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IndustriALL Global Union calls on the government of Kyrgyzstan to ensure respect for the trade unions' rights

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrial-all-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in 140 countries, including Kyrgyzstan, to call on you to withdraw from public discussion the draft law of the Kyrgyz Republic on trade unions, which would significantly limit trade unions' rights.

IndustriALL Global Union's affiliate, the Mining and Metallurgy Trade Union of Kyrgyzstan (MMWU), informed us that the draft law was presented for public discussion on 12 April on the website of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, without prior agreement from the trade unions, and, in consequence, without taking into account their amendments. We believe that this is unacceptable, as the law would impinge on trade unions' internal affairs.

We are deeply concerned about this bill because it threatens the existence of independent trade unions in the country. It would establish a hierarchical system in which all trade unions would be subordinated to the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan, which is the only trade union association at the national level recognized as a social partner by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result, all regional and sectoral trade unions would be structural units of the Federation, thus losing their independence or even facing dissolution.

Besides, the bill would severely restrict, inter alia, the rights of trade unions and their associations to independently determine their own organizational structure, forms and types of associations, trade union membership, as well as the right to establish governing bodies, timeframes for their elections.

We strongly believe that this draft law is in violation of Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, Convention 144 on Tripartite Consultations to Promote the Implementation of International Labour Standards; it also contravenes Article 4 of the Constitution and Articles 29-34 the Labour Code of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We urge the government of Kyrgyzstan not to interfere with the internal affairs of trade unions and to ensure that their rights are fully respected. We call on you to show your goodwill by withdrawing the bill from public discussion and establishing a social dialogue of deputies and trade unions' representatives.

Please note that IndustriALL Global Union has already sent a request to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to conduct a legal assessment of the draft law. Furthermore, IndustriALL Global Union expresses its full support of the MMWU's legal steps taken to protect trade unions' rights. We will continue to follow developments closely and will keep the international community informed.

I look forward to your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanches". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial letter.

Valter Sanches
General Secretary