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DATE
2011-05-24
YOUR DATE

OUR REFERENCE

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al
Khalifa
Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

Attacks on the trade union movement in Bahrain

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), representing 1.5 million members, I am writing to you to express our deepest concern at the attacks on the Bahraini trade union movement.

The LO has been informed that dismissals of workers for having participated in demonstrations and marches, calling for democracy and reforms, have increased and are clearly focusing the leaders of the trade union organisations. Furthermore, the president and executive committee of the BAPCO trade union have been referred to military court without any explanation.

According to the information we have received, real fears continue to prevail regarding the personal safety of trade union leaders, including Mr. Salman Jaffar Al Mahfoodh, General Secretary of the GFBTU. They are being accused by your government and parliament, voiced by the press, to be leading a conspiracy to overthrow the regime. All these false accusations are only an excuse to target the independence and the integrity of the trade union movement.

The LO urges you to:

- Immediately withdraw the decision to have BAPCO workers tried in the military court;
- Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all detained workers;
- Put an end to any acts of harassment, including at the judicial level, against trade union leaders and activists;

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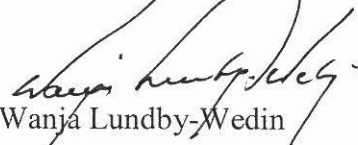
The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

- Put a halt to the media campaign against the leadership of the GFBTU and all other activists;
- Reinstate all fired workers and guarantee the return of all trade union representatives to their jobs and allow them to resume their trade union functions;

As a member of the ILO, Bahrain is bound by international treaties, and we remind you that your government must fulfil its obligations and respect trade union rights and fundamental liberties such as freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,

THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)


Wanja Lundby-Wedin
President