



International Department

DATE  
2009-12-02  
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Mr. Nuri al-Maliki, Prime Minister  
Republic of Iraq  
Baghdad

### **Murder of a trade unionist**

Mr. Prime Minister,

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) and our affiliate, the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union, are writing to protest against the murder of Mr. Majeed Sahib Kareem, internal relations secretary of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (GFIW), which occurred on 26 November.

We have been informed by the International Trade Union Confederation, the ITUC, that he was killed by a bomb which had been attached to his car. Mr. Majeed Sahib Kareem was a leading force for the organisation of workers in the public sector and his death is a loss to Iraqi trade unionism.

We are concerned that trade unionists continue to be murdered in Iraq, and that the perpetrators are not found and brought to justice. The full enjoyment of trade union rights is not possible, without respect for fundamental human rights, like the right to life.

The fact that workers in the public sector are deprived, by law, of the legitimate right to trade union representation combined with a climate of violence weakens the unions.

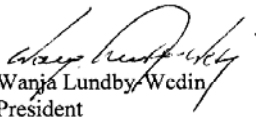
The Law 150 of 1987 dating back from the Saddam-era has yet to be replaced by a legal framework for industrial relations which meets ILO standards, despite the continued efforts of the country's trade union movement to assure the amendment of the law.


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**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

We urge you to immediately order an investigation into the murder and bring those responsible to justice. We also urge you to create a protective framework for trade union activity, by amending the labour legislation and recognising the fundamental right to freedom of association for all.

Yours sincerely,

  
Wanja Lundby-Wedin  
President  
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION  
CONFEDERATION (LO)

  
Ylva Thörn  
President  
THE SWEDISH MUNICIPAL  
WORKERS' UNION