

American Federation of Labor and **Congress of Industrial Organizations**

815 Black Lives Matter Plaza NW Washington, DC 20006 202-637-5000 aflcio.org

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July 22, 2024

Mr. Irakli Petriashvili, President Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC)

Mr. Giorgi Diasamidze, President "Labor" Trade Union

Via email: info@gtuc.ge and agritradeunion@gmail.com

Dear Brother Irakli and Brother Giorgi:

On behalf of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), I extend our continuing solidarity with the over 5,200 striking workers at Evolution Georgia.

We strongly support the efforts of these workers to demand dignity at work, plus wages and benefits that reflect their important role in a profitable and growing multinational company and a growing economy. We also offer our solidarity with the Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC) and its affiliate "Labor," who are supporting these workers to achieve their just and proper demands.

This company is just one multinational player in a booming global online gambling industry expected to generate roughly 100 billion USD in revenue in 2024. Several of the AFL-CIO's affiliated unions also have members in this sector. Unions in the U.S., the Republic of Georgia, and worldwide are working to strengthen collective bargaining rights for casino and gambling industry workers, ensure they work under decent conditions, and that they have a voice in their workplace.

We agree with the striking workers that a major multinational company like Evolution Georgia needs to provide wages and benefits that reflect the key importance of these workers to the company's current and future success. We also note with concern the workers' allegations of a culture of harassment and bullying at the company and reiterate that the AFL-CIO stands firm in its efforts to end workplace discrimination and harassment. And we are troubled by the unsafe and unsanitary working conditions the workers describe in the Evolution headquarters building in Tbilisi. All workers have a right to a safe and healthy workplace.

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The AFL-CIO calls on Evolution Georgia management to resolve this labor dispute immediately by meeting the workers' demands for decent pay and working conditions. The bravery of the workers at Evolution Georgia inspires all of us who fight for workers' rights and fuels our continued efforts to build global solidarity.

In Solidarity,

Cathy Feingold

AFL-CIO International Director

Carry Dayald

CF/jm OPEIU