



**FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA METALMECCANICI**  
*CISL - Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori*  
**industriAll European Trade Union**  
**industriALL Global Union**

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Rome 19 September 2018

**Premier Li Keqiang**  
**The State Council of the People's Republic of China**  
No. 8, Yuetan South Street, Xicheng District, Beijing  
Peoples' Republic of China 100017  
Email: [premier@mail.gov.cn](mailto:premier@mail.gov.cn)

Premier Li,

I am writing to you on behalf of Italian Metalworkers Federation – FIM-CISL, to strongly condemn the arrests and detentions of a number of Shenzhen Jasic Technology Co., Ltd. workers and their supporters in Guangdong province on July 27 2018 and August 24 2018. Also, a staffer and the legal person of Dagongzhe, a Shenzhen-based labor NGO, were arrested and detained by the police.

We would like to express our deep concern to their current conditions and query the legitimacy of their respective arrests. By establishing their own trade union to defend their labour rights in a lawful manner, the arrested workers are merely exercising their rights to freedom of association as guaranteed by Article 3 of the 1992 China Trade Union Law. Thus, such arbitrary arrests and detentions are blatant violations of their basic labour and civil rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 20) protects the right to freedom of association. And according to Article 2 of International Labour Organization Convention No. 87, workers shall have the right to establish and to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization. As a member of the United Nations and ILO, the People's Republic of China is obliged to respect and observe the basic principles of freedom of association. Regrettably, your government's recent exercise of state power to suppress the aforementioned workers to organize their own union in accordance with the law and instructions from the upper-level union demonstrated a contrary to such principles. Moreover, we regard Article 9, 10, & 11 of the 1992 China Trade Union Law is in itself a violation of freedom of association. Under such stipulations, trade unions are impossible to be organized independently in accordance to the principles as laid down by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ILO Convention No. 87.

Under such circumstances, we would like to call on the Chinese Government to:

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2. To immediately release all the aforementioned arrested JASIC workers and their supporters;
3. To drop all criminal charges on the aforementioned arrested JASIC workers and their supporters;
4. To remove all measures placed on the aforementioned arrested JASIC workers and their supporters that may restrict their civil liberty;
5. To allow the aforementioned JASIC workers to form trade union without any state hindrance.

Sincerely,

Gianni Alioti  
Head of International Office