



Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Ankara, Turkey

bimer@basbakanlik.gov.tr
ozelkalem@basbakanlik.gov.tr

File Reference: RP/CR/pc/TUR Turkey
Contact Name: Camilo Rubiano camilo.rubiano@world-psi.org

21 January 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

We have received news from our affiliates in Turkey about the **killing of Mr. Mehmet Kaplan**, a sanitation worker of the Cizre municipality (Şırnak, Turkey), father of three children and a member of the DİSK/Genel-İş Union, who was shot dead on 17 January 2016 in front of his own home.

Unfortunately, this is only the last in a series of violations of trade union and human rights that have been taking place in your country over the last years and which tarnish the image and name of a democratic republic like Turkey.

PSI strongly condemns the murder of a member of one of its affiliated unions and urges the government to conduct an exhaustive, genuine and rapid investigation to identify its perpetrators - and any others who might be involved - and bring them to justice.

I would also like to raise to your attention to the fact that another member of the DİSK/Genel-İş Union, **Mr. Ramazan Uysal**, was **shot** and lost his arm on 14 December 2015 while he was working on water valves for the Cizre municipality. PSI also requests the government to conduct a full investigation to clarify this incident and to guarantee that the Turkish authorities provide effective protection for the lives of workers and trade unionists.

In addition to these tragic events, PSI was made aware of the **arrest and detention** of another three members of the DİSK/Genel-İş Union for conducting trade union activities: **Mr. Mazlum Özmen**, union representative and municipal police officer; **Mr. Mesut Ayık**, driver; and **Mr. Nedim Oruç**, press officer. I would like to remind you again that the repression and detention of workers for their trade union activities is in breach of Turkey's obligations under the ILO Convention No. 87 and other human rights instruments. PSI expresses its solidarity with these DİSK/Genel-İş members and requests their immediate release.

Once again, PSI would like to express its concern for the situation of trade unionists in Turkey. The continued and systematic attacks on trade union members and the lack of an adequate response by the government to deter such attacks and bring their perpetrators to justice are not admissible

within a democracy. The campaign to crack down on activists advocating for human rights and, in particular, to intimidate workers and undermine trade union rights must end.

Therefore, on behalf of the more than 20 million working men and women affiliated to this organisation, PSI demands the Turkish government to cease of these practices and respect human rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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

ROSA PAVANELLI
PSI General Secretary