

**João Antonio Felicio**

President  
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**Mr Islam Karimov**

**President of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
Tashkent  
Uzbekistan**

**By e-mail: [presidents\\_office@press-service.uz](mailto:presidents_office@press-service.uz)**

**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire générale  
Generalsekretärin  
Secretaria General

**PERC/A//pw**

**Brussels, 03 November 2015**

**Attack against Human Rights Activist Dmitry Tikhonov**

Dear President Karimov,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation which has 333 national affiliates, representing 180 million workers, in 162 countries and territories. We were informed by different sources that the home office of Dmitry Tikhonov, a human rights activist who conducted an independent monitoring of the cotton harvesting, was burned and that his office equipment was destroyed, while the hard drive of his computer and a box with leaflets explaining the labour laws of Uzbekistan were taken away.

As you will be well aware of, the ITUC has been monitoring the implementation by your country of international labour standards, including those that prohibit child and forced labour. While the national monitoring by the social partners of the cotton harvesting is a right step to make sure there is no forced or child labour in the country, numerous reports continue revealing examples of forced labour practices and other workers' rights violations in the country. This information is revealed by independent human rights activists, and the arson of the home office of one of them can be considered as an act of retaliation or destruction of evidence.

The ITUC condemns this attack against an independent human right activist and calls for a thorough and transparent investigation so that those responsible for the arson be brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary