

MENA Solidarity Network

Solidarity with workers in the Middle East and North Africa



Building solidarity with the workers' movement in the Middle East

A conference for trade union members and activists

Sunday 20 Nov 2011

11am–3pm Room G2, main campus,
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street, London **WC1H 0XG**

Lessons from the MENA workers' struggles

Strikes and protests by organised workers played a key role in the overthrow of the Tunisian and Egyptian dictators earlier this year.

Since then we've seen the newly-formed independent unions in Egypt organising strikes on a massive scale to realise the revolution's promise of social justice.

Even Kuwait, with little tradition of workers' organisation, has been rocked by public sector strikes. From Morocco to Iraq, few countries in the region have been immune from the resurgent workers' movement.

Yet there have also been setbacks: trade unionists in Bahrain have faced persecution following the crackdown on protest there, while in Egypt workers have been dragged before military courts and strikes are still illegal.

This conference will bring together activists from across the trade union movement to debate how we can build solidarity with those in the Middle East who are fighting for social justice, workers' rights and genuine democracy.

Conference sessions include

- **Workers and the Arab revolutions**
- **Building the independent unions in Egypt**
- **Bahraini trade unionists' fight for justice**
- **The Tunisian workers' movement after the revolution**

Speakers include

- **Mohamed Shafiq**, President of the Manshiyet al-Bakri Hospital Union in Cairo and a leading healthworker activist from Egypt
- **Unjum Mirza**, Political Officer, RMT London Transport Region
- **Anne Alexander**, MENA Solidarity Network
- Plus speakers from **NUT** teachers union, **PCS** civil service workers union, and **UCU** lecturers unions.

Tickets £5 waged/£3 (cons)

For more details and how to register go to: menasolidaritynetwork.com
or email: menasolidarity@gmail.com