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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Solidarity with Turkish people

On behalf of Public Services International (PSI) and its 20 million members worldwide, I wish to convey our condolences and sympathy to the Turkish people who have lost members of their family and friends in the mine accident which occurred in Soma, Western Turkey.

This tragedy must rank as the worst mining tragedy in recent memory! Turkey has the worst records of mining accidents and explosions in Europe. Hundreds of workers in Soma mines work in inhuman production processes in order to make maximum profit. Reducing the costs has had an impact on the health and safety conditions of the mine workers.

PSI and its worldwide members mourn the deaths of hundreds of mineworkers in Soma and thank the rescue staff, who continues to try saving miners trapped underground.

We are also deeply distressed by the violent repression of peaceful protests today and very worried about the news that Kani Beko has been hospitalized.

PSI pledges its full support to the Turkish trade union movement that fights for workers' rights and the protection of human life – against a government that is after power and profit that only brings grief and violence.

In solidarity,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary