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President: Jörg Hofmann  
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Dzmitry Korchyk  
General Director  
Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ)  
[ofwork@bmz.gomel.by](mailto:ofwork@bmz.gomel.by)

## Calling on the Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ) to respect workers' rights

Dear Mr Korchyk,

I am writing this letter to you as General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrial-all-union.org), representing more than fifty million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries in over 140 countries, including Belarus. We call on the Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ) to reinstate all the workers who were unfairly dismissed, stop harassing and prosecuting union members, and recognize BITU as the primary union at BMZ. Please, note that the Belarusian Independent trade union of Miners, Chemical workers, Oil-refiners, Energy, Transport, Construction and other workers (BITU) is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union.

IndustriALL Global Union condemns in the strongest terms the Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ)'s gross violations of human rights and labour rights at your operations, including the dismissal and prosecution of the BITU union members Ihar Pavarau, Aliaksandr Babrou and Yauhen Hovar.

It is imperative that Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ) act in full compliance with national and international labour law, 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).

Therefore, we call on Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ) to stop harassing the hundreds of workers, who have joined the union and applied for registration of their primary organization. BMZ should also reinstate all the workers, who were unfairly dismissed, and recognize and engage in good-faith industrial relation with BITU.

We expect Byelorussian Steel Works (BMZ) to redress this blatant human rights and labour rights violations without any delay. We truly hope that it will not be necessary to contact some of your main customers with which we work closely together—through our global framework agreements (GFAs) — to ensure the full respect of fundamental labour rights in their supply chains.

I anticipate your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sanches'.

Valter Sanches, Secretary General