



**BWI** • Building and Wood Workers' International  
**BHI** • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale  
**BTI** • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen  
**IBB** • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois  
**ICM** • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

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## **Statement of Concern Regarding the Guggenheim Project in Helsinki**

The Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), a global union federation consisting of 340 affiliated unions including Rakensuliitto of Finland would like to express our deep concerns regarding the plans to proceed forward with the Guggenheim Project in Helsinki.

These concerns are based on the concerns international trade unions including BWI and ITUC along with human rights and arts groups such as Human Rights Watch and Gulf Labour have raised about the working and living conditions of migrant construction workers who will build the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi museum in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.). Despite the government's public claims of having comprehensive labour laws to guard the welfare of migrant workers, the reality on the ground is very different as violations of migrant workers is prevalent.

There have been numerous stories of migrant workers who have experienced back-wages, long-work hours, high recruitment fees, and atrocious living conditions. Abuses of migrant workers who built the Louvre Abu Dhabi situated at Saadiyat Island, where the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will also be built has been highly publicized.

Although there have been several discussions with the Guggenheim Foundation to address the situation in Abu Dhabi, the Foundation refused to have any future negotiations with BWI and other international organizations that have called on the Guggenheim to be better than the Louvre.

We believe that unless immediate and corrective measure will be implemented, a similar situation will occur in the construction of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi museum. As an effort to prevent this, we call on the Guggenheim to adhere to all international standards pertaining to labour rights, human rights and safety and health in the construction of all of its facilities whether it is in Finland or in the U.A.E.