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GS/DGS/PERC

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Condolences on the tragedy at the Arcelor Mittal Temirtau mine

Dear Brother Satybaldy

On behalf of the ITUC and the global trade union movement I want to express our condolences, sympathy and solidarity for the families, friends and workmates of the victims of the terrible explosion at Arcelor-Mittal Temirtau which has killed at least 45 miners and injured many more.

We note that this is not the first time that such sad news has emerged from this enterprise. Despite systematic warnings from unions about health and safety flaws, the death toll has continued growing over recent years. It is totally unacceptable that a leading global manufacturer is also famous for sweatshop labour conditions and for negligence of fundamental workers' rights, which also now include the right to a safe and healthy working environment.

We join your call for a scrupulous and urgent investigation and for this investigation to have the full involvement of trade unions at the enterprise to make sure that such outrages never occur again. We know you will relentlessly campaign for every worker to be safe and healthy at work, everywhere in Kazakhstan and in the mining sector in particular.

Please, convey our solidarity to the unions, families and mining communities in the region.

Yours sincerely,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary