

Ms. Ana Brnabić
Prime Minister of the Government of the
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade
Serbia

By e- mail: predsednikvlade@gov.rs

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the European Trade Union Confederation we condemn trade union rights violations of the Republic Geodetic Authority, which is under a direct control of the Republic of Serbia Government - the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, express our full support to our affiliates CATUS and TUC Nezavisnost and call for an immediate end to discrimination and trade union busting by the RGA management.

Ever since 2019, when the three unions functioning in the RGA, including affiliates of the CATUS and the TUC Nezavisnost, jointly organised the strike action, trade union members have been experiencing discrimination and intimidation by the management. In March 2019 in our letter to you we deplored the hostile attitudes of the RGA management towards union leaders and members and while certain measures were initiated by the government, the repressions against the trade unions and their representatives continued.

Most recently, when the union leaders addressed a sudden stoppage of the RGA work and responsibility of the management for it in public, the RGA administration engaged in a direct attack on trade unions and their spokespersons. It suspended the three trade union presidents, and implemented transfers, disciplinary proceedings and other retaliatory measures against trade union activists.

The abolition of freedom of speech of trade union leaders sets a dangerous precedent. Disciplinary proceedings against the presidents of trade union organisations on the ground for their participation in the TV programmes contravene trade union rights and freedoms, including freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia.

The joint Press conference by the three national unions - TUC Nezavisnost, CATUS, and ASNS - held on 4 August 2022 is a demonstration of trade union unity and solidarity aimed at the protection of constitutional rights and freedoms of RGA workers.

We fully support our affiliates and all the unions that fight for fundamental freedoms and rights, enshrined in the ILO Conventions 87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organize) and 98 (Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining) that the Republic

of Serbia ratified, as well as the European Social Charter and the EU acquis that, as a candidate country for the EU membership, it committed to implement.

The ITUC and ETUC call upon the Government to stop immediately any violations of human, workers', and trade union rights, including the rights for freedom of association and collective bargaining in RGA, and to ensure trade union rights and freedoms protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and international law are fully respected in practice. We will not hesitate to support any formal procedure that our affiliates would consider it appropriate to initiate – within the ILO, Council of Europe or the European Union – to make that happen.

Yours sincerely



Luca Visentini
ETUC and PERC General Secretary



Sharan Burrow
ITUC General Secretary