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Mindeli mine tragedy

Dear Irakli,

With great sadness we learnt yesterday about the tragic events in Georgia, where four workers died and six others were badly injured as a result of an explosion that occurred at the Mindeli mine in the morning.

This new tragedy stands in one long line of accidents that happen regularly in Georgia, where for more than ten years labour inspection has been disempowered and stripped from its functions and workers' rights and social dialogue are neglected. We have denounced on several occasions, together with the GTUC, this approach of the authorities and businesses in Georgia, yet still the recklessness and lack of responsibility on their side continue augmenting the bloody toil of workers' lives and endangering their health.

On behalf of the ITUC and its members all around the world, I would like to ask you, Irakli, to convey a message of our solidarity and condolences to the families of the victims, and also to the wounded miners our wishes for a quick recovery.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

