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File Reference: RP/SV/CHM
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25 February 2015

Prime Minister,

On behalf of 20 million public sector workers from all over the world, PSI calls upon the Turkish Government to stop attacking workers' and trade union rights. We support the workers of the Maltepe hospital and their struggle for better working conditions and trade union rights.

In December 2014, the Hospital of Maltepe University in Istanbul dismissed nearly 100 workers for being members of the Progressive Union of Health Workers. The workers joined the union to seek to improve their working conditions in the hospital. They demanded higher wages, promised for several years, and shorter working hours. Several of the sacked workers were working in the hospital for more than 10 years and received several awards. There are disabled workers as well as couples among them, leaving families without income. The workers are members of Dev-Saglik-Is, an affiliate of the Turkish confederation DISK, the union is also a member of PSI/EPSU.

Today, in the morning workers went to the office of hospital management in order to meet the rector. In response to their peaceful request to speak to the rector, the riot police detained 34 workers, 10 of whom are women, including Dr. Arzu  erkezođlu, President of the union and General Secretary of DISK.

PSI strongly condemns this course of events. PSI calls upon the Turkish Government to live up to its obligations, as a member of the international community, and to guarantee the respect of trade union rights and all human rights in Turkey.

We ask for the immediate release of Dev-Saglik-Is members and urge the Maltepe University Hospital management to meet with the workers to resolve the ongoing conflict and reinstate the dismissed workers.

We also urge the Turkish government to support the resolution of this collective dispute in a peaceful and constructive manner.

Sincerely,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary

Cc: Mr. H seyin Ő MŐEK - President of the Hospital of Maltepe University
Mr. Őahin KARASAR - Chancellor of the Hospital of Maltepe University