

Geneva, 15 August 2017

Avi Nissenkoren, Chairman, Histadrut
Gabi Asraf, President of National Union of Metal, Electric & Electronic Workers
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Israel

Sent by email to avitals@histadrut.org.il and gabi.ld@histadrut.org.il

IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with electricity workers in Israel in their struggle to exercise the right to strike

Dear Brothers Avi Nissenkoren and Gabi Asraf,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in a wide range of sectors, including extraction, generation and distribution of electric power, in more than 140 countries, including Israel, to express our full solidarity with you in your struggle to exercise the right the strike for electricity workers at the Israel Electric Company (IEC). Our global union takes pride in being a substantial force in global solidarity, leading the fight for better working conditions and trade union rights around the world.

IndustriALL Global Union is outraged to learn of the legal proceedings at the Israeli High Court of Justice concerning the right to strike of Israel Electric Company (IEC) workers against a so-called privatization reform, in which about 4,500 to 6,000 workers would be terminated. In addition, the Court's decision would seriously impinge on fundamental workers' rights, including the right to employment stability. It is obvious that one of the main tasks of the Israeli High Court is to protect human rights, and the right to strike is one of them.

IndustriALL Global Union is very concerned about the possibility of imposing serious restrictions on the right to strike. We believe such an outcome would be against the International Covenant on Economic, Social and cultural Rights, as well as against ILO's Convention 87 concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organize, and ILO's Convention 98 concerning the application of the principles of the right to organize and to bargain collectively.

We do believe it is the unions' responsibility and purpose to make use of the right to strike in order to protect workers' rights, especially when there is a concrete threat, such as massive layoffs. We hope that the Israeli High Court of Justice will protect workers' fundamental rights.



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We stand in solidarity with you and support the Israel Electric Company (IEC) workers in their legitimate struggle.

In solidarity,

Valter Sanches
General Secretary