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For immediate release

Major Facilities Management Companies Launch Co-ordinated Attack on Cleaners' Union

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Kier and ISS, two of the UK's largest facilities management companies have launched a co-ordinated attack on members of CAIWU, the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union.

On February 21st, three cleaners and a porter employed by notorious union blacklisting company Kier at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London, were dismissed for alleged acts of gross misconduct. A fourth cleaner received a final written warning and a fifth is facing disciplinary action for similar alleged infractions. All six are CAIWU members active in the recent successful union-backed campaign to secure a pay increase to the current London Living Wage rate for CAIWU members at the Opera House.

Meanwhile, two cleaners employed by ISS at HSBC in Canada Square, Canary Wharf, have been suspended after raising complaints following the failure of ISS to pay them in full for hours worked. Again, both employees are CAIWU members instrumental in a successful campaign in July 2017 to prevent at least eight proposed redundancies. ISS has used the suspensions of these two key union activists as an opportunity to significantly increase the workloads of the remaining HSBC cleaners despite having committed to implementing no such increases in the settlement agreed after last year's campaign.

These disciplinary sanctions appear to form part of a co-ordinated attack by high profile cleaning contractors against CAIWU and its members, following a string of significant victories. In addition to the above cases, CAIWU has over the last six months secured improvements in the pay and conditions of Cordant cleaning workers at Nike Town in Oxford Street, Mitie staff working for FTI at 200 Aldersgate, and Peartree employees at Facebook in Euston. As a successful campaigning union, CAIWU has made itself a target for facilities management companies, who have made clear by these actions that their priority is minimizing the cost of their services to their clients rather than paying the sustainable wages that would ensure the welfare of their staff.

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Notes to editor:

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