

“IndustriALL Global Union Statement on Ukraine and Nuclear workers”

Adopted by the members of the IndustriALL INWUN Network

On September 20th, IndustriALL’s members of INWUN, the international nuclear workers union network, met online to discuss the situation in Ukraine and how to support nuclear workers there. Over 40 participants participated in the meeting, including nuclear unions from Japan, France, Argentina, Spain Turkey, and Ukraine, as well as experts from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation.

Valery Matov, IndustriALL vice co-chair for the nuclear sector and president of Atomprofspilka, Ukraine, presented the situation for workers in nuclear power plants in the country due to the Russian invasion. More than 200 workers have being kidnapped, and many people have been tortured to death. Russian soldiers have taken occupancy of nuclear plants and that workers are under the permanent physical and psychological pressure working additional hours beyond the bearable limit. Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) had over 11 000 employees and now has less than 10 000 workers. The possible effects of a lack of electricity this winter could also cause more life losses and other damages on the population.

The INWUN network condemns the nuclear blackmail perpetrated against Ukrainian nuclear facilities, the surrounding areas and the wider population and demands the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Enerhodar City, de-occupation and demilitarization of ZNPP. We demand the immediate creation of a security zone around ZNPP.

We also condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the strongest terms and urge the government of the Russian Federation to stop immediately its aggression, invasion, and occupation of Ukraine. The Russian Federation has to stop violating Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

The members of the INWUN network are encouraged to address their governments with formal letters to put pressure on the international community to secure peace and fundamental rights for Ukrainian workers and people.

Atomprofspilka will keep all parties updated on new developments and IndustriALL will continue working with its affiliates in Ukraine and with the ILO and other agencies to provide international solidarity.

With all our efforts, we can save the lives of Ukrainian nuclear workers and prevent the world from a nuclear disaster. Every effort counts.