

Syrian teacher: 'no to state violence, no to sectarianism, workers' rights above all'

Workers in Syria are starting to rebuild independent organizations after years of dictatorship in a situation where ordinary people are now under huge attacks from the regime which seized power in December 2024.

The collapse of the Assad dictatorship in the face of a military offensive by Islamist groups led by HTS was met with relief and joy by many Syrians, however the new government has quickly turned towards similar authoritarian tactics as the old regime.

It has also unleashed a wave of huge job cuts across the public sector under the cover of removing 'old regime elements' and creating 'efficient' public services.

In addition, armed militias which are part of the new regime's security forces have carried out sectarian massacres and ramped up reactionary rhetoric opposing women's rights and LGBT+ rights.

But there is resistance: newly-formed independent workers' committees in Syria organised demonstrations and vigils across the country on 15 February protest at caretaker government's decision to sack thousands of public sector employees, and in response to the spiralling cost of living which is pushing millions of Syrians deeper into poverty.

Rallies took place on 15 February in Damascus, Aleppo, Suwayda, Latakia and Homs.

The protests follow an initiative launched by the Workers' Association for Democratic Change calling for the formation of peaceful democratic labour coordination committees in response to the worsening economic crisis, the erosion of workers' rights, and the devastating impact of neoliberal policies on the working class.

Read a full report online at www.menasolidaritynetwork.com



Syrian trade unionists protest on 15 February against mass job cuts | Photo: RLC on Facebook

A message from Salma, an English teacher in Syria

Syria's workers are writing a new chapter in their country's history, three months after the fall of the dictatorship, they are facing a new enemy, which is an economic system designed to keep them poor and powerless. The facts speak for themselves: wages unpaid for months, mass lay-offs without any reason, life-saving subsidies eliminated and prices doubling over night. At first workers protested alone - a factory here, a hospital there. But they soon realised the truth - divided they would starve, and united they could fight back.

The old regime's puppet trade unions have become battlegrounds. Workers are reclaiming these organisations, turning them into real weapons for their struggle. As one of our comrades says, 'we have no experience in unions, the dictatorship erased that, but we have rage and we are learning'.

February 15 marked a turning point across Syria. From Damascus to Aleppo, from Latakia to Sweida,

workers marched under one banner: 'no pay, no work'. The very people who kept Syria running during the war are now shutting it down to demand their rights. And the challenges are enormous: new bosses replacing old ones, sectarianism used to divide us and foreign powers circling like vultures.

But the workers' movement has an answer. The Revolutionary Left Current and other groups are building unity across all divisions, their message is clear - no to state violence, no to sectarianism, and workers' rights above all. So this isn't just about Syria, when workers anywhere are crushed, we all lose, and they rise up, we all win. Their fight is our fight.

- **Salma sent a recorded message to share with delegates at the MENA Solidarity fringe meeting at NEU conference 2025**
- **Send a solidarity message to Syrian workers via action@menasolidaritynetwork.net**

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