

# Tunisia: Solidarity from teachers' unions for striking UK colleagues

Colleagues from the teachers' unions in Tunisia sent MENA Solidarity a copy of the following message which they have sent to the NUT and NASUWT teachers' unions in the UK in solidarity with their ongoing strikes to defend their pay and pensions. Go to [www.menasolidaritynetwork.com](http://www.menasolidaritynetwork.com) to find details of how you can show your solidarity with teachers in Tunisia.

Dear friends and comrades,  
The Tunisian trade union of secondary school teachers would like to show solidarity with the NUT and NASUWT strikes of 1st and 17th of October.

We consider that your struggle against the attacks on national pay, working conditions and pension is very similar to the struggle we are leading in Tunisia. The demands you are raising show that the neoliberal attacks against education are reaching equally the countries of the North and the South.

Long live the solidarity between teachers! Long live the international solidarity between teachers' trade unions!

Lasaad Alyakoubi,  
General Secretary of the Tunisian trade union of secondary school teachers,  
UGTT (The Tunisian Trade Unions Federation)

## 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. NUT Conference last year voted to affiliate to MENA Solidarity.

We've been active since 2011 in mobilising solidarity for teachers' struggles in the wake of the Arab revolutions, organising campaigns in support of jailed Bahraini teachers' leaders Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi Abu-Deeb, and building links with Tunisian teaching union activists.

**Why not get your union branch to affiliate?**  
Find out more online.



## Egypt: Sacked workers occupy Minister's office

Dozens of workers occupied Egyptian Minister of Labour Kamal Abu Aita's office on 3 October in protest at the failure to pay them promised hardship funds. The workers, who were sacked by Kabu Textiles, Alexandria Cement, Petrojet, Cadbury and Shibin Spinning, had organised a protest outside the Ministry of Labour, calling for their reinstatement.

Until July this year, Abu Aita was head of the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, but took a ministerial post in the government appointed by the military following the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi.



## Sudan: Austerity policies spark massive protests

Protests spread across Sudan during the last week in September over cuts to fuel subsidies imposed by the regime of Omar al-Bashir. Thousands of demonstrators marched in the street chanting "Freedom" – *hurriya*. They were met with brutal force by the Sudanese authorities, with at least 50 shot dead by the police according to Amnesty International.

- **Send a letter of protest to the Sudanese Embassy** demanding that the Sudanese authorities end the repression of protests and in particular end their 'shoot-to-kill' policy. If you are in the UK write to: Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row, St James's, London SW1A 1DD

