

Geneva, 11 December 2023



Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo
Director-General
International Labour Organization (ILO)
4, route des Morillons, CH-1211 Genève 22, Switzerland
Hougbo@ilo.org

Request for your urgent intervention

Dear Mr. Director-General,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industrialunion.org/), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Kyrgyzstan, to write to you again—following our letters from 24 and 25 October—to call attention to the violation of fundamental trade union rights in Kyrgyzstan, and to call upon you to intervene immediately vis-à-vis the Government of Kyrgyzstan.

In October, Kyrgyzstan's law enforcement agencies visited union offices to seize the last ten years' financial documents, effectively paralyzing the activities of trade unions, in blatant violation of national and international labour law.

On 6 December 2023, the State Committee for National Security detained two deputy chairs of the FTUK Kanatbek Osmonov and Omor Arstanbekov, as well as the chair of the Mining and Metallurgy Trade Union of Kyrgyzstan Eldar Tadjibaev, the chair of the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers Asylbek Toktogulov, the chair of the Trade Union of Mechanical Builders Tokombaev, and the chair of the Trade Union of Workers of the Agro-Industrial Complex Jeenbek Osmonaliev.

We have been informed that the law enforcement agencies are now using various means to force union chairs to leave their posts, and at least three union leaders already resigned.

Eldar Tadjibaev, who is the chair of the Mining and Metallurgy Trade Union of Kyrgyzstan, which is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union, was detained on 6 December. We are shocked to learn about his detention and we extremely concerned about his health condition.

Eldar Tadjibaev, as deputy chair of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan (FTUK) dealing with issues related to reforms in the trade union system of Kyrgyzstan--he has been holding this position on a voluntary basis--has been accused of corruption, creating a threat to the interests of society or the state and causing serious harm, and a criminal case has been initiated as per the part 2 of article 336 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We consider the arrest of Eldar Tadjibaev and the authorities' decision to prosecute him is an attack on freedom of association, and an attempt to criminalize trade unions. We have been working with Eldar Tadjibaev for many years and know him as one of the most active and progressive trade union leaders, always standing at the forefront of the protection of workers' rights, improvement of working conditions and establishing genuine social dialogue.

We reiterate our urgent plea to you to intervene vis-à-vis the Government of Kyrgyzstan to help put an end to the government's interference in trade union affairs, and to secure the immediate release, including dropping all charges, of the unlawful detention of all the trade union leaders.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Atle Høie, General Secretary