



UNIÃO GERAL DE TRABALHADORES

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Secretário Geral - Secrétaire Général
General Secretary - Generalsekretär

João de Deus Pires
Presidente - Président
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Mr. Ambassador of the Arab Republic of
Egypt in Portugal
Av. D. Vasco Gama, 8
1400-128 Lisboa

N/ref.: SG/023/11

Data: 08/02/11

Assunto: **Egypt – violence**

Dear Ambassador,

We are writing to you this letter on behalf of the Portuguese Trade Union Confederation – UGT (União Geral de Trabalhadores – General Union of Workers) which represents more than half a million working men and women, from all sectors of activity, and as an affiliate to the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) and the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) to express our deep concern over the situation in Egypt.


The UGT-P has been informed by the International Trade Union Confederation that militias, led by elements of the ruling party, have begun to terrorise the population, attack demonstrators, and they are trying to stop people from exercising their freedom of expression. The government has also given instructions to all employees in public sector companies and the employees of the government to go out in demonstrations with the intent to sabotage the real protests in Tahrir Square in Cairo. The ensuing violence is seriously escalating, with deadly consequences.

The UGT-P stands by its Egyptian colleagues in independent trade union organisations, who always stood firm in defence of workers' rights in spite of the extremely difficult and often times overtly hostile circumstances.

The UGT-P urges you to intervene with the Government of Egypt, with a call to assume its responsibilities to defend its citizens from the militias and to protect peaceful demonstrators. It must also ensure that those responsible for the violence do not go unpunished.

The UGT-P expresses its solidarity with its Egyptian brothers and sisters in this difficult situation. We urge you to remind the Egyptian Government that it must fulfill its obligations under international law and respect trade union rights and fundamental liberties such as freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,


João Proença
General Secretary

Membro:



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