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Killings and arbitrary detentions

Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) which represents more than 180 million workers in 162 countries to strongly condemn the killing of innocent workers and citizens by the Turkish security forces.

We have been informed that Mehmet Kaplan, a sanitation worker employed by the Cizre Municipality and a member of DiSK/Genel-İş Union, was shot in front of his house. Due to the ongoing curfew his family has not even been able to get his body from the street.

Tragically, the death of Mehmet Kaplan is not an isolated case. On 14 December 2015, Ramazan Uysal, another member of Genel-İş working for the Cizre Municipality was killed while he was working at water valves. Moreover, three other members of Genel-İş, Mazlum Özmen, Mesut Ayık and Nedim Oruç, have been arbitrarily detained.

The ITUC deplores the fact that workers who are risking their lives in order to provide the population in the region with much needed public services are being targeted and killed by the security forces. This is simply unacceptable and inhumane. We urge you to undertake a full investigation and hold those who are responsible for the deaths of the workers responsible.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary