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**Die Gewerkschaft.  
Le Syndicat.  
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Workers in Gaziantep's Başpınar industrial zone  
Trade union Birken-Sen  
Mehmet Türkmen

Sent by email to:  
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## **Solidarity with the Textile Workers in Gaziantep's Başpınar industrial zone and the Trade union BIRTEK-SEN**

18th January 2025

Yves Deferrard

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Dear Sisters and Brothers Textile Workers in Gaziantep's Başpınar industrial zone,

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Trade union BIRTEK-SEN,

Workers in over 20 factories in Gaziantep's Başpınar industrial zone are protesting against low wages and poor working conditions. Factory owners are trying to suppress the protests by threatening dismissal, and the local government imposed a 15-day protest ban. The textile union BIRTEK-SEN, which supports the workers, rejects the ban and accuses it of being imposed at the request of company bosses. Picket lines have been attacked, strikers arrested, and police have prevented protests. The Union BİRTEK-SEN's chairman, Mehmet Türkmen, has been detained and charged with "violating freedom of work" and "incitement to commit a crime." The actions are seen as attempts to weaken union organizing and intimidate activists.

In solidarity with you, sisters and brothers workers in Gaziantep's of Textile Başpınar industrial zone, we condemn the coercion against the workers and the unlawful arrest of the Union leader Mehmet Türkmen. We demand that the dismissals of workers be taken back, that all threats and pressure on union members cease and that BIRTEK-SEN be recognized as a worker's representative.

Yves Deferrard  
Member of Unia Executive Committee  
Head of Industrial Sector