

Geneva, 2 February 2015

Mr. Ahmet Davutođlu
Prime Minister
Republic of Turkey
Vekaletler Caddesi, Bařbakanlık Merkez Bina
Kızılay Ankara
Turkey

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IndustriALL Global Union Protests the Decree of the Cabinet of Turkey to Postpone the Strikes in Metal Industry

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrialall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in 143 countries worldwide, to urge you to withdraw the decree postponing the strike in the metal industry, which has been called by Birleřik Metal-İř, and create a proper environment whereby free collective bargaining negotiations can take place. We are proud of having the union of Birleřik Metal-İř as one of the members of our large global union family.

IndustriALL Global Union and its affiliates worldwide are outraged to learn that your Cabinet has postponed, in reality banned, the strikes in the metal industry covering 38 companies that Birleřik Metal-İř partly launched on 29 January 2015 and would start on 19 February 2015 in ten different cities of Turkey.

It is unbelievable that your Cabinet is banning the strikes on account of "national security," as stated in the decree published in the Official Gazette from 30 January 2015. We vehemently protest this act to ban these legitimate strikes. We do consider that this is a clear violation of the right to strike, which is one of the fundamental rights of workers, guaranteed by the Constitution of Turkey as well as international conventions--ratified by your Government--and the jurisprudence of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

It is clear that your Government has regularly misused relevant article of the Turkish Law on Trade Unions and Collective Labour Agreement, number 6356. In particular, since you came to power, a series of strikes in the rubber, glass, mining and metal sectors have been banned arguing that they are "prejudicial to national security". Using this pretext to ban a strike in manufacturing sectors does not have any rational or legal grounds. Instead, it is our firm conviction that your Government is favoring business interests rather than protecting the rights of workers.

The Turkish Government should know that its decision to ban the strikes constitutes a breach of international labor norms and standards. As a matter of fact, the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association ruled that the Government of Turkey, in suspending a strike in the sector on the grounds that the strike would be a threat to national security, was in violation of the principles of freedom of association.

I would like to recall you that the very same ILO Committee noted with regret the decision of the Council of Ministers to suspend a strike on grounds of national security, without any apparent relationship between the industries in question (tire, glass, municipality services and state-run undertakings) and national security.

Fundamental workers' rights, particularly the right to strike, are no longer respected in Turkey. The global union movement receives daily reports of brutal labor rights violations being committed in Turkey. This must come to an end.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Turkish Government to respect in full fundamental workers' rights. In addition, please know that IndustriALL Global Union and its affiliates worldwide stand firm in solidarity with the striking metalworkers, who demand decent wages through their legitimate right to strike. IndustriALL Global Union will file a new complaint before the International Labour Organization.

I once again urge you to withdraw the decree postponing the strike in the metal industry, which has been called by Birleşik Metal-İş, and create a proper environment whereby free collective bargaining negotiations can take place.

I anticipate your quick reply.

Sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

CC:
Faruk Çelik, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Turkey
Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO
Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC
Ulrich Eckelmann, General Secretary, IndustriALL Europe
Adnan Serdaroğlu, General President, Birleşik Metal-İş