



A union of waste picker organizations
representing more than 460,000 workers
across 34 countries

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IAWP Condolences to Guinea, Conakry fuel depot explosion

The International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) is shocked and saddened by the untimely passing of three waste pickers who regrettably lost their lives in a fuel depot explosion incident in Guinea's capital city on Monday 18th December 2023. The three members belonged to EGIG-BTP, and the National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG). At the time of the incident, comrades Almamy Sontigui Kagbo, Mohamed Gallanty Cisse, and Mamadou Camara were working in Koronty depot near the fuel depot that exploded. This is a heavy blow not only to the families of the deceased but to the entire sector of waste pickers as 18 lives reportedly perished while more than 200 people are receiving hospital care.

The IAWP would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and the entire community of waste pickers in Guinea. The death of these three comrades will remain a constant reminder that waste picking remains one of the most hazardously exposed employment activities in the world; as such, the need to integrate waste pickers into formal waste management systems becomes more urgent than before. Let us honor their memory by forging a path toward a world where waste pickers are recognized and valued for the essential role they play.

The Alliance will continuously be in touch with EGIG-BTP thus giving much-needed support and solidarity in such difficult times. The IAWP would also like to wish all the hospitalized victims a prompt and safe recovery.

In solidarity

Lucia Fernandez , IAWP Acting General Secretary

Amira El Halabi, African IAWP Coordinator

“If there are no borders for those who exploit us there shouldn't be for those who fight”