

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
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Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

Via Embassy of Kazakhstan in Belgium :
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PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 25 June 2019

Dear President,

In Shymkent, Enbekshin District, a trial process is taking place against Erlan Baltabay, a leader of the dissolved Energy and Oil workers' union "Decent Work" and an activist of the dissolved Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Kazakhstan (CITUK). In our opinion, the criminal proceedings were opened against Baltabay in retaliation for his trade union activism and principal position in support of other leaders of the CITUK condemned to different forms of limitation of their freedoms.

These criminal proceedings, as well as those against Larisa Kharkova, Amin Eleusinov and Nurbek Kushakpaev, are a means to silence and repress leaders of independent trade unions and to prevent others from taking an active role in implementing real freedom of association in the country. Last week, the International Labour Conference, at its centenary conference, concluded that Kazakhstan systematically violates its international obligations under ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association. We demand that you take urgent measures to implement without any further delay the conclusions of the ILC Committee on Application of Standards.

We also urge you to pay particular attention to the trial process against Erlan Baltabay and ensure that impartiality and fairness prevail.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary