

Brussels, 25 July 2011



Mrs. Ambika Soni  
Hon'ble Minister of Information  
and Broadcasting  
5th Floor, Shastri Bhawan  
New Delhi - 110001

### **Solidarity Statement in support ARTEE and the platform of Sanyukta Sangharsh Samiti**

On behalf of UNI MEI and its 140 unions and guilds representing 300 000 workers in over 70 countries in the media and entertainment industries we would like to express our concern over the inaction of the Indian government regarding the demands presented by UNI MEI affiliate ARTEE and the SSS, and subsequently discussed with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

ARTEE and the SSS have presented an eight-point charter of demands:

- Equal pay to workers within one cadre and between certain professional groups, which demands are backed by Court rulings from the Supreme Court,
- Cadre Review is needed to remove anomalies among cadres.
- Implementation of ACP Scheme as per Decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court which is due since 2000.
- Pay Parity to Technicians with Lighting Assistants as per decision of High Court of Chennai,
- Outsourcing of the work at All India Radio & Doordarshan need to be stopped and staff shortages should be solved through regular recruitment arrangements.
- Movement to withdraw the Agreement of 25 February 1999 needs to be stopped immediately.
- Security of All India Radio & TV Stations in terrorism and Naxalism effected areas.

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We support ARTEE and the SSS in their demands for action and in their Agitation programme.

ARTEE and the SSS will implement a boycott of duties for 24 hours starting on 9 August, which may be converted to an indefinite action if demands are not met. We urge you to take action to ensure workers the rights demanded by ARTEE and the

SSS in their eight-point charter and to stop the movement to withdraw the Agreement of 25 February 1999 before this next step of Agitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Studinger'.

Johannes Studinger

Head of UNI MEI