

Geneva, 29 May 2017

To the Honorable Members of Parliament
Parliament of Iraq
Baghdad, Iraq

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IndustriALL Global Union calls on Parliament of Iraq to adopt only draft that contains trade union input

Dear Honorable Members of Parliament,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of IndustriALL Global Union, which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Iraq, to call on the Parliament of Iraq to reject the so-called draft bill on Law of Professional Federations and Unions, submitted by the Council of Ministers to you in April, and instead consider the draft proposal called *Trade Union Freedoms*, which contains the input from unions, and which was submitted earlier by the Iraqi unions to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Please note that we are very proud to have Ms. Hashmeya Alsaadawe, from the General Union of Electricity Workers and Technicians (GUEWT), as one of the sixty members of our global Executive Committee.

IndustriALL Global Union is extremely concerned because the draft bill on Law of Professional Federations and Unions is in violation of a large number of Iraqi labor laws and international labor standards, including ILO's Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.

Furthermore, the draft bill on Law of Professional Federations and Unions is also in violation of the permanent Constitution of the Republic of Iraq as the Iraqi trade unions stated in their letter to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in December 2016. Unfortunately, the Ministry neglected the voice of the trade unions and workers, which made 28 specific and essential observations to the draft 23 articles to ensure that the draft would be in line with national and international labor legislation, thus including, inter alia, the right of workers, in all sectors, to freedom of association, to bargain collectively, and to strike.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Parliament of Iraq to reject the draft bill on Law of Professional Federations and Unions, and instead adopt the trade unions sponsored draft, including the 28 observations from December 2016. In addition, we take this opportunity to call on the Parliament of Iraq to accelerate the process of ratification of Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.

We strongly urge the Parliament to move forward on the basis of the input from the trade unions to ensure that any new legal framework affords workers their legitimate and fundamental rights under national and international law.

IndustriALL Global Union continues to be prepared to offer you any necessary technical assistance. We are fully committed to continuing to support our nine affiliated unions in Iraq, as well as giving our solidarity support to the whole union movement in the country to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and the implementation of adequate labor laws.

Yours sincerely,



Valter Sanches
General Secretary