



**To the attention of:  
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5  
B-1210 Brussels, Belgium**

**European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5  
B-1210 Brussels, Belgium**

**European Public Service Union  
Rue Joseph II, 40, Box 5  
1000 Brussels, Belgium**

Dear colleagues,

We are writing to you in order to point out to a drastic violation of fundamental labour rights and freedom of trade union activities. Also, we would like to ask you for support in our efforts to protect our colleagues who are currently exposed to the unprecedented pressure imposed by the employer. This case deals with the employees in the Republic Geodetic Authority and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, as its founder and employer.

Long-term struggle of employees in this state institution for the protection of existential issues led to the organisation of several strikes. The last one ended on January 21, 2019 by signing an agreement between the trade unions and the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The agreement was violated immediately upon the next payment of salaries, which renewed employees' dissatisfaction. After the first strike and signing the Agreement, Director laid off trade union president Mirjana Jovanović and her son Miloš Jovanović, also employed in the branch office in Niš.

All three trade unions, functioning in the Republic Geodetic Authority, passed a unanimous decision to begin a new strike in line with the law. Instead of solving problems which led to the dissatisfaction of employees and trade unions, employer decided to banish trade union representatives using all propaganda resources and putting pressure on employees. Dismissals, transfers, physical assaults on strikers and making up information about alleged political background of the strike are just a part of the arsenal of weapons used against legitimate trade union representatives.

Unusual situation and undefined relationship between the Republic Geodetic Authority and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, which is supposed to control the work of this institution with around 3,000 employees, points to the fact that there is an organised campaign against the trade union. Numerous talks between trade unions and representatives of the Government have not solved the problem. According to our understanding, problems can be solved easily and there isn't a sufficiently powerful reason not to

respect trade union demands that were signed and agreed. On the other hand, it is more and more certain that the Government of Serbia is using this as an example of introducing force and disciplining trade union.

Dear colleagues, our trade union confederations cannot accept the position which the Government of the Republic of Serbia is trying to implement in the Republic Geodetic Authority. Representative trade union confederations deserve adequate treatment, as well as the respect of fundamental principles and legal provisions. In that context we would like to ask you to inform all relevant European institutions and trade union organisations about everything happening in the Republic of Serbia and the extent to which fundamental trade union freedoms are being violated. We find that the support of our colleagues from the EU is extremely necessary for us and believe that the reaction of the EU representatives to the Republic of Serbia and its Government will be adequate. The EU accession process that employees in the Republic of Serbia expect to provoke economic growth and better working conditions is supposed to eliminate such negative examples where the Government of the Republic of Serbia is also included. Being convinced that your reaction will be fast and effective, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

In Belgrade, March 13, 2019

CONFEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS TRADE UNIONS OF SERBIA  
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION NEZAVISNOST  
ASSOCIATION OF FREE AND INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS