



Geneva and Brussels, 14 November 2018

## **IndustriALL Global Union and IndustriALL European Trade Union condemn criminalization of trade union activities in Turkey**

[IndustriALL Global Union](#) and [IndustriALL European Trade Union](#), both representing millions of workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in Europe and worldwide, condemn in the strongest terms the judicial persecution of workers and trade union officials, which has resulted in the recent court sentencing of 26 Renault workers and trade union officials from the Oyak plant in Bursa, Turkey.

Workers were the victims of police brutality, and were unlawfully detained while peacefully demonstrating in front of the Oyak plant, [demanding their jobs back and the right to organize](#), in March 2016.

The Government of Turkey, including its judiciary, should stop criminalizing trade union activity. This behaviour constitutes a blatant violation of national and international core labour standards, including Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which were ratified by Turkey.

Furthermore, even though Renault was not involved in the judicial persecution of the workers, the company bears responsibility for having failed to solve the conflict through social dialogue, and having instead called the police to repress the striking workers in 2016. It is important to note that Renault's behaviour at the Oyak plant was in violation of the Global Framework Agreement signed with us in 2013. Both organizations, along with the concerned affiliates, will keep on calling to address Renault's unacceptable violation of the Global Framework Agreement.

We call on the Government of Turkey to fulfil its international obligations, which includes respecting the fundamental rights of workers, thus refraining from taking any actions that may impinge of the rights of workers to organize, collective bargaining, strike, and the right to equal, fair, and impartial treatment before the law.

**Valter Sanches**  
*General Secretary*  
*IndustriALL Global Union*

**Luc Triangle**  
*General Secretary*  
*IndustriAll European Trade Union*