

**MICHAEL SOMMER**  
PRESIDENT  
PRÉSIDENT  
PRÄSIDENT  
PRESIDENTE

**SHARAN BURROW**  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE  
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN  
SECRETARIA GENERAL

Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev  
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Ak Orda Presidential Palace  
The Left Quay  
Astana  
Kazakhstan

By post

HTUR/NT/sdr

11 December 2013

### **Freedom for the oil workers of Zhanaozen**

Mr. President

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents 176 million workers in 161 countries and territories, to express the ITUC's support to the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Kazakhstan's campaign for the release of the workers leaders and victims imprisoned in connection with the Zhanaozen events in December 2011.

Two years have already passed since the tragic events in Zhanaozen which ended the months-long strike launched by oil workers. Next Monday, we will commemorate the tragedy, mourn the victims and share hopes that such events never happen again.

We hope that by fully utilising social dialogue processes your country will build efficient labour dispute resolution mechanisms that would make such tragedies impossible. The involvement of social partners and full implementation of freedom of association principles are vital elements towards the development of that stricken region and the country more broadly.

Meanwhile, seven people, Tanatar Kaliev, Shabdal Utkilov, Talgat Saktaganov, Naryn Dzharylgasinov, Kanat Zhusipbaev, Maksat Dosmagambetov and Roza Tuletaeva are serving prison sentences by order of the court.

We feel that their continuous imprisonment is only adding to the pain from the tragedy that we all share, and we urge you, President, to use all your power, influence and authority, in line with the measures provided by the legislation of Kazakhstan, to reunite them with their families so as to enable them to resume a normal life and return to work.

We urge you to help close this painful page of history and look forward to your positive response on these urgent and important matters.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

By email through: Ministry of Labour, [mintrud@enbek.kz](mailto:mintrud@enbek.kz)  
Embassy in Brussels, [kazakhstan.embassy@swing.be](mailto:kazakhstan.embassy@swing.be)