

# Egypt: Resistance to anti-protest law begins to grow

A draft law which demands that protesters give notice of planned demonstrations, and allows the police to create exclusion zones in front of key government buildings and other regular protest sites is beginning to stir resistance among trade unionists and revolutionary activists. The law has been condemned across the political spectrum, even by groups which have been until now supportive of the current military regime.



Leading trade unionists backing the campaign against the law include transport worker activist Ismail Al-Ashari, Nagi Rashad from the South Cairo Grain Mills, and Mohamed Hardan, president of the Cairo Drinking Water Company Workers Union. They joined a rally against the law on 22 October in downtown Cairo.

Another protest has been called for Saturday 26th October in the centre of Cairo.

The gathering protests against the new law come after months of a vicious clampdown which has seen well over 1,000 killed by the security forces and army in an attempt to crush protests in support of deposed president Mohamed Morsi. Thousands have also been arrested and detained. University campuses have been a particular target for repression, with mass arrests of students and dozens of academics also reportedly detained.

## What you can do:

- Go online here for a solidarity kit with leaflets and posters to print out ([www.menasolidaritynetwork.com](http://www.menasolidaritynetwork.com))
- Pass a resolution in your union branch condemning the anti-protest law
- Send a letter of protest to the Egyptian embassy, 26 South Street, London, W1K 1DW

## About MENA Solidarity

MENA Solidarity Network's campaigns take inspiration from workers' struggles in the Arab world back into the trade unions here in order to strengthen our own strikes and protests. We are supported by three national trade unions, NUT, PCS and UCU, plus a number of trades councils and union branches. Our steering committee includes MPs John McDonnell and Katy Clark, and activists from the NUT, NUJ, RMT, UCU, UNITE and BMA.

**Get involved – contact us if you'd like a speaker for your union branch meeting or to find out how you can help our campaigns**