



His Excellency  
Mr Mohamed Osama Taha Elmagdoub

We are writing to you on behalf of TCO (The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees) och LO (The Swedish Trade-union Confederation), together representing more than two million members.

TCO and LO are deeply concerned about long history of heavily restricted trade union rights in Egypt. The most important Trade Unions rights, such as the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, are described in ILO core conventions and are an important part of the internationally recognised human rights.

The independent trade union organisations of Egypt has, in spite of that, stood firm in their defense of workers' rights and conduct their work during the extremely difficult and sometimes hostile circumstances. On January 31<sup>st</sup> the new trade union centre, which brings together existing independent unions of health sector employees and tax inspectors as well as worker representatives from the country's key manufacturing locations, public employees and other sectors, announced its formation at a meeting at Tahrir Square in Cairo. It also announced the formation of committees in workplaces across the country to protect workplace infrastructure. We urge the Egyptian Government to respect the trade union rights of all workers in Egypt, and to respect the independent trade union centre and the independent trade unions!

Today Trade Unions all over the world, members of the International Trade Union Council, ITUC, act to show our support for the freedom of expression and for trade union rights all over the world. We support our colleagues in the independent trade unions in Egypt and we demand that the Egyptian government respect them and their trade union work! We have learned from the ITUC that the government has given instructions to employees in public sector companies and the employees of the government to go out in demonstrations with the intent to sabotage the real protests in Tahrir Square in Cairo and we find that totally unacceptable. The ensuing violence is seriously escalating, with deadly consequences.

TCO and LO urge the Government of Egypt to fulfill its obligations under international law, protect human rights and assume its responsibilities to defend its citizens from the militias and protect peaceful demonstrators. The government must also ensure that those responsible for the violence do not go unpunished.

Yours sincerely  
LO

Ulla Lindqvist  
Vice President

TCO

Sture Nordh  
President