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President: Berthold Huber
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Sead Čaušević
Prime Minister of Tuzla Canton
Slatina 2, 75000 Tuzla, BIH

Sent via Fax: +387 35 369 306; email rigor@tk.kim.ba, sekretarup@tk.kim.ba, sekretaruv@tk.kim.ba

Urgent labour Concern at GIKIL

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Čaušević,

I write to you on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union which represents more than 50 million workers across the energy, manufacturing and mining supply chains in 140 countries worldwide. We value the membership in our organization of the Independent Trade Union of Chemistry and Non-Metal Workers of FBiH of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am extremely concerned for our affiliate's members at the company Global Ispat Koksna Industrija d.o.o. Lukavac. It has been reported to me that the 1,000 workers at the company are being intimidated to leave the trade union so that management can continue to not pay workers' salaries regularly without challenge.

We believe GIKIL to be a profitable and viable operation, judging from investment at the Lukavac enterprise and the fact that it markets metallurgical coke to a number of steel operations in central Europe and in Turkey. We feel it incumbent on management, as well as on the federal government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the government of Tuzla Canton with its majority holding, to ensure workers' issues regarding pay and conditions of work are made an urgent priority and corrected.

Following a thorough investigation, we are aware of the dubious business dealings that have created the company's financial deficit of 180 million Bosnia and Herzegovina convertible marks. This deficit was created because GIKIL d.o.o. Lukavac purchased coal from the STENKOM company for an inflated price to fraudulently channel money to STENKOM which is owned by the same company Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd.

We are aware of the 21 June letters that company sent to 60 members of the senior staff calling on them to withdraw their union membership and set an example on the rest of the workforce. This is a blatant example of restricting international standards of the right to organise and bargain collectively and it cannot continue.

We stand in firm support of our affiliated Independent trade union of chemistry and non-metals workers of FBiH, under the leadership of President Kata Iveljic, and expect swift intervention on the part of your administration to ensure the company enters into good faith social dialogue with its union partner, settles the abusive practice of non-payment of salary, reverses this pressure on union members to leave the union, and finds a business solution that will fix the artificial financial debt created through fraudulent dealings with STENKOM.

I anticipate your quick reply.

Sincerely,

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary