



## WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Athens, November 23, 2010

### **THE 29 MINERS TO BE RESCUED**

#### INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR THE RESCUE OF 29 MINER WORKERS TRAPPED IN THE A COAL MINE NEAR ATARAU IN THE SOUTH ISLAND OF NEW ZEALAND

The WFTU representing over 72 million union members across the 5 continents expresses its solidarity for the rescue of the 29 miners trapped 150 meters deep in a gallery of a coal mine near Atarau on South Island in New Zealand, after a gas explosion occurred on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

This incident joins a long list of mining accidents, due to the lack of security measures provided by the companies and it represents an example of the dire consequences of capitalist exploitation and anti-labor policies. The health and safety at work is a fundamental duty for which the class-oriented trade union movement is struggling.

We demand every effort to be made for the rescue of the 29 miners, among whom is a young 17 year old worker, and to take all necessary measures to avoid this type accident to happen again.

The FSM is following with interest the events taking place in Atarau mine in New Zealand. We express our internationalist solidarity and full support for the trapped miners, their families, friends and colleagues and hope the rescue to be carried out successfully as soon as possible.

On the occasion of these tragic circumstances, we call upon all trade unions to strengthen their struggle for the implementation of SECURITY MEASURES. The life of workers is the most precious thing in the World. We must give long struggle for the security measures in the working places.

THE SECRETARIAT