



54 bis, route des Acacias  
Case Postale 1516  
CH 1227 Geneva  
Switzerland

**Tel:** +41 (0)22 308 50 50

**Fax:** +41 (0)22 308 50 55

**info@industriall-union.org**  
**www.industriall-union.org**

*President: Berthold Huber*  
*General Secretary: Jyrki Raina*

Geneva, 14 May 2014

Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Turkey  
Ankara, TURKEY

By e-mail [receptayyip.erdogan@basbakanlik.gov.tr](mailto:receptayyip.erdogan@basbakanlik.gov.tr) and telefax +90-312- 417 0476

## **IndustriALL Global Union Calls On Turkish Government To Take Swift Action Against Tragic Fatal Mine Accidents**

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Erdoğan,

I am writing this letter to you 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 call on the government of Turkey to act immediately to avoid any new preventable accidents in mines and, as a first step, to ratify ILO Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines. We are proud of having nineteen Turkish trade unions affiliated to our large global union family.

I wish to extend the collective condolences of IndustriALL Global Union to your country, particularly to the families of the hundreds of deceased mine workers and their colleagues over the tragic fatal accident, which happened in Soma, Manisa on 13 May 2014.

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 you and your government to ensure that as many miners as possible of the hundreds 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. Turkey does not deserve such shameful record.

It is obvious that your government has a huge responsibility in such fatal accidents. When governments fail to protect their citizens, it is not merely irresponsible behaviour; it is a breach of one of the most fundamental duties entrusted to any government. Turkey aspires to greatness, and it can achieve it; but not at the cost of workers' lives.

The government of Turkey must act now and ratify ILO Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines, and its accompanying Recommendation 183. This should be the first step in establishing a credible and effective legislative and regulatory framework on safe and healthy mines. In doing so now, you would pay a fitting tribute to those workers, who lost their lives while only trying to earn a living.

I anticipate your swift action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'J', 'R', and 'A' in a stylized, cursive font.

Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary

CC:

Faruk Çelik, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Turkey  
Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC  
Berthold Huber, President, IndustriALL Global Union  
Andrew Vickers, Chair, IndustriALL Global Union's Mining Division  
Ulrich Eckelmann, General Secretary, IndustriALL Europe  
IndustriALL Global Union's Turkish Affiliates