

Geneva 10 July 2012

Mr. Faruk Çelik  
Minister of Labour and Social Security  
Ankara Turkey  
By e-mail: [fcelik@csgb.gov.tr](mailto:fcelik@csgb.gov.tr)

## Dismissals due to trade union membership at Togo Ayakkabı

Dear Minister Çelik,

I am writing to you on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union representing more than fifty million workers throughout energy and manufacturing chain in some 140 countries throughout the world, including nineteen unions in Turkey. As you will remember, when we met in your offices in Ankara on 26 April, I presented you the unification project of three global trade union organizations, namely IMF, ICEM and ITGLWF, which is now in place since our founding congress in mid-June in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The aim of this letter is to bring to your attention an issue, which one of our Turkish affiliates Deri-Is has been facing for around two months. Deri-Is organized the majority of workers at Togo Ayakkabı Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş., located in Ankara, in April. As soon as management heard about the union organizing activity, thirty-five union members were dismissed at the beginning of May. This is actually the general picture in Turkey at similar union organizing drives, which our global union can never accept, as I made it clear to you in our meeting in April. The dismissed workers are still outside the plant, and under massive and regular attacks, pressure and intimidation by security forces, which has now become a real tragedy.

As your Ministry has not been issuing authorization papers since the beginning of this year, under the excuse that there is no legal base to do so, the lack of authorization papers makes it impossible for workers to fully enjoy their trade union rights, which are enshrined in international conventions that have been ratified by Turkey. As a consequence, Deri-Is cannot protect its members by making use, among others, of collective agreements.

Dear Minister, this situation is unacceptable to us. I urge you to use your authority to bring Togo Ayakkabı's management and Deri-Is's leadership together to find a just solution to this problem. If this situation is not solved in a just and fair fashion, we are prepared to take this case before international fora.

Sincerely,



Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary

CC: Musa Servi, General President of Deri-Is