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Dear comrades,

We have reliable information that the German discount store chain LIDL, which is known for being very hostile towards workers organizing and union building, started with the procedure of firing Tjaša Kozole. Tjaša, a single mother of two, is the president of the LIDL Slovenia union (part of SDTS which is a member of ZSSS). It was through her actions and effort that the union was established.

On March 2nd 2020 Tjaša found out that she is facing termination of her employment contract. Reporters of the [weekly TV show Tednik](#) received a statement from the head of Lidl's sales department that LIDL is trying to fire her. Already on Friday February 28th and again on March 2nd Tjaša was also visited by a private detective who tried to serve her Lidl's invitation to an official interview which is a necessary formality before terminating someone's employment contract. Because she didn't open the door, the detective left the invitation in the mailbox. Tjaša now around 15 days to officially pick up that mail and attend the interview with Lidl management.

Slovenia's Retail workers union will stand in solidarity with the LIDL Slovenia union, showing support to Tjaša Kozole. Together they will make an appeal to Lidl management to make a favorable decision regarding Tjaša's situation. If Lidl will ignore the unions' appeal they will organize a demonstration in support of Tjaša Kozole and a public conference that will include all Slovenian unions.

Tjaša and her coworkers have been working hard on strengthening the union, but the firing of the union president would mean a huge blow for unionizing efforts at Lidl and elsewhere. Union representatives in various companies and public institutions are facing increasing pressure from their management and a lot of them have already been fired. Even though most of these firings are later ruled to have been illegal by the courts, the management have already achieved their goals because by the time the verdict is out the unions already fell apart. These kind of actions bring devastating consequences to the working class and are one of the primary political struggles for the labor movement in Slovenia today.

The Lidl Slovenia union has 60 members so far (some 3% of the total labour force) and is not yet a representative union. A temporary workers' committee has been established during last week and we have already contacted some workers-activists and organic leaders in 5 Lidl stores. At this moment the union is not yet strong enough to organize a strike, but a smaller protest is a realistic goal where activists, outside unions and Lidl union members

would be the main force of the protest. We would be happy to receive any helpful advice on how to react to the current situation as we lack experience.

We will notify you if and when Tjaša actually received the invitation to the official interview with Lidl management, and we ask for your international support.

[Research committee of CEDRA](#)

Tjaša Kozole, president of trade union in LIDL

Ladi Rožič, general secretary of [The Slovenian trade union of workers' in trade sector](#), Slovenia (SDTS)

*SDTS is a member of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS), the largest trade union Association in Slovenia.