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INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER METALLGEWERKSCHAFTSBUND
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE TRAVAILLEURS DE LA METALLURGIE
INTERNATIONELLA METALLFEDERATIONEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES DE LAS INDUSTRIAS METALURGICAS
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Dear Comrade

The International Metalworkers' Federation, representing the interests of 25 million metalworkers in more than 200 trade unions from 100 countries around the world, stands in solidarity with Limter-İş and Turkish workers fighting for basic health and safety standards in the Tuzla shipyard. We fully support the February 27, 2008 sit-down strike and wish you great success in your efforts to raise awareness about the horrendous and deadly working conditions for Tuzla shipyard workers.

We send our deepest condolences to the union membership and the families of the workers who have been killed due to negligent subcontractors, who risk human lives for the sake of increasing profits.

As you know, the IMF wrote to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Labour Minister Faruk Celik on October 2, 2007, to express our grave concern at the lack of health and safety standards at workplaces in Turkey, and in particular the death of numerous shipyard workers performing hazardous jobs in precarious and unsafe working conditions. In the letters we reminded the Turkish government of their responsibility as a signatory of the International Labour Organisation's Conventions 87 and 155, to guarantee workers the right to safe workplaces and the right to form unions and bargain collectively.

We will publicise the action you are taking on February 27, and encourage all IMF affiliates to join in your union's demand for fair and decent conditions in the shipbuilding industry.

Yours in solidarity,

Marcello Malentacchi
General Secretary