

We stand together for

**BREAD**

FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM

الحرية الحرية الحرية الحرية الحرية الحرية

**SOCIAL  
JUSTICE**

نقف معاً من أجل

**العيش**

**العدالة**

الاجتماعية

# Build Freedom Social Justice

THE revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) inspired the world. From Tunisia to Egypt, Bahrain, Syria, Yemen and beyond, millions of people took the streets to demand "bread, freedom and social justice". Over a year later the battle to turn these demands into reality continues.

In Tunisia and Egypt the dictators have gone, but their army, police and judges remain in place. While newly elected governments are pursuing neo-liberal policies of austerity and privatisation.

The privatisation and cuts which make life a misery for millions in this country are being pushed by the World Bank and IMF as "economic reforms" across the MENA region.

In Bahrain the regime cracked down mercilessly on protests and jailed hundreds of activists. In Syria, the popular movement for change has faced cruel repression.

The British government proclaimed solidarity with the "Arab Spring", but has done much to help the dictators who want to stop the revolutions and turn back the clock. David Cameron visited Egypt last year in the company of arms dealers, and approved arms exports to the region.

## Egypt

Workers have organised thousands of strikes and created hundreds of independent unions, but there is still no legal recognition for basic trade union rights.

## Bahrain

Hundreds of activists have been jailed. The president and vice-president of Bahraini Teachers' Association

are facing ten and three year sentences for taking part in peaceful protests and strikes in February 2011.

## Tunisia

The regions which sparked the revolution of 2011, such as Kasserine, have been rocked by repeated strikes and protests against the failure of the new government to solve problems of unemployment and poverty.

## Sudan

Students and workers organised protests against cuts in government subsidies and privatisation this summer. Thousands have been arrested, but the movement is growing.

## Who we are and what we do

We are a network of activists from different trade unions in the UK engaged in building solidarity links with workers in the Middle East and North Africa in support of their struggle for social justice and workers' rights. Our steering group includes activists from the PCS, RMT, UNITE, UCU, NUJ and MPs John McDonnell and Katy Clark.

We are supported by the UCU, NUT, PCS, Barnet TUC, Brent TUC, Cambridge TUC, Chesterfield TUC, Manchester TUC, Haldane Society, Harringey TUC, London Region RMT, London Region UCU, Unison London Fire Authority.

Our meetings and events highlight the struggles of workers in the Middle East. We publish briefings and organise campaigns and protests. We organised a delegations of British trade unionists to Egypt in May 2011 and June 2012.

## Pass this resolution to get your union affiliated to MENA Solidarity Network

- This branch notes that the struggles for social justice which gave birth to the Arab revolutions of 2011 are still continuing, as workers around the Middle East fight for a living wage, job security, an end to privatisation and access to welfare, health and education for all.
- This branch further notes that even in countries where the dictators were overthrown, the struggle for genuine democracy goes on, and in particular the fight to ensure that workers have the right to strike and organise independent unions.
- This branch welcomes the work done by the MENA Solidarity Network since its establishment in March 2011 to build a broad campaign of solidarity with workers in the Middle East in the trade union movement in Britain.
- **This branch therefore resolves:**
  - a. To affiliate to MENA Solidarity Network
  - b. To publicize reports and activities of the Network to our members
  - c. To invite a speaker from the Network to our branch meeting
  - d. To send this resolution to our region / national conference