

Geneva, 14 May 2014

Mr. Nurettin Akçul
General President
Mineworkers' Union of Turkey (Maden-Is)
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IndustriALL Global Union's Message of Condolences to Maden-Is Regarding the Fatal Accident in Soma, Manisa

Dear President Akçul,

I am writing this letter to Maden-Is on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in 142 countries worldwide, to extend the collective condolences of our union family to you, your colleagues and families of the deceased miners over the tragic fatal accident in Soma, Manisa on 13 May 2014. We are deeply saddened by this piece of news, and we mourn our brothers, who passed away while working hard to make a living.

This tragedy must rank as the worst mining tragedy in recent memory, and is made all the more tragic by the seemingly uncaring attitude of the government and mining companies. This attitude is unacceptable and must come to an end. It is intolerable that mine workers in Turkey are denied their basic human right to work in an environment that guarantees their safety, and that instead they are expected to go to work to die.

The number of mineworkers involved in the fatal accident is mind-boggling and staggering. We call upon the private company operating the mine and the government of Turkey to ensure that as many miners as possible of the 400 still remaining in the mine pit be rescued.

Turkey has possibly the worst safety record in terms of mining accidents and explosions in Europe and the third worst one in the world. As recently as 7 January 2013, eight mine workers lost their lives in another mine-related accident, which the President of your sister organization Genel Maden-Is correctly labelled as "killing" of mine workers.

As a matter of urgency, IndustriALL Global Union calls upon the Turkish government to immediately ratify and implement ILO's Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines to save the lives of mine workers. The "killing" must stop. IndustriALL Global Union will do everything in their power to ensure that the Turkish government act responsibly and ratify Convention 176. We once again call upon the political authorities to take the lives of mineworkers seriously and to place it above profit.

In solidarity,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

CC:

Berthold Huber, President, IndustriALL Global Union
Andrew Vickers, Chair, IndustriALL Global Union's Mining Division
Eyüp Alabaş, General President, Genel Maden-Is