



26 January 2018

To Mr Mourad Zemali  
Ministre du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Sécurité Sociale  
44 Rue Mohamed Belouizdad, Sidi M'Hamed Algeria

By email to [informa@mtess.gov.dz](mailto:informa@mtess.gov.dz) ; [president@el-mouradia.dz](mailto:president@el-mouradia.dz) ; [contact@mission-algeria.ch](mailto:contact@mission-algeria.ch) ;  
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## **IndustriALL, ITUC, IUF and PSI call on Government of Algeria to end persecution of SNATEGS and Raouf Mellal, and respect freedom of association**

Dear Mr. Zemali,

We are writing to you 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, to condemn the forceful detention and mistreatment of 1,000 people by the police on 20 January in response to a peaceful protest organized by SNATEGS in front of the central post office in Algiers. Detainees were taken to remote areas on buses and left without food and water from 11 in the morning to 9 in the evening. These actions by the police constitute gross violations of the right to freedom of assembly and the civil rights of Algerian citizens.

We further condemn the escalating repression of trade unions and trade union leaders in Algeria.

We call on the Government of Algeria to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges and fines against SNATEGS President Raouf Mellal, including new charges amounting to 17 months in prison and fines of up to 10,000 euros, as well as the recent restriction on his freedom of movement. Furthermore, it is imperative that the Government of Algeria uphold the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

Therefore, IndustriALL, ITUC, IUF and PSI urge your government to respect the right to freedom of association, stop the persecution of SNATEGS, respect the union's rights and legal status, drop all charges against Raouf Mellal and union members and representatives facing prosecution solely in retaliation for their union commitment, and reinstate all those dismissed for carrying out their union activities and exercising their rights.

Yours sincerely,

Valter Sanches  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union

Sue Longley  
General Secretary  
IUF

Rosa Pavanelli  
General Secretary  
PSI

Sharan Burrow  
General  
Secretary ITUC