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International Transport Workers' Federation  
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte  
Fédération Internationale des ouvriers du transport  
Internationella transportarbetarefederationen  
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Международная федерация транспортников  
الاتحاد الدولي لعمال النقل

His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta  
The President of the Republic of Mali  
Mali

Via email: [primature@primature.gouv.ml](mailto:primature@primature.gouv.ml)

Our ref: OGS/SMC/jm

15 March 2019

Your Excellency,

### **Wage arrears and the Hunger Strike of the Malian Railway Workers**

On behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global union federation uniting 665 transport trade unions with a total membership of nearly 18.5 million workers in 147 countries, I would like to express my deep concern about the situation of railway workers in Mali.

The ITF is passionate about promoting respect for trade union and human rights worldwide and actively works to help our affiliated unions defend the interests of their members, including those of railway workers around the world. The ITF represents the interests of transport workers at the International Labour Organisation and other international bodies.

We have been informed that in order bring attention to their claim for the payment of wage arrears (currently standing at six months), Malian railway workers have been observing a hunger strike since 18 December 2018. The strike has caused heavy loss of life: four dead railway workers, two wives and two deceased babies.

The ITF expresses global solidarity to the Malian railway workers who claim only their rights and we demand that your government respect the commitments it has made to pay wages and to maintain the jobs of the employees of the company "Dakar - Bamako Ferroviaire" (DBF).

I call on your government to work directly with the union representing the railway workers in order to find urgent and durable solutions to:

- Pay all the salary arrears
- Find urgent solutions for the revival of the activities of the "Dakar - Bamako Ferroviaire".

I hope that under your instruction, your government will soon meet with the unions representing the railway workers of Mali to find an urgent and durable solution.

I kindly wait for your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen" followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephen Cotton  
General Secretary

CC:

Mr. Bayla Sow, , ITF Francophone Africa Representative ITF Office Ouagadougou – Burkina Faso

Mr Mahamane Thienta, General Secretary, Syndicat des Travailleurs du Rail (SYTRAIL – Mali),

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