



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

**EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

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PERC/AL/pw

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Dear Mr President, dear Mr Prime Minister, dear Mr Chairman,

We have been informed by the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FTUU) about continuous provocations exercised against it by public officials and unidentified gangs, and about deliberate seizure of trade union assets by the state. These attacks are linked with the protest actions the FTUU has been undertaking recently or intends to undertake. The actions are to protest against the antisocial healthcare system reform and against the draft budget for 2018, a budget that does not provide sufficient resources for wages and public services.

Last week, an advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs accused the FTUU president of fleeing the country and seeking asylum in Greece while he was taking part in Athens – together with the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine – in the conference on the future of labour organised by the International Labour Organization and the International Association of Social and Economic Councils. This false accusation was transformed into a defamation social media campaign targeted at harming the FTUU and its president's reputation.

On 27 November, some 30 unknown militants in camouflage broke into the building where the FTUU Presidium was taking place. This assault had an objective to threaten the Presidium members and prevent the FTUU decision-making body from discussing and preparing for the collective protest actions. The assailants were not able to formulate any arguments or demands in explanation of their actions.

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Confederation, we would like to express strong condemnation of these attacks on the most representative trade union organisation in Ukraine and its leadership, and underscore our full support of all trade union brothers and sisters in Ukraine. We are seriously concerned that Ukraine has a very poor record of workers' rights implementation in law and practice as the ITUC Global Rights Index shows – placing Ukraine in the worst category of countries where “no rights guaranteed” for workers and attacks on trade union rights are widespread.

That is unacceptable for a country that espouses democratic values and European aspirations and has committed to respect EU principles by signing the Association Agreement. We urge you to intervene to ensure that all trade unions in Ukraine can exercise their legitimate activities in an atmosphere free from pressure, intimidation and provocations. We will inform the ILO and the European Union about this grave situation and will not hesitate to utilise existing international and regional mechanisms of workers' rights protection if the attacks continue.

Yours sincerely, ,



Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary  
ITUC



Luca Visentini  
General Secretary  
ETUC and PERC

*The ITUC represents 181 million workers in 163 countries and territories and has 340 national affiliates.*

*The ETUC is the voice of workers and represents 45 million members from 89 trade union organisations in 39 European countries, plus 10 European trade union federations.*

cc: FTUU