

Emergency Resolution
IndustriALL Global Union Executive Committee, 25 June 2014

IndustriALL Global Union Solidarity Statement
on the Mining Carnage in Soma, Turkey

Whereas members of the Mineworkers' Union of Turkey (Maden-Is) experienced the largest industrial homicide in Turkish history at a coal mine in Soma causing the death of 301 miners and 122 injuries;

Whereas 8 more miners have been killed in Turkey in the last few weeks and since the tragedy in Soma;

Whereas the death rate at Turkish coal mines is now the highest in the world based on the amount of coal produced;

Whereas over 150 miners were killed in another mining disaster approximately one year before the Soma disaster;

Whereas the prime minister of Turkey has stated that "it is the destiny of coal miners to die in the mines;"

Whereas IndustriALL Global Union's predecessor organization, ICEM, engaged in several discussions with coal mining unions, government officials and employers in Turkey over a three-year span in an effort to improve mine safety and health and ratify ILO Convention 176;

Whereas the Turkish government and employers largely ignored these efforts;

Whereas a delegation of four major IndustriALL mining affiliates and IndustriAll Europe conducted a fact-finding mission to Turkey to explore the causes and the effects of the Soma mine disaster on June 19 and 20;

Whereas it is apparent that the lack of enforcement of existing mine health and safety laws as well as deficiencies in current laws and the drive to increase profits at any cost appear to be the major underlying causes of the Soma disaster and ones preceding it;

Whereas the International Labour Organization has largely engaged in a bureaucratic process to call the Turkish government's attention to the weakness of Turkish laws and enforcement but has yet to publicly demand that the Turkish government not only ratify ILO Convention 176 but implement it;

Whereas provisions in ILO 176 such as requiring proper respiratory devices, inspection, communication systems, measures to protect against the start of fires, adequate training, collective selection of health and safety representatives, the right to withdraw from unsafe conditions, and numerous others have been largely ignored in Turkey;

Whereas IndustriALL has demonstrated in the tragedy of Rana Plaza that a concerted union-led campaign can dramatically improve safety and health and protect workers' rights.

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

IndustriALL Global Union and its affiliates express their deep sorrow to the families of the miners who were killed at Soma and since the tragedy;

IndustriALL Global Union remain fully committed to supporting Maden-İs and the union movement in Turkey in a campaign to ensure that these murderous conditions in the Turkish mines disappear through the urgent ratification *and* implementation of ILO 176 and other means;

IndustriALL Global Union demands that the ILO play a leading and public role in demanding that Turkey ratify and implement ILO Convention 176 on Safety in Mines, and strongly and publicly condemn any efforts by the government or employers to prevent this;

The Soma mine employer, Soma Kömür İşletmeleri A.Ş., must take full responsibility for the accident and bear the full cost and payment of the education of the killed mine workers' children who lost their fathers in the disaster;

IndustriALL Global Union demands that trade unions be part of the investigation process;

And that IndustriALL Global Union undertakes a campaign under the banner of "The Stronger the Union, the Safer Mine";

IndustriALL will give special attention and work persistently to assist Turkish unions in enhancing their union power.