**IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**YOUR CITY Labor Activists Picket in Support of Amazon Workers in Alabama Voting for First Ever Union in US, as part of National Day of Solidarity**

WHO: **YOUR ORGANIZATION** and Southern Workers Assembly

WHAT: National Day of Solidarity with Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama

WHERE: **LOCATION OF YOUR ACTION**

Press contact: **PRESS CONTACT INFO (INCLUDE NAME, PHONE, EMAIL)**

Workers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama are waging a historic struggle to win the first union at an Amazon facility in the U.S. Local labor and civil rights activists are rallying to send our utmost solidarity with these courageous workers. Workers and community members in dozens of cities across the U.S. are taking to the streets to say: *‘Victory to the BAmazon Union!’*

Between February 8, and March 29, approximately 6,000 Amazon warehouse workers in Bessemer, Alabama will begin voting by mail on whether to be represented by the Retail, Wholesale Department Store Workers Union (RWDSU). The harsh working conditions at Amazon warehouses, along with Amazon’s refusal to adopt measures that protect workers from COVID 19, have pushed Amazon and Whole Foods workers everywhere to step up organizing and fighting back.

These predominantly Black workers who have in recent months formed the BAmazon Workers Union, are on the cusp of launching a history-changing workers organization against one of the biggest and most powerful transnational corporations in the world, and its super rich union busting owner, Jeff Bezos. In addition, these workers are standing up to the racist, anti-union laws that suppress labor across the South.

The Southern Workers Assembly is organizing this National Day of Solidarity in recognition of significance of the Bessemer Amazon workers campaign to unionize because of its strategic importance as a major US and global corporation in the warehousing and product distribution chain; and to help build a solidarity network and infrastructure as part of a movement to organize the South. The South has always been the achilleas-heal of the US labor movement with “right-to-work” for less anti-union laws and politicians.

Quotes from Amazon workers and Local activists:

Jennifer bates Learning Ambassador at Amazon Fulfillment Center in Bessemer, AL:

“The [union busters] are coming in, stopping us from doing our jobs to basically ram information in our heads about why we shouldn’t have a union. Some of the younger workers are confused because Amazon told them in the meeting that if we get the union some of their benefits will be taken away. Which is not true.”

According to Randy Hadley, RWDSU Mid-South Council, “Amazon even had someone in the city come out there and recalibrate the red lights,” so as to avoid being able to talk to union organizers at the exits of the parking lot. Hadley continued, “They aren’t scared of us, they are scared of the workers coming together and empowering themselves. And finally saying, enough is enough.”

“Even when they go to the bathroom and use the door behind them they have something up there saying vote no against the union. These people are crying out for help,” stated Michael Foster, poultry worker and RWDSU union member and organizer in Bessemer, AL.

**(Insert quote from local activist)**

For more information about the National Day of Solidarity visit <https://southernworker.org/amazon/>

The press is invited to **(insert details and address for local action again)**. Contact **(insert local press contact info)** for more information.

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