

João Antonio Felício

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

Mr Petro O. Poroshenko
President of Ukraine
Kiev
Ukraine

By e-mail:
presidentpressoffice@apu.gov.ua and
pressoffice@apu.gov.ua

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 16 February 2016

Dear President,

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation, which represents more than 180 million workers, I would like to raise our concerns about the growing number of trade union rights violations in Ukraine. According to the information we have received from our affiliate the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU), the pressure on independent unionists has been growing in all the sectors, and several serious cases of intimidation and even violence against activists have been recorded this year.

Olena Maslova, an NPGU activist, was attacked on Tuesday 12 January 2016 by an unknown man when she was returning from her working place, the mine named after Lenin. Anatolyi Mukhamedzhanov, the head of the union of Mine No. 1 of Novovolynska, was beaten in the office of the director of the mine. Despite decisions of the court, the administration of Vostok Ruda enterprise continues non-payment of wages for workers and is using salary delays as a mechanism to intimidate trade union leader Ivan Scherbula. At the Dnipropetrovsk metallurgical factory, the administration has exercised pressure on members of Metalists trade union to resign. As a result, some 9,000 workers left the independent union. The State Tax Inspection has refused registration of the primary trade union of the communal workers of the enterprise Kyiv Ipodrom and of the primary trade union of the Independent Trade Union of Coal Miners of Ukraine (NPGU) of JSC Kyivenergoas (non-for-profit organisations).

These and other violations have happened against the background of the worsening social and economic situation in Ukraine and the growing discontent of the

population, whose aspirations of the Revolution of Dignity have not been met. Unions are the voice of working people. The government of Ukraine has to listen to this voice in order to achieve successful reform processes and to avoid tension and conflict. We call on you to ensure that the rights of workers and their unions are respected in Ukraine, to investigate reported trade union rights violations and to bring those responsible for these violations to justice

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Roman', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary

cc: KVPU