

UNITED FOR A JUST FUTURE

IndustriALL Global Union 3rd Congress
14-15 September 2021

Emergency Resolution on Belarus

Stop the destroying of the civil society and protect the rights of independent trade unions in Belarus

IndustriALL Global Union Executive condemned the election fraud, the massive repressions, violence and torture of Belarusian authorities against peaceful protests in August 2020.

Since then the authoritarian President Lukashenka continuously instructed the state authorities to continue actions aiming to persecute civil and trade union activists. In the meantime, more than 30 000 protesters were arrested. As of today, there are already 667 political prisoners in Belarus recognized by human rights organizations. Among them there are members of the Belarusian Independent trade union. An attempt of a warning strike at Belarusian Metallurgical Plant costed two and a half to three years in prison for 3 union activists Ihar Povarau, Aliaksandr Babrou, Yauhen Hovar. Hundreds of union members were among the arrested and fined for civil activism. Many lost their jobs. The prolongation of labour contracts of the most active members, elected union leaders is questioned by their employers. Opposition leaders were pressed to leave the country or in the case of Maryja Kalesnikawa were sentenced to jail for 11 years under fake charges.

The regime suppressed not even peaceful protests; it banned independent media, liquidated civil society and human rights organisation.

Moreover, the government hijacked an international flight from one EU country to another just to catch a democratic blogger.

The 3rd IndustriALL Global Union Congress recognizes that elites are using every opportunity to steadily, step by step, take away democratic and trade union rights from citizens and workers in the country by using criminal charges and discriminatory measures.

IndustriALL Global Union Congress

- express its concern about the continuing violence in the Republic of Belarus,
- condemn the persecution of trade unionists
- express solidarity with the Belarusian labour movement
- call on IndustriALL Global Union Executive and all of its affiliates to provide full support to independent trade unions in Belarus
- asking ILO full support in reporting and condemning any violation on ILO conventions, especially the freedom of association and the right to negotiate collective agreements including the right to strike.