

Model resolution for trade union organisations

(please amend/shorten to suit your branch)

This [branch/committee] declares its support for Kazakh oil workers and their struggle to form independent trades unions. We protest at the UK backing for the Kazakh authorities, who have used killings, torture and jailings against oil workers.

We note that in the massacre of oil workers at Zhanaozen on 16 December 2011, officially 16 people were killed and 60 wounded; that the real numbers are probably higher; and that unarmed demonstrators were shot at close range.

We note that in 2012, strike activists were jailed for up to seven years, that defendants and witnesses were tortured before the trials, and that political groups and journalists who had supported the strikers faced repression.

We note the close connections between the UK and Kazakh governments and business elites; that prime minister David Cameron went to open the Kashagan oil field together with president Nursultan Nazarbayev in July 2013; and that former prime minister Tony Blair has earned millions from advising the Kazakh government. We note that neither Cameron nor Blair nor any other UK official has publicly challenged the killings, torture and jailings of oil workers.

We demand:

- Release the jailed oil workers and end the repression of independent unions;
- An independent inquiry into the Zhanaozen massacre, to establish how many were killed and injured, and who was responsible;
- Investigation and prosecution of all those responsible for torture, and the politicians who sanctioned it.

We support the demonstration at the Foreign Office and Kazakh embassy on 16 December, will sign a letter of protest to the Foreign Office, and support other campaigning actions towards these ends.