

**Akiko Gono**

President  
Présidente  
Präsidentin  
Presidenta

**Luc Triangle**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire général  
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Secretario General

The Prime Minister

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**HTUR/ZM**

**28 November 2023**

**ITUC denounces the arrest, detention and prosecution of trade unionists Barson Rakotomanga, and Sammy Grégoire Ravelonirina.**

Dear Prime Minister,

I write on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) which represents 191 million workers in 167 countries, including Madagascar, to denounce the arrest, detention and subsequent prosecution of Barson Rakotomanga, secretary general of the Alliance Randrana Sendikaly and Sammy Grégoire Ravelonirina, the president of the union of Teaching Researchers and Research Teachers (SECES) by your government.

The ITUC is reliably informed that the two trade union leaders were summoned by the Criminal Brigade for investigation on the grounds of "undermining the security of the State". On 22 November 2023. They were held in police custody and brought before the court on 24 November 2023. In this hearing, Barson Rakotomanga was granted bail while Sammy Grégoire Ravelonirina was placed under judicial supervision. The two will stand trial on 12 December 2023.

The ITUC denounces the persecution of trade union leaders seeking the restoration of peace in Madagascar. The violence that occurred in Antananarivo in response to civil protests was noted by the SADC Electoral Observation Mission SEOM in its preliminary report of 18 November 2023. The ITUC reminds your government to respect the ILO CAS Conclusions of 2023 that called on your government to "refrain from using the criminal law to target trade unionists and amend all provisions of the Criminal Code hindering the right to freedom of association of workers and employers".

In this respect, we demand that the charges against the two union leaders be dropped immediately and the persecution be brought to an end. We call on Madagascar, as a member of the ILO, to respect the human and labour rights obligations it has voluntarily adopted.

We remain available, together with our affiliates, to engage with you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luc Triangle', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Luc Triangle  
General Secretary