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For immediate release

Cleaning Supervisor Removed from Facebook — Outsourcing Companies Conspire Against Union Rep Who Now Faces Disciplinary Action — Cleaners Considering Industrial Action And Protests

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A cleaning supervisor has been removed from his job at Facebook in Central London.

Guillermo Camacho, a trade union representative for the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union (CAIWU), is facing disciplinary action after being removed from Facebook's 10 Brock Square offices following complaints about declining cleaning standards from Facebook's Facilities Management company JLL.

Churchill Cleaning, Camacho's employer, say that he was removed at the request of JLL — a request Churchill says it is contractually obliged to honour. The company cites multiple instances of what it claims are failures by Camacho to fulfil his responsibilities as supervisor. These include failing to ensure soap dispensers were full, failing to check that cleaning tasks had been completed satisfactorily, and neglecting to ensure cleaning supplies were stored properly, leading to property damage. However, the cleaners have been involved in a long-running dispute with Churchill over numerous issues at Facebook, and say the falling standards are due to excessive workloads and inadequate staffing levels — issues which CAIWU has been trying to get resolved since the spring.

Camacho says he attempted on multiple occasions to highlight the problems caused by excessive workloads, including exhaustion and sickness among cleaning staff leading to frequent absences. He also says he asked for help and was told that no additional resources could be made available.

Earlier this year, Churchill added five extra floors to the cleaners' schedule, effectively doubling their workload since the number of cleaners remained unchanged. When challenged, Churchill defended this decision on the grounds that the cleaners had been requested to focus on touch point cleaning and sanitising — yet it was after this that JLL began to complain about declining standards.

This bad situation was made worse through Churchill's failure to replace absent cleaners, leaving the team permanently understaffed and overworked, yet these concerns were ignored despite being repeatedly drawn to the company's attention by CAIWU.

The union also raised with Churchill the impossible role being demanded of Camacho, who was expected to pressurise his colleagues to work harder despite knowing their workload was unmanageable and observing its effects first hand. That he has now been removed is no great surprise. On the contrary, as CAIWU's representative on site he was always vulnerable to such an act of discriminatory retaliation, by which Churchill appear to be counting on inducing sufficient fear in the remaining cleaners to suppress any further opposition to its restructuring plans.

If this is Churchill's intent, it appears doomed to fail. Camacho's colleagues are presently considering industrial action in response to Churchill's and JLL's mishandling of the Facebook cleaning contract.

In the meantime, they are organising a series of protests to help highlight Camacho's removal and their impossible workload. The first of these will take place at Facebook's London offices at 10 Brock Street, NW1 3FG and 1 Rathbone Square, W1T 1FB on Friday September 3rd.

About CAIWU: The Cleaners & Allied Independent Workers Union is a registered trade union representing over a thousand workers mainly in London's cleaning industry. We believe that every human being is entitled to dignity and respect in the workplace, and it is our mission to help our members fight for this basic right, along with others like fair pay, terms and work conditions.

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Notes to editor:

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