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Mr. Nitish Kumar  
The Honourable Chief Minister  
Bihar, India  
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Nyon, Switzerland, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## **Urgent Appeal for Justice and Support for 102 Ambulance Workers in Bihar, India**

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you on behalf of UNI Global Union having affiliates in 150 countries representing 20 million workers. The Global headquarter is in Nyon, Switzerland, with the Regional Office in Singapore, to express our grave concern regarding the current predicament of the 102 Ambulance Drivers and EMT staff in Bihar. These workers have been unjustly deprived of their basic labour rights by the former service provider, PDPL, whose indifference has left them in a precarious and vulnerable position.

The Supreme Court order terminating PDPL's contract, and the subsequent transition to the new service provider, Ziqitza, offers an opportunity to address these longstanding injustices. However, it is deeply troubling that the legitimate 11-point demands of these workers remain unresolved. This has forced them to continue their phased agitation under the BRCKS-IN Union.

The struggle of these workers is not merely a demand for their rights; it is a call for dignity, respect, and fairness in their workplace. These frontline healthcare workers have served the people of Bihar under extremely challenging conditions, and it is both unjust and alarming that their basic rights have been neglected.

As the Principal Employer, the Government of Bihar has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure that these workers are treated with fairness and that their demands are promptly addressed. Any delay in resolving this issue would not only perpetuate injustice but also undermine the state's commitment to workers' rights. We strongly urge you, as the Honourable Chief Minister, along with the Health Minister, the Labour Minister, the Executive Director of the State Health Society, and the Principal Secretaries of the Health and Family Welfare & Labour Resource Departments, to take immediate and decisive action to address the 11-point demands of these workers.

During the critical time of the pandemic when they were most needed, ambulance workers saved lives by risking their own. Their requests for fair wages, job security, and safe working conditions are not only reasonable but essential to their well-being and effectiveness as first responders in medical emergencies. The current situation is untenable, and the ongoing agitation reflects the deep frustration and desperation of these workers. It is imperative that Ziqitza and the relevant authorities engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue with the BRCKS-IN Union to resolve this matter swiftly and equitably.

UNI Global Union stands in full solidarity with the 102 Ambulance workers and the BRCKS-IN Union in their pursuit of justice. We will continue to support their cause until their rights are fully acknowledged and upheld.

As India celebrates 78 years of its independence this year, we request that you consider the plight of the 102 ambulance workers and treat this letter with the highest priority.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



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UNI Care, Switzerland



Rajendra Acharya  
Regional Secretary  
UNI-APRO, Singapore

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Health Minister, Bihar  
Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare Department  
Labour Minister, Bihar  
Principal Secretary Labour and Resource Department  
ED State Health Society Bihar  
President of BRCKS-IN  
President, UNI/ILC India