International Community Demands the Release of Jordan Teachers’ Syndicate Leaders and Restoration of the Union

We stand in solidarity with the Teachers’ Syndicate of Jordan and its detained leadership. On 25 July, the Jordanian government ordered the union shut down and its 13 central council members arrested. The detained union leaders are currently on hunger strike in Jordanian prisons.

Jordan’s police raided the union’s headquarters in Amman on July 25th and shut down 11 of its branches across the country before arresting the 13 board members of the syndicate. Jordan’s Attorney General, who ordered the raids, also ordered a two-year closure of the union and the suspension of its central council. Under Jordanian law, a union can only be shut down by a court order or a vote of the membership, neither of which occurred in this case.

On August 1, an additional 27 local syndicate leaders were arrested from their homes. According to lawyers and witnesses on the ground, the raids and arrests were conducted in an unlawful and abusive way, without proper judicial warrants. Detainees were taken to undisclosed locations where their families could not locate them for days.

The detention of these 51 leaders is being justified by accusations of criminal wrongdoing that many view as politically motivated. Yet, even with pending criminal charges, there is no basis in the law for the shutting down of the syndicate. The dissolution of the union violates Jordanian law as well as international conventions to which the Jordanian state is a signatory.

The attack on the union – in which the minister of education has now attempted to appoint a replacement committee to serve in place of the union, with no real representation for teachers – comes in response to teachers’ widespread protests, heavily supported by the public, for a minimum standard of living, after the Jordanian government froze all public sector wage increases.

The attack on the union comes at the heels of the union’s successful 4-week campaign in September 2019, winning a wage increase agreement from the government, with extensive support from Jordan’s people. Jordan’s Teacher Syndicate was created in 2011 and stands as one of very few independent labor unions in the country and the only popularly elected, democratic body in the country.

The Jordanian government has extended the detained union leaders’ imprisonment without responding to their demands as they engage in a hunger strike; however, people throughout Jordan have taken to the streets across the country to demand the release of the imprisoned union council and support the teachers’ demands. The widespread protests, especially the protests of the teachers themselves, have been met with harsh and violent police repression, targeting demonstrators with clubs and batons. At the same time, Jordanian officials have attempted to block media reporting about the situation, including sharing social media content.
We urge that the detained teachers’ union leaders be released immediately and that the Teachers’ Syndicate be restored to its proper and legal position representing the teachers of Jordan.

JOIN OUR LETTER to inform the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Jordan that the international labor and human rights community are aware of and condemn this illegal crackdown and compelling them to act in accordance with its own laws and international human rights law, by reversing the order and releasing all that have been detained.

Organizational and individual signatures are welcome.

August 5, 2020

His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Omar Al-Razzaz
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The undersigned organizations and members of the global human rights and trade union community call on the Kingdom of Jordan to reverse the unlawful closure of the Jordan Teacher’s Syndicate, to release all detained members of the syndicate, and release all those detained during protests in solidarity with the syndicate.

We urge that the detained teachers’ union leaders be released immediately and that the Teachers’ Syndicate be restored to its proper and legal position representing the teachers of Jordan. Further, we urge the Jordanian government to end the crackdown on public expression, popular demonstrations, journalism and social media commentary.

Jordan’s Attorney General cited accusations of criminal wrongdoing, to justify the raids and closure of its office and branches Many believe those accusations to be politically motivated. Yet, even with pending criminal charges, there is no basis in the law for the shutting down of the syndicate. Furthermore, we have learned that the raids and arrests were conducted unlawfully, with authorities refusing to show the judicial order for the office closures and taking detainees to undisclosed locations.

The actions taken violate both Jordanian law and Jordan’s obligations under the international treaties and covenants to which it is a signatory. We demand that Jordan immediately:

• Release all detained members of the Jordan Teachers’ Syndicate
• Cancel and reverse any and all orders closing of the Jordan Teacher’s Syndicate and its branches immediately.
• Release all those arrested during the unlawful and violent crackdown on solidarity protests
• End the crackdown on the freedom of protest and freedom of expression.

Sincerely,

The organizations belonging to the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggle

National inter professional labour organizations

➤ Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas (CSP-Conlutas) - Brésil.
➤ Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT) - Etat espagnol.
➤ Union syndicale Solidaires (Solidaires) - France.
➤ Confederazione Unitaria di Base (CUB) - Italie.
Confédération Générale du Travail du Burkina (CGT-B) - Burkina.
Confederation of Indonesia People's Movement (KPRI) - Indonésie.
Confederación Intersindical (Intersindical) - Etat espagnol.
Confédération Générale Autonome des Travailleurs en Algérie (CGATA) - Algérie.
Batay Ouvriye - Haïti.
Unione Sindacale Italiana (USI) - Italie.
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs - Solidarité Ouvrière (CNT SO) - France.
Sindicato de Comisiones de Base (CO.BAS) - Etat espagnol.
Organisation Générale Indépendante des Travailleurs et Travailleuses d'Haïti (OGTHI) - Haïti.
Confédération Intersindical Cobas (SI COBAS) - Italie.
Confédération Nationale du Travail (CNT-f) - France.
Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya (IAC) - Catalogne.
Union Générale des Travailleurs Sahraouis (UGTSARIO) - Sahara occidental.
EZker Sindikalaren Konbergentzia (ESK) - Pays basque.
Confédération Nationale de Travailleurs du Sénégal Forces du Changement (CNTS/FC) – Sénégal
Sindicato Autorganizzato Lavorator COBAS (SIAL-COBAS) - Italie.
General Federation of Independent Unions (GFIU) - Palestine.
Confederación de la Clase Trabajadora (CCT) - Paraguay.
Red Solidaria de Trabajadores - Pérou
Union Syndicale Progressiste des Travailleurs du Niger (USPT) - Niger.
Union Nationale des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal (UNSAS) - Sénégal.
Unión Nacional para la Defensa de la Clase Trabajadora (UNT) - El Salvador.
Solidaridad Obrera (SO) - Etat espagnol.
Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) - Grande-Bretagne.
Ogólnopolski Związek Zawodowy Inicjatywa Pracownicza (OZZ IP) - Pologne.
Centrale Démocratique des Travailleurs de Martinique (CDMT) – Martinique.
Associazione Diritti Lavoratori Cobas (ADL COBAS) – Italie.
Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) – Pakistan

National professional labour organizations

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT/TUC) - Grande-Bretagne.
Centrale Nationale des Employés – Confédération Syndicale Chrétienne (CNE/CSC) - Belgique.
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Sistema Agroalimentario (SINALTRAINAL/CUT) - Colombie.
Trade Union in Ethnodata - Trade Union of Employees in the Outsourcing Companies in the financial sector - Grèce.
Syndicat national des travailleurs des services de la santé humaine (SYNTRASEH) - Bénin
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Fiocruz (ASFOC-SN) - Brésil.
Organizzazione Sindicati Autonomi e di Base Ferrovie (ORSA Ferrovie) - Italie.
Union Nationale des Normaliens d’Haïti (UNNOH) - Haïti.
Confederação Unitaria di Base Scuola Università Ricerca (CUB SUR) - Italie.
Coordinamento Autorganizzato Trasporti (CAT) - Italie.
Syndicat des travailleurs du rail – Centrale Démocratique des Travailleurs du Mali (SYTRAIL/CDTM) – Mali.
Gıda Sanayii İşçileri Sendikası - Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (GIDA-IŞ/DISK) – Turquie.
Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Petit Train Bleu/SA (SNTPTB) - Sénégal.
Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Administrativos de la Caja de Seguro Social (ANFACSS) – Panama.
Palestinian Postal Service Workers Union (PPSWU) - Palestine.
Union Syndicale Etudiante (USE) - Belgique.
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores de Call Center (STCC) - Portugal.
Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores Petroleros (Sinutapelgas) - Venezuela.
Alianza de Trabajadores de la Salud y Empleados Publicos - Mexique.
Canadian Union of Postal Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses des postes (CUPW-STTP) – Canada.
Syndicat Autonome des Postiers (SAP) - Suisse.
Federación nacional de trabajadores de la educación (SUTE-Chili) - Chili.
Plateforme Nationale des organisations professionnelles du secteur public - Côte d’Ivoire.
Fédération nationale des ouvriers et collectivités locales - Union Marocaine du Travail (UMT-Collectivités locales) - Maroc.
Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Cheminots (CGSP/FGTB Cheminots) - Belgique.
Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) - Botswana.
Organisation Démocratique du Rail-Organisation Démocratique du Travail (ODR/ODT) – Maroc.
Federação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Transportes Aéros do Brasil (FNTTA) - Brésil.
Federación Nacional dos Metroviários (FENAMETRO) - Brésil.
Federacao Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Transportes Aéros do Brasil (FNTTA) - Brésil.
Federação Nacional dos Metroviários (FENAMETRO) - Brésil.
Namibia Football Players Union (NAFPU) – Namibie.
Palestinian Electricians’ Trade Union (PETU) – Palestine.
Missão Publica Organizada – Portugal.

Local labour organizations

Trades Union Congress, Liverpool (TUC Liverpool) - Angleterre.
Sindicato Territoriale Autorganizzato, Brescia (ORMA Brescia) - Italie.
Fédération syndicale SUD Service public, canton de Vaud (SUD Vaud) - Suisse
Sindicato Unitario de Catalunya (SU Metro) - Catalogne.
Türkiye DERİ-İŞ Sendikası, Tuzla et Izmir (DERİ-İŞ Tuzla et Izmir) - Turquie.
L’autre syndicat, canton de Vaud (L’autre syndicat) - Suisse
Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Ville de Bruxelles (CGSP/FGTB Bruxelles) – Belgique.
Arbeitskreis Internationalismus IG Metall, Berlin (IG Metall Berlin) - Allemagne
Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación de Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca (SUTEBA/CTA de los trabajadores Bahia Blanca) - Argentine
Sindicato del Petróleo y Gas Privado del Chubut/CGT - Argentine.
UCU University and College Union, University of Liverpool (UCU Liverpool) - Angleterre.
Sindicato di base Pavia (SDB Pavia) - Italie.
United Auto Workers local 551 Ford Chicago (UAW Ford Chicago) – Etats-unis.
Sindicato Uno Prodinsa, Maipú – Chili.
Asociación Gremial de Trabajadores del Subterráneo y Premetro, Buenos Aires (SUBTE/CTA) – Argentine.
 Syndicat des travailleurs du transport de Téhéran et sa banlieue (Vahed) – Iran.

International labour organizations

Industrial Workers of the World - International Solidarity Commission (IWW).

Trends, tendancies or labour networks

Transnationals Information Exchange Germany (TIE Germany) - Allemagne.
Emancipation tendance intersyndicale (Emancipation) - France.
Globalization Monitor (GM) - Hong Kong.
Courant Syndicaliste Révolutionnaire (CSR) - France.
Fronte di lotta No Austerity - Italie.
Solidarité Socialiste avec les Travailleurs en Iran (SSTI) - France.
Basis Initiative Solidarität (BASO) - Allemagne.
LabourNet Germany - Allemagne.
Resistenza Operaia - operaì Fiat-Irisbus - Italie.
Workers Solidarity Action Network (WSAN) - Etats-Unis.
United Voices of the World (UVW) - Grande-Bretagne.
Unidos pra Lutar - Brésil.
Corriente Político Social Sindical 1º de Mayo de Buenos Aires – Argentine.
Coordinamento Nazionale Unitario Pensionati di oggi e di domani (CONUP) – Italie.
National Association of Human Rights Defenders – Palestine.
Red de Trabajadores – Argentine.