



H.E Hatem Seif al-Nasr
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London
W1K 1DW

7 March 2012

Dear Ambassador,

We are writing to express our grave concern at a growing number of incidents where independent trade unionists and activists in Egypt have been subject to physical attacks or legal harassment for organising and speaking out in defence of workers' rights, and for calling for strike action and peaceful protest against the continuation of military rule.

The following cases have come to our attention

- An attack on officials of the Independent Union of Public Transport Authority Workers on Wednesday 29 February by members of the old state-controlled unions and thugs in the offices of the head of the Public Transport Authority, which left Adel al-Shazly (president of the Independent Union), Mohammed Abd-al-Sattar (Treasurer of the Independent Union) and Tareq Mohammed al-Sayyid (Spokesperson of the Independent Union) among those seriously injured.
- The announcement on 26 February of the sentencing of Kamal Abbas, General Co-ordinator of the Centre for Trade Union and Workers Services to 6 months in prison for criticisms of Isma'il Fahmy of the state-controlled Egyptian Trade Union Federation during the latter's speech at the ILO congress in Geneva in June 2011.
- A violent assault by the combined forces of the police and army using electric batons on striking court workers in Suez on 28 February, which left dozens injured.
- The arrest of Kamal al-Fayoumy, a leading independent trade unionist in the Misr Spinning plant in Mahalla al-Kubra on 11 February following accusations (later withdrawn) by the security forces that he had bribed workers to join strike action planned for that day.

We call on the Egyptian authorities to drop all charges against Kamal Abbas, and to take swift action to bring the perpetrators of the attack on our colleagues in the Independent Union of Public Transport Authority Workers to justice. We further call for an end to attacks by the police and army on striking workers and that the security forces cease their harassment of trade unionists and activists. We pledge our continued support for our brothers and sisters in Egypt in their struggle for freedom and social justice.

Yours faithfully,
Katy Clark, MP
John McDonnell, MP
Bob Crow, General Secretary, Rail, Maritime and Transport Union
Alex Gordon, President, Rail, Maritime and Transport Union
Unjum Mirza, Secretary, MENA Solidarity Network, and RMT London Region
Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union