

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 637-5000
www.aflcio.org

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December 16, 2013

The Honorable Nursultan Nazarbayev
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

Via E-mail: mintrud@enbek.kz
Kazakhstan.embassy@swing.be

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) to express our support to Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Kazakhstan's campaign for the release of the workers imprisoned in connection with the Zhanaozen events in December 2011. Two years have passed since the tragic events which ended the months long strike of the oil workers and seven workers continue to serve prison sentences by order of the court.

As we continue to work with trade unions, international and human rights organizations to petition the release of these convicted workers, I urge you to use all of your power, influence and authority to release these oil workers so they can reunite with their families. I also urge you to use your authority to preserve fundamental democratic rights such as freedom of association and support changes to legislation to ensure that the law on inciting social discord is not used indiscriminately on trade unionists or other activists in the future.

Sincerely,

Cathy Feingold
Director, International Department