

Solidarity resolution passed at the November 2014 meeting of Oxford and District Trades Council

'On 29 October 2014, Morocco saw a historic day for the organised workers. For the first time in a very long time all major unions (UMT, CDT, FDT, UGTM) joined forces in an unprecedented general strike that has forced the country to a standstill for 24 hours. Nearly half a million people joined the strike from across all fields, including commercial sectors.

'We, the Oxford & District Trades Union Council, express our solidarity with the Moroccan trade unions and take inspiration from their general strike. We share their worry about the way the unions have been sidelined by the unelected and handpicked Economic Social and Environmental Council, through which the government plans to conduct new negotiations, including regarding pension reforms. It is a universal right for workers to organise themselves, and for trade unions to represent the will of workers and liaise directly with the government.

'We are also concerned about the increasing number of political prisoners in Morocco, including outspoken trade union activists. We echo the demand to release Wafa Charraf, Abubaker Khamlichi and many others who are facing harsh sentences for speaking out against injustice and protesting for freedom and equality.'

Oxford & District Trades Union Council, UK