

Geneva 15 May 2017

H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili  
President of Georgia

Sent by email to info@president.gov.ge; info@moh.gov.ge; ministry@economy.ge;  
ggakharia@economy.ge; geomission.geneva@mfa.gov.ge

## IndustriALL Global Union calls on President of Georgia to ensure stringent health and safety standards in mines

Dear H.E. Margvelashvili,

I am writing this letter to you as the 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, including Georgia, to mourn the death of four workers at the Tkibuli Elizbar Mindeli mine on 9 May. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families.

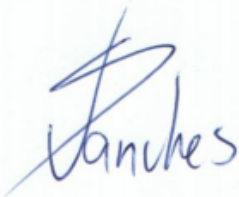
According to preliminary information, the four workers—including two members of our affiliated union, the Trade Union of Metallurgy, Mining and Chemical Industry Workers of Georgia (TUMMCIWG), died while performing repair work on a freight elevator. Everything seem to indicate that this is yet another deadly accident that could have been prevented. We deeply regret the fact that 24 miners have lost their lives in the Tkibuli mines, including 19 seriously injured ones since 2010.

Therefore, once again IndustriALL Global Union urges the government of Georgia to ratify ILO Convention 176 on Health and Safety in Mines, as well as ILO Convention 81 on Labour Inspection. It is essential to set up a proper enforcement mechanism of labour legislation in the country. In contrast to the nominal structure that operates now, the primary task of the Labour Inspection should be to prevent accidents rather than simply keep statistics of accidents.

We do hope that you will agree with us that health and safety of mine workers is of paramount importance to the country, and that you will take the necessary measures to protect the lives of miners in Georgia.

I anticipate your swift action and immediate reply,

Sincerely,



Valter Sanches,  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union