

? Swedish Trade Union Confederation
? Schwedischer Gewerkschaftsbund
? Confédération Générale du Travail de Suède
? Unión General de Trabajadores de Suecia

Date
2005-03-22
Your date

Our reference

Your reference

**The Royal Nepalese Embassy
London**

**United Kingdom
Fax + 44 20 792 98 61**

Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of the 1,8 million members of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation – LO Sweden, I am requesting you to convey to His Majesty's Government our organisation's strongest possible protest against the current and brutal oppression of trade union organisations in Nepal. Since the dismissal of the Government, on 1 February, basic civil liberties and rights of leaders and members of Nepalese trade unions, together with a large number of other independent organisations, have been suspended as part of a series of anti-democratic measures.

Scores of trade unionists have been arrested to date, some of who are known to be in poor health, and many others live in fear of being arrested. I am therefore urgently calling for all trade union rights to be restored. Restoring freedom of association and freedom of speech is an indispensable first step to put Nepal back on the path to democracy.

I am specifically calling for the urgent protection of the representatives of the ICFTU-affiliated Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC) and the country's two other national trade union centres GEFONT and DECONT, as well as for the brothers and sisters that represent the workers in the many sectoral trade unions in Nepal, many of which are affiliated at international level with the Global Union Federations (GUFs).

I urge the Nepalese authorities to take immediate and necessary measures to protect the leaders, members and activists of these democratic organisations and to restore their basic rights.

Yours sincerely,

**Erland Olauson
Vice President
The Swedish Trade Union Confederation – LO Sweden**

