

Geneva 11 November 2019

Hassane Barazé Moussa
Minister of Mines
Government of Niger
missionduniger1@gmail.com; moussa.arasée@yahoo.fr

IndustriALL Global Union supports Niger unions' demands for social dialogue on the closure of Orano's Cominak Mine

Dear Hassane Barazé Moussa,

I am writing on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in 140 countries worldwide, including Niger, to call again upon the Government of Niger to involve our affiliate Syndicat des Travailleurs des Mines (SYNTRAMIN) in social dialogue and to pay fair compensation to the 1472 workers, who will be affected by the closure of the Akouta Mining Company (Cominak) mine in Niger.

I also urge the government of Niger to involve SYNTRAMIN in tripartite discussions with Orano/Cominak so that the union could submit proposals on how to avert the closure of the mine, which includes calling on the government of Niger, which already owns 31 per cent of Cominak, to take over and continue operations by taking on board other shareholders if Orano pulls out its 34 per cent shareholding by 2021.

IndustriALL Global Union, together with its affiliates worldwide, supports the demands of our affiliate, SYNTRAMIN, for special bonuses for workers who have been employed by the mine from 1 to 20 years. In addition to the special bonus, we would like the workers above 24 years of age to be paid at least 30 months of their gross salary as early retirement. The workers should also get medical benefits, household appliances, costs of study and training, relocation costs, death risk and housing benefits. The workers' children and families should also be considered in the compensation.

On the collective dismissals, the workers should be paid according to the labour laws and the payments should include compensation in lieu of notice, termination indemnity, including for paid leave and other benefits. Moreover, we also call on Orano/Cominak to consider professional skills and experience in their decisions, as agreed upon in meetings with the union.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union reiterates its call to the government of Niger to ensure that the management of Orano/Cominak involves our affiliate Syndicat des Travailleurs des Mines (SYNTRAMIN) in social dialogue and pays fair compensation to the 1472 workers, who will be affected by the closure of the mine in Niger.

Furthermore, we urge the government of Niger to engage in negotiations with Orano/Cominak, and involving SYNTRAMIN as well, to establish a plan for a Just Transition.

Yours sincerely,



Valter Sanches, General Secretary

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