

Geneva, 6 December 2016

Mr. Guy Ryder
Director-General
International Labour Organization (ILO)
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IndustriALL Global Union's Call to the ILO for Urgent Action over Safety in Coal Mines in China

Dear Mr. Director-General,

I am writing this letter to you as the new 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, to call on the ILO to take urgent action over safety in coal mines in China. It is very sad to learn that, coinciding with an increase in demand for coal during the wintertime, a series of mining accidents have taken place in China recently.

Last Saturday, a gas explosion at the coal mine, which is operated by the Baoma Mining Co., in the Yuanbaoshan district in the city of Chifeng killed 32 miners. This is the second major coal mine accident in five days. Chinese authorities confirmed that last Friday 21 workers died because of a coal mine blast in the city of Qitaihe, which is located in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang. Before these two accidents, on 31 October, thirty-three people were killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in the southwestern city of Chongqing.

It is clear that the Chinese coal mining industry remains among the world's deadliest because of poor safety standards. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to learn that the Chinese government has apparently ordered that all of its country's coal mines conduct a safety overhaul. In carrying out its major renovation of the working conditions in the coal mines, it is imperative that the Chinese government inter alia, ratify Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines.

Therefore, it is in this context that we find it extremely important that the ILO offer immediate technical assistance to China to help improve health and safety standards in the coal mines. In addition, IndustriALL Global Union is also willing to provide any necessary political and technical support to the Chinese coal miners by sharing the expertise of its affiliated unions in the mining industry from around the world. In this sense, we will also get in touch with the ACFTU to offer them our solidarity and support.

With best regards,



Valter Sanches, General Secretary