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President: Berthold Huber  
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Geneva, 15 April 2016

Mr. Saif Mohamed El Kahtani  
President  
**Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC)**  
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Sent by email to [alotaian@hotmail.com](mailto:alotaian@hotmail.com); [w\\_mehbash@hotmail.com](mailto:w_mehbash@hotmail.com)

**CC. Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office** and other international organizations in Geneva at [info@kuwaitmission.ch](mailto:info@kuwaitmission.ch) and fax +41 22 740 21 55

## **IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) in Kuwait**

Dear Saif Mohamed El Kahtani,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 140 countries, to express our solidarity with the struggle of the Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) to stop the government's plans to seriously undermine the rights and benefits of workers in the oil and petrochemical industries in Kuwait.

We stand with you in full solidarity with your strike, which will be launched on Sunday 17 April, on account of the failure of the government, particularly the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and the acting Oil Minister, to engage in meaningful negotiations.

IndustriALL Global Unions deplores the recent unilateral measures adopted by the government, including the drafting of a law under the title of "Strategic Alternative," that would seriously curtail long standing benefits, wages, as well as impose possible layoffs.

IndustriALL Global Unions urges the government of Kuwait to enter into immediate negotiations with the Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) to address the legitimate demands of the workers, which, inter alia, call for desisting from implementing any regulations—which have been drafted without any union consultation—that would impinge on the rights of workers, which are clearly stipulated under the current labour regulations, labour agreements, and judiciary verdicts.

Furthermore, IndustriALL calls on the government of Kuwait to engage in negotiations with the union to ensure that the oil sector be kept outside of the realm of the proposed *Strategic Alternative*. There are separate labour laws codifying the rights of workers in the oil and petrochemical sectors, and this should not change.

Lastly, IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to establish a joint committee along with the Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) to guarantee that any changes, if any, to current labour legislation be carried out in full consultation with the union, and in full accordance with national labour law, and international labour standards.

IndustriALL Global Union rallies behind you in your fight to protect the rights of workers in Kuwait, and expects that the government of Kuwait will sit down to negotiate with the Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) to find a prompt and fair solution to the conflict.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line in the middle, and a diagonal line on the right that ends in a small hook.

Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union