

Geneva, 05 May 2017

Mr. Hassan Rouhani
President
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: media@rouhani.ir; mission.iran@ties.itu.int

IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with the coal mine explosion victims in the Zemestanyurt mine

Dear Mr. President Hassan Rouhani,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Iran, to mourn the death of at least 35 coal mine workers in the Zemestanyurt mine in Northern Iran yesterday. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families, the numerous injured workers, and those who are still trapped in the mine.

We understand this deadly accident, an explosion resulting from a gas leak, occurred while workers were changing shifts at the Zemestanyurt mine, which employs more than 500 workers. Unfortunately, this is not the first—we strongly believe—preventable accident striking the mining industry in Iran. Previous mining disasters, such as in 2009 and 2013, could be mostly attributed to the lack of adequate health and safety standards.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union finds it imperative that the Government of Iran urgently ratify ILO Convention 176 on Health and Safety in Mines, as well as implement the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Underground Coal Mines.

IndustriALL Global Union is prepared to offer technical assistance, through the solid expertise of its coal mining trade unions worldwide—in addition to any technical assistance your Government may wish to request from the International Labour Organization (ILO)—to put in place stringent health and safety standards at all mining operations in Iran.



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As you would agree, the health and safety of mine workers is of paramount importance, and IndustriALL Global Union is determined to continue working hard to help improve health and safety conditions in mines worldwide.

Sincerely yours,

Valter Sanches
General Secretary