



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**  
**EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**



Mr K.S. Bakyev  
President of the Kyrgyz Republic  
Bishkek  
Kyrgyzstan

By telefax: 996-312-21.86.27

**Re: Violation of trade union rights in Kyrgyzstan**

Mr. President,

We have been informed that Sagyn Bozgunbaev, the President of our associate organisation in Kyrgyzstan, has been suspended from his office by a decision of the Pervomaiskiy District Court on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2008. S. Bozgunbaev was elected by the Congress of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan in September 2005, and under his leadership the FPKg was accepted as an ITUC/PERC associated member organisation in June 2007.

The suspension of Mr. Bozgunbaev is based on an old criminal case which had been closed by the Office of the Prosecutor General in 2006. We have difficulty to understand, Mr. President, how, today, two years later, the Prosecutor General could take the decision to re-open a criminal case, on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, and how on the very next day, 1 of February, the court could take a decision to temporarily release Mr. Bozgunbaev from his office.

According to our sources this move was initiated by some administration officials who want to appoint their protégé, Mr. M. Beibosunov, as First Vice-President of the FPKg. In this process, they seem to wilfully ignore and dismiss the fact that his candidacy to this position was already rejected twice by the statutory bodies of the FPKg. Moreover, presidents of the affiliated sector unions of FPKg and other trade union activists are pressed by the government institutions, including ministries, regional governors and the Prosecutor's Office, which are forcing them to give Mr. Beibosunov their vote of confidence.

We are deeply concerned by the massive attack on the rights of trade unions in your country launched by governmental bodies of Kyrgyzstan. Interference by state authorities in the internal affairs of trade unions contradicts the principle of Freedom of Association, embodied by the ILO Convention #87, ratified by Kyrgyzstan as well as the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

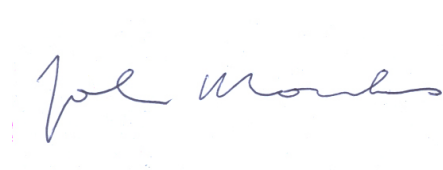
We are calling upon you, Mr. President, to clarify these issues, and to take all necessary steps in order the whole procedure against Mr. Bozgunbaev and other democratically elected leaders of the FPKg be suspended immediately and that a halt be put to any and all attempts by certain individuals to seize control over the organisation. We wish to remind you that Kyrgyzstan is bound under international law to abide by the treaties which it has voluntarily ratified, including the relevant Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) about Freedom of Association (N°87) and the Right to Collective Bargaining (N°98). We would certainly not hesitate to support our associate member in any complaint to the ILO in case groundless attacks aiming at destabilising the FPKg would continue and

we will also liaise with all relevant international and European institutions in case the rule of law and trade union rights continue to be violated in Kyrgyzstan.

A copy of this letter will be sent to all our affiliates in the region, in Europe, North-America as well as in other parts of the world. We would be happy to send them copy of your answer when we receive it.

Looking forward to your prompt reaction on this essential matter,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Monks', enclosed within a faint rectangular border.

John Monks  
ETUC General Secretary  
PERC General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Ryder', enclosed within a faint rectangular border.

Guy Ryder  
ITUC General Secretary