



DATE  
19/11/2014

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Mr Mehdi JOMAA, Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Tunisia

[boc@pm.gov.tn](mailto:boc@pm.gov.tn)

Prime Minister,

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation, LO Sweden, affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) expresses its deepest concern over the physical attack against the General Secretary of the Tunisian trade union confederation, the Union générale tunisienne du travail (UGTT). LO Sweden condemns this unacceptable violence and once again expresses its full solidarity with the UGTT, the linchpin of Tunisia's successful transition to democracy.

Houcine Abbassi, who is also president of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), was the target of a violent attack on Thursday evening, 13 November, as he was leaving his office by car, in Mohamed Ali square in the centre of Tunis.

The car windows were broken as stones were thrown at them by external infiltrators. It was only thanks to the vigilance of the UGTT's security guards that the general secretary managed to escape unharmed. The UGTT described the attack, which occurred at the end of an emergency meeting at the head office of the Tunis transport workers' union, as « a despicable and contemptible act ». It has handed over evidence of the attack and witness statements to the authorities.

LO Sweden adds its voice to the resounding condemnation from the ITUC and all sectors of Tunisian society. As the National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) said the morning after the attack: "This was an attack on civil society and on its pioneering role in cleaning up the country's political climate."

In this country where the social partners have shown great political courage and maturity throughout the delicate period of democratic transition, the Tunisian employers' organisation, the UTICA, also expressed its «

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**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

unconditional solidarity » with Abassi, reiterating its « rejection of all forms of violence, both physical and moral ».

On behalf of Swedish working women and men, we join the call by Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the ITUC, on the Tunisian justice system to bring its full weight to bear against these attackers and put an end to these violent aggressions and the unacceptable climate of violence threatening the UGTT. The UGTT, a driving force for stability and for the fight for democracy and social justice in Tunisia and the whole Arab region, has the full support of the international trade union movement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson', written in a cursive style.

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson  
President, The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO Sweden)  
Deputy President of the ITUC

CC. Mrs Fatma Omrani ep Chargui, Minister, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia, Stockholm