

Brussels, 13 December 2023

To:

**Sébastien Menesplier**  
**FNME CGT General Secretary**

[smenesplier@fnme-cgt.fr](mailto:smenesplier@fnme-cgt.fr); [mmarcilloux@fnme-cgt.fr](mailto:mmarcilloux@fnme-cgt.fr)

**Re: Message of solidarity from industriAll European Trade Union to our French affiliate FNME-CGT defending its right to collective action**

Dear comrades,

IndustriAll European Trade Union, which represents 7 million workers in Europe's mining, energy and manufacturing industries, is deeply concerned about the unfair targeting of trade union members by the French authorities for demonstrating against the French pension reform and for fighting for higher wages and decent working conditions.

We therefore wish to express our solidarity with our comrades and affiliates of the FNME-CGT who are being unfairly targeted for expressing legitimate demands and taking part in demonstrations to fight for a better future for workers.

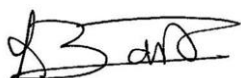
Six FNME-CGT trade unionists have recently been arrested and questioned in court in Bordeaux and Marseille for their involvement in the demonstrations against the French pension reform and for fighting for fair and decent wages in their sectors.

This comes just months after the French judicial authorities decided to summon and prosecute several FNME-CGT union leaders and activists for collective action during the pension reform protests, including General Secretary Sébastien Menesplier.

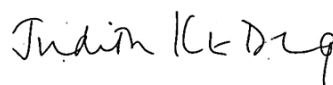
Trade union repression is a global problem, as are attacks on the right to strike and collective trade union action. **We strongly condemn this and maintain that trade union action is not a crime.** We see these prosecutions as politically motivated, aimed at suppressing trade union opposition to government policy.

We will not stand idly by. Trade union repression must be resisted wherever and whenever it occurs. IndustriAll Europe and our affiliates stand in full solidarity with our brothers and sisters.

In solidarity,



**Isabelle Barthès**



**Judith Kirton-Darling**

Acting Joint General Secretaries of industriAll European Trade Union