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Copy to All PSI affiliates, EPSU, WOC and EB Members

File Reference: RP/SV/CHM

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of 20 million workers around the world, I convey our most sincere condolences to the families of the 96 victims of the deadly bomb attacks and wish a speedy recovery to the more than 250 workers wounded on Saturday 10 October in Ankara.

Public Services International firmly condemns this brutal attack on PSI affiliates, members of the DISK and KESK confederations, who participated in a peace rally calling for an end to the renewed violence between Kurdish rebels and Turkish security forces. The explosions occurred minutes apart near Ankara's train station as over 100 000 people gathered for the rally. While people were dying in the streets, the police obstructed ambulances from reaching them. On Sunday, police blocked mourners from laying carnations at the site.

We also express our support for the national strike held on 12 and 13 October, which was successful in closing down public services around the country, while in the private sector picketlines and commemoration meetings were organized. The fact that police detained protesters at these protests and disturbed funerals, is outrageous and another indication of the contempt of this government for its people.

We call on the Turkish government to provide immediate assistance to the victims and to stop all attacks on the Kurdish population. Furthermore, we expect full and exhaustive investigations and arrests to follow. The attack comes weeks before Turkey's Nov. 1 elections, while it is expected that protests actions will only grow as political tension will rise. The Turkish government should ensure peaceful elections without any further bloodshed.

Just last week the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, including trade union UGTT. This is the example that the Turkish government should take seriously. Open to dialogue with trade unions and democratic organizations, to stop the spiral of violence and discrimination that is poisoning the country.

The Turkish government has to respect unions and protect minorities, instead of arresting workers calling for peace. PSI calls on all governments, trade unions and civil society partners participating in the GFMD and L20 global meetings to hold the Turkish government accountable.

Once again, accept our deepest condolences and solidarity with the struggle of the Turkish people for freedom, peace and human rights. We will continue to stand in solidarity against violence, oppression and corporate greed.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'R' and 'P'.

ROSA PAVANELLI
General Secretary