

MENA Solidarity, 18 June 2012

### **Model Motion for Trade Union branches / Trades Councils**

1. This branch/Trades Council notes with grave concern recent developments in Egypt including the decision on 14 June 2012 by the Higher Constitutional Court to dissolve parliament and allow the candidate of the old regime, Ahmad Shafiq, to contest the presidential election. The court decision followed the announcement of a law on 13 June 2012 giving military intelligence and police permission to arrest civilians on suspicion of "crimes and misdemeanours harmful to the government," "resisting orders issued by those in power or assaulting them," "destruction of public property or historic monuments," "obstructing traffic," "strikes at institutions that serve the public interest or assaulting the right to work," and "intimidation and thuggery."

2. Then on 17 June the Supreme Council of Armed Forces issued another decree that grants Scaf powers to initiate legislation, control the budget, appoint a panel to draft the new constitution and postponing elections until a new constitution is approved. This is a coup designed to wipe out all the gains of the last 18 months.

3. This branch/Trades Council condemns the assault on Egyptians' democratic freedoms that these decisions represent and declares its solidarity with Egyptians who are resisting this attempt by the military to return the old regime to power. The Egyptian revolution's demands for 'bread, freedom and social justice' have inspired us in our own struggles and we will stand by Egyptians now as they fight to defend the democratic and social gains of the past year.

4. This branch/Trades Council believes that the trade union movement must play a key role in mobilising solidarity with the Egyptian revolution at this critical time, and in particular by demonstrating our support for the nearly 300 independent unions which have been founded in Egypt since January 2011.

5. This branch/Trades Council notes that MENA Solidarity Network has been building links between the trade union movement in the UK and the independent unions in Egypt since March 2011, most recently through a delegation of NUT and UCU members which visited Cairo and Alexandria 3-8 June 2012.

This branch/Trades Council therefore resolves:

- To send a letter of protest to the Egyptian authorities via the Egyptian embassy in London condemning the recent attacks on democratic freedoms
- To circulate information about the situation in Egypt to our membership and call on them to support the campaign in solidarity with the Egyptian revolution and the Egyptian workers' movement
- To invite a speaker from MENA Solidarity Network to address our branch about current events and report from the recent delegation to Egypt.
- To support all broad based protests against the crackdown on democracy.
- To affiliate to MENA Solidarity Network <http://menasolidaritynetwork.com/>
- To send this motion to our regional / national executive / affiliated unions