



LITHUANIAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

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To: *Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation*
Luca Visentini, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation
Irakli Petriashvili, President of the Pan-European Regional Council

Call for International Support and Solidarity with Protesting Workers of the “Kayi Construction” Company

Since 20th of December 2019, workers of the “Kayi construction” company (in Lithuania it is known as “KAYI INSAAT SANAYI VE TICARET ANONIM SIRKETI FILIALAS KAYI CONSTRUCTION“), which had been building a stadium in Kaunas, Lithuania, are on strike. The company has not paid salaries to these workers since they started working in March 2019.

The Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation is calling for international support and solidarity with the protesting workers of the “Kayi construction” company. We invite everyone to help us spread the information about grave violations of workers’ rights by the “Kayi construction” company, to employ any possible actions to win back the wages of the workers, and to prevent the company from starting any further projects in the European Union.

In 2018, the Turkish construction company “Kayi construction” won a public competition, announced by the Kaunas municipality, to conduct a building of a football stadium. Since March 2019, the company is working on the construction and it brought around 100 workers from Turkey. The workers signed contracts with the Turkish “Kayi construction”, as well as the Lithuanian branch of this company.

In the middle of December 2019, the first protests of workers erupted. 5 workers announced to the media that they had not been paid and that the company owes them from 6 to 7 thousand euros. However, these workers soon got their salaries and were sent back to Turkey. The media then announced that the problems were solved and the construction was carried out further.

As it later turned out, the company has not been paying the salaries for other 52 workers. The workers presented evidence that the company owes every person from 7 to 12 thousand euros. Apart from salaries, there is strong evidence that company had violated numerous other rights of the workers: they have not received a copy of their contracts, their monthly working hours exceeded more than double the maximum rate allowed by the Lithuanian Labour Code: they were working from 12 to 14 hours every day, having only 1 day off in three weeks. Also, the