



16 March 2018

Mr. Guy Ryder
Director-General
International Labour Organization (ILO)
ryder@ilo.org

Expressing great concern over increasing violation of fundamental labour rights in Algeria

Dear Mr. Director General,

On behalf of Public Services International (PSI), International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and IndustriALL Global Union, we are writing to express our deep concern over the increasing pressure and intimidation against independent unions in Algeria; and in this sense, we also wish to convey our disappointment and apprehension resulting from the cancellation of the ILO Direct Contact Mission to Algeria.

We condemn in the strongest terms the recent public attacks by the Minister of Labour and Social Security, Mourad Zemali, against SNATEGS and CGATA. In addition, the Government of Algeria has increased the persecution of union leaders through the arbitrary use of a compliant legal system. These reprehensible measures are not only highly detrimental to the targeted union leaders—Raouf Mellal, Abdelkader Kouafi, Slimane Benezine and Mohamed Elaid Mamene—but are also severely affecting the independent labour movement in the country.

Therefore, as a matter of urgency, and taking full account of this regrettable setback, we sincerely hope the International Labour Organization (ILO) will redouble its efforts to put pressure on the Government of Algeria, thus calling on them to abide strictly by international labour standards, including the right to freedom of association, and, specifically, demanding a time-bound action plan to provide a remedy for the specific violations of labour rights.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union

Sue Longley
General Secretary
IUF

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary
PSI

Sharan Burrow
General
Secretary ITUC