



Int Dept/Keth Thapper/gp

DATE
2011-06-28
YOUR DATE

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

Mr. Osama Elmagdoub, Ambassador
Egyptian Embassy
Box 14230
104 40 STOCKHOLM

Egypt – Banning of strikes and protest actions

I am writing to you on behalf of The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), representing 1.5 million Swedish workers, to express our deep concern regarding the measures taken against protesting workers and activists who are struggling to form independent trade unions in Egypt.

LO has been informed by the International Trade Union Confederation that on 16 June 2011 the Egyptian Cabinet in its meeting activated the decree No. 34 of 2011 which criminalises strikes and protest actions. This law forms a backward step towards the commitments of Egypt to respect the basic human and trade union rights and it will lead to a legal disaster by all international labour standards.

The Egyptian and International experience has proved that Socio-Economic issues can't be solved through violence and repressive measures; instead respecting the basic rights of both workers and employers and assisting them in starting a constructive social dialogue is the best way to create social stability.

LO welcomes the positive steps taken by the government to comply with the International Labour Standards but we urge you to let the Egyptian workers express their legitimate demands for social justice and fundamental worker's rights. They have to be listened to and their concerns have to be met as long as it is legitimate demands.

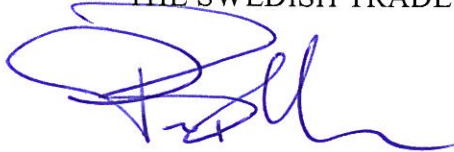
LO expresses its solidarity with its Egyptian brothers and sisters and we urge you to remind the Egyptian government that they must fulfill their obligations under international law and respect trade union rights and

POSTAL ADDRESS 105 53 Stockholm
OFFICE ADDRESS Barnhusgatan 18
TELEPHONE +46 8 796 25 00 TELEFAX +46 8 24 52 28
E-MAIL mailbox@lo.se HOMEPAGE www.lo.se

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

fundamental liberties such as the right to strike, freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Per Bardh', written over the typed name.

Per Bardh
Vice President and Negotiating Secretary