

Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev President of
Kazakhstan
Nor- Sultan, "Akorda" Presidential Residence
KAZAKHSTAN

Oslo, 09.02.2021
Our ref. 21/386-1
840.100/NIMJ
Your ref.

Mr. President

Re: Concern about serious violation of trade union rights in Kazakhstan

On behalf of the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO Norway) representing more than 950.000 members, we wish to express our serious concerns about continuous repression of independent trade unions and their activities, and particular attempts to interfere in the Industrial Trade Union of the Fuel and Energy Workers by the authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The union is an affiliate of Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Kazakhstan (CITUC/KNPRK), which was forcefully dissolved by the court. The process of the dissolution of CITUC and its affiliates, the condemnation of their leaders, and the harassment and the intimidation of its activists are not in line with your international obligations being a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO). Kazakhstan should therefore respect freedom of association and workers should be able to freely exercise the right to establish unions, determine their structure and activities. These fundamental rights are spelled out in the Conventions of the ILO No. 87 and 98, ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan.

LO Norway hereby call on you to:

- withdraw the lawsuit against the Trade Union of the Fuel and Energy Industry Workers and allow its activity in accordance with national and international laws.
- cancel earlier decisions on the forced liquidation of the CITUC/KNPRK and its affiliates.
- stop persecuting union leaders and activists and cancel the sentences of Larisa Kharkova, Erlan Baltabay, Amin Eleusinov and Nurbek Kushakbaev.

LO Norway urge you to intervene and to make sure that freedom of association is respected in the country, that the judiciary processes against the unions are stopped, and that the unions can implement its activities without any interference by the state or employers. We also expect Kazakhstan to implement the earlier recommendations of ILO in full including registration of CITUC and its unions.

Yours sincerely

LO NORWAY

Hans-Christian Gabrielsen
President
(Sig.)



An electronic signature has the same legal effect and enforceability as a written signature.

CC: The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo
The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Kazakhstan
International Confederation of Trade Unions (ITUC)
IndustriAll