

BREAKING NEWS:

[Santiago, Chile. November 19, 2014] On Friday 14th November, the National Independent Workers' Union of Transport Hawkers and Allied Sector (SINTRALOC) celebrated International Street Vendors Day worldwide. Along with this they made a request to the government to officially recognize their day.

SINTRALOC, which brings together more than 5,000 workers throughout the country, is conducted a series of activities to mark this celebration and the union anniversary will be next November 23rd.

SINTRALOC sent a letter with a request to the President Michelle Bachelet, which asked that International Street Vendors Day was officially recognized. Also on the letter outlined the basic objectives of the organization.

"It is intended to ensure that national and local governments recognize the importance of these workers and likewise promote integration policies, training and entrepreneurship, which translates into the transfer of decent jobs from informality to formality," said workers in the letter.

With this initiative, many difficulties street vendors are dealing with every day will be exposed. Secretary General of SINTRALOC, Hardy Vallejos, said that one of the problems is the issue of health because "they treat you as indigent, and on the new health program we do not fit. We have rights to buy bonds for our families."

The request to the government is reflective of conditions in the 58 member countries of the world organization StreetNet (SEE INTERVIEW), an international network that brings together more than 340 street vendors organization, workers who seek the recognition of their labour rights in celebration internationally on November 14th,.

HERE THE LETTER SENT BY WORKERS OF SINTRALOC

Santiago, November 14, 2014

FROM: SINDICATO NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES INDEPENDIENTES AMBULANTES DEL TRANSPORTE Y ANEXOS - SINTRALOC.

TO: MICHELLE BACHELET JERIA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

RE: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON INTERNATIONAL STREET VENDORS DAY

INTRODUCTION

Mrs. President, through this mean, we greet you very cordially and to all your staff with which you are framing the destiny of our nation. We are the National Union SINTRALOC, legal person RSU 13011245, which represents more than 5,000 members in different regions of the country, we are also members of the CUT, which also incorporates various unions and federations of street vendors and hawkers, which make up over 35% of the labour force,

according to estimates by the international organization ILO where it is represented by the international organization of StreetNet, representing 58 member countries from different continents, which in unanimous decision supported the resolution N°23 that resolves to adopt a policy for the creation of an International Street Vendors Day, which is held every November 14th and was ratified at the 4th World Congress held in Santiago de Chile 2013 in the month of March.

FUNDAMENTALS

This commemoration is a tribute to the work of entrepreneurship of millions of workers who resist the scourge of layoffs, unemployment, disease, social injustices that exist permanently in the countries and with their efforts remain honest workers that undertake, with their families, a dignifying labour to get their daily living, whom also make an integral contribution to macro-economic indices of each country, since this work is branch, subsidiary to merchants, artisans, small and large businesses, exporters and importers, who base their sales and labour force on this street vendors sector. Adding to this, we pay taxes, utilities (water, electricity, communication, etc.).

BASIC OBJECTIVES

With this international recognition, to which we add the national recognition, to achieve that national and local governments recognize the importance of these workers and likewise promote integration policies, training and entrepreneurship, which translates into the transfer of decent work from informality to formality, a social struggle recognized and promoted by the ILO as a basic right to work, which is the sum of the other social protections benefits agreed at international treaties.

DEVELOPMENT

Madam President, we know your great career and the ability of members of government, trust in the social policies that are being promoted, SINTRALOC is no exception and deserve recognition in our country, as part of the street vendor sector organized in our 27 year history, along with other independent workers we are committed to our nation by supporting and creating different initiatives, getting up in adversity and dark days of recession, we struggle to be recognised for our contribution to social development.

For all these and countless other arguments, knowing that inside every inhabitant of the country there is a street vendor, we officially request that November 14th in Chile also will be declared as International Street Vendors Day.

Without further ado and hoping that our request will be well received, says goodbye cordially,

Marisol Moya Contador
Interim Secretary
SINTRALOC

David Peña Rojas
President
SINTRALOC