

Ayuba Wabba

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Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
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Secretaria General

Mr Blagoja Ralповski
President
Confederation of Free Trade Unions of
Northern Macedonia (KSS)

By e-mail: international@kss.mk and
contact@kss.mk

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 14 April 2021

Dear Brother Ralповski, dear KSS sisters and brothers,

As you will be aware, we are concerned about systematic pressure and attacks on KSS trade unions, members and representatives, including you personally, reflected in mobbing, harassment, and dismissals. In this context, we undertook a fact-finding and solidarity mission in February 2020 and continue working together with KSS for development of a complaint to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association against the violation of ILO Convention 87 by the government of North Macedonia.

We are also concerned about the fact that KSS was denied the full involvement in national social dialogue processes related to labour and economic policy development, protection and improvement of rights, and the interests of trade union members as well as the interests of all working people and the citizens of North Macedonia. Such dialogue is particularly vital today, as North Macedonia – like other countries – faces the challenges of the economic and health crisis. We understand that while certain improvements can be noted in relations between different trade union organisations of the country, the discrimination against KSS by state officials continues, and the pressure has not stopped.

One of the persistent violations against KSS concerns members of the Independent Trade Union of Energy, whose affiliation to that union was terminated by administrative means and who were transferred to another union active in the sector:-; those who challenged that interference were reassigned to jobs in remote parts of North Macedonia and/or faced other administrative pressure and discrimination. The KSS appealed to the labour inspectorate and eventually initiated a judiciary procedure in the competent court. And while the court ruled in favour of the KSS members, recognising the violation of freedom of association, and decreed that all workers who were transferred to another organisation be returned to the list of members of the KSS Energy Trade Union, this judgment has not been implemented in practice.

In these circumstances, the KSS has taken the decision to launch an important mobilisation on the 15th of April to demand that state officials respect freedom of association and the trade union rights of KSS members. We take this opportunity to show our solidarity with and support of you and your members in your fight for the protection of basic trade union rights and freedoms, the rule of law, and the development of the rights and interests of the workers and citizens of North Macedonia.

We are with you in solidarity and wish you success in your protest!

In Solidarity



General Secretary

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