

Geneva, 17 July 2020

Adnan Serdaroğlu
General President
Bırsesil Metal-İs (United Metalworkers' Union)
Bostancı Mahallesi, E-80 Yanyol Caddesi, No:2
34744 Kadıköy İstanbul
Turkey

By e-mail: adnanserdaroglu@birlesikmetal.org; international@birlesikmetal.org;
ozkanatar@birlesikmetal.org; eyupozer@gmail.com;

IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with the striking members of Birleşik Metal İş at MT Reklam

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industrial-all-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Turkey, to express our full support and solidarity with your strike for justice and dignity at MT Reklam, which has just started.

IndustriALL Global Union recognizes and salutes the struggle of Birleşik Metal İş with a determined union organizing campaign at MT Reklam, which has been in place for almost seven years. A large majority of workers at MT Reklam used their fundamental rights and joined Birleşik Metal İş. The management of the company used all the dirty tactics to get rid of union presence, which included dismissals of union members, intimidation, threats and violence.

However, workers at MT Reklam and their union Birleşik Metal İş stood up and organized pickets in front of the plants of the company, in Düzce for 16 months, and in Gebze for 6 months! We highly commend your commitment that is also appreciated by the whole labour movement.

At that time, we brought the case to the international arena, protesting against the company's behaviour, and approaching their main customers urging them to conduct due diligence.

After long-standing legal cases, Birleşik Metal İş managed to get official certification as bargaining party and the judiciary process ruled that MT Reklam had to pay compensation to the dismissed union members, who had been terminated on account of their union membership.

We are aware that MT Reklam management continues to violate fundamental labour rights, without fulfilling its legal obligations. Shame on them!

The case of MT Reklam is a very clear example on how freedom of association cannot be enjoyed by workers in Turkey due to all the legal barriers and anti-union mind-set. It is unacceptable that union recognition can be only obtained after a seven-year long struggle. We vehemently condemn this state of affairs.

Although there are only two union members on strike; for us, it is a very meaningful, important and symbolic strike. Please know that the hearts of millions of workers are with the two striking comrades.



54 bis, route des Acacias
CH 1227 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0)22 308 50 50
Fax: +41 (0)22 308 50 55
info@industrial-all-union.org
www.industrial-all-union.org

President: Jörg Hofmann
General Secretary: Valter Sanches

IndustriALL Global Union stands in solidarity with you in your fight for justice and dignity. We will continue to struggle until the justice is rendered.

Live long international solidarity of workers!

Valter Sanches
General Secretary