

## **Rescind the Cease and Desist Order against ABS-CBN Renew the ABS-CBN Franchise with Pro-Worker Provisions**

The UNI Global Union-Philippine Liaison Council (UNI-PLC) stands in solidarity with the rank-and file-union of the ABS-CBN, the National Alliance of Broadcast Unions (NABU) and all workers and artists of ABS-CBN in demanding that the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) rescind its cease and desist order against the ABS-CBN. The UNI-PLC further demands that the Philippine Congress act expeditiously and renew the franchise of ABS-CBN with expressed provisions that guarantee the rights of workers especially the right to security of tenure.

By inexcusably delaying legislative action on the two-year-old application of ABS-CBN for the renewal of its broadcast franchise upon the behest of a vindictive Administration, the leaders of the House of Representative set the stage for the closure of ABS-CBN upon the expiration of its franchise last May 4, 2020.

The continued closure of ABS-CBN will deprive more than 11,000 workers and artists of their livelihood in the midst of the suffering and rising unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of ABS-CBN deprives millions of Filipinos of a major source of news and entertainment at a time when they are cooped up in their homes as a result of the lockdown ordered by government. The closure of ABS-CBN further erodes freedom of the press and the right of free expression.

The UNI-PLC supports the efforts of the NABU and other labor unions to protect the job and welfare of media workers at the ABS-CBN, DZMM, and ABS-CBN subsidiaries and regional radio and television stations who stand to lose their jobs at a time of grave societal crisis. The UNI-PLC echoes the call of media rights advocates for the people to protect press freedom and resist efforts to stifle free expression and freedom of the press. The UNI-PLC supports the demands of millions of Filipinos for the government to allow the continued operation of one of their major sources of news and entertainment.

**Stand resolutely for press freedom! Protect the rights of the Workers!**

**Rescind the NTC's cease and desist order against the ABS-CBN!**

**Renew the franchise of ABS-CBN with Pro-Worker Safeguards!**

6 May 2020