial relations rights, and rights of entry to organise on site.

Construction workers worldwide are employed in a trillion dollar a year industry, which is also an insecure and often dangerous industry, where trade union rights can literally make the difference between life and death.

We understand that the Australian Building and Construction Commission powers mean that workers and, in particular, their union representatives can be fined and even jailed, that union meetings can be secretly recorded and that legal representation can be denied. We further understand that clauses restrict union access to the workplace and make many forms of industrial action illegal.

In particular, we are really outraged by the case of Noel Washington, and we share your concern that the ABCC will be incorporated into the new industrial tribunal, Fair Work Australia, as an industry watchdog.

We have put a link on our website and are encouraging our affiliated and fraternal unions to send messages on the case to Workplace Relations Minister Julia Gillard.

We will also be following the progress of the Fair Work bill that we understand she will introduce into parliament in the next week or two.

Please let me know if we can encourage further solidarity actions in the coming weeks, and we will do our best to support your efforts.

In solidarity,  
Anita Normark  
General Secretary  
Building and Woodworkers International