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Sharan Burrow

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Ms Zehra Zümür SELÇUK

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HTUR/JB

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Denunciation of arrest of Umar Karatepe of DISK on 5 March 2020 in Istanbul

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) that represents 200 million workers in 332 national affiliates in 163 countries, including the Turkish trade union Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (DISK).

We were informed that at 06:30 AM this morning, Turkish police raided the house of Mr Umar Karatepe, Director of the Communication Department of DISK. He was arrested and taken to the police Headquarters in Istanbul. The charges are unspecified but reportedly relate to several statements on his account in social media.

The arrest of trade union official Umar Karatepe for messages on social media constitutes a serious breach of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and association.

We firmly denounce this latest arrest and the ongoing trade union repression in Turkey and demand his immediate and unconditional release.

We wish to be kept informed of your interventions in this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary