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Dr. Kamal El Ganzory,
Prime Minister
2 Magless El Shaab Street
Al Kasr El Einy
Cairo
Egypt

Egypt – Judgement against Kamal Abbas

Mr. Prime Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of The Swedish Trade Union Confederation, representing 1.5 million workers, as a matter of urgency to withdraw all charges and annul an egregious sentence of 26 February against Kamal Abbas, the general coordinator of CTUWS.

The LO has been informed that on February 26 a Misdemeanor court in the city of Helwan sentenced Kamal Abbas in absentia, to six months imprisonment for “insulting a public officer” during the 2011 International Labour Conference in Geneva. The sentence refers to Thursday 9 June 2011, when Kamal Abbas interrupted Ismael Fahmy while he was delivering a speech to the Conference.

Kamal Abbas, who attended the Conference as a representative of the ITUC delegation, is accused of expressing his objection to the claim that the ETUF represented Egyptian workers. According to the information received, the court refers to a decision that Ismael Fahmy was the acting President of ETUF when he gave the speech.

The LO is extremely concerned by the sentence against Mr. Abbas, and its implications for Freedom of Association as well as Freedom of Expression within the confines of the ILC.



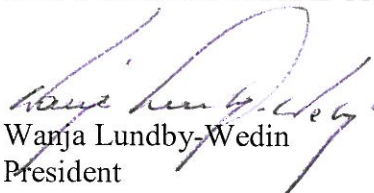
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The LO asks the Egyptian authorities to immediately withdraw all charges, annul the sentence, and to refrain from any further harassment against trade unionists or other civil society representatives for the exercise of their legitimate activities.

Sincerely,
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)


Wanja Lundby-Wedin
President



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