



Solidarity Statement from Sudanese Workers and Demands-Based Campaigns to Bin Workers in Britain

Greetings to you as you raise the banner of workers' dignity in the face of repression and impoverishment.

We address you today on behalf of the bin workers in Sudan, who have fought their just battles in the streets and squares of our capital, Khartoum. We send our militant greetings and full, unconditional solidarity with your legitimate strike against attempts to reduce wages and dismantle your gains under the guise of restructuring and hidden austerity.

We have followed with admiration your resilience in the face of the City Council's attempts, under the Labour government, to abolish the role of "Waste Recycling and Collection Officer" — a decision your union, Unite the Union, rightly recognises as merely a step to cut wages and undermine working conditions. We know very well that when the authorities fail to confront organised workers, they resort to their old tools: the police, defamation, oppressive laws, or even talk of military intervention to collect waste. We have witnessed the same in Sudan when the police were called to break our strikes, and we were replaced by private companies to break our unity — desperate attempts by the state to sow fear and division.

We know this kind of class war all too well: an undeclared war waged through hunger, arbitrary deductions, dismissals, and discrimination against women workers — denying them maternity and caregiving leave. We have seen how the authorities strip us of our rights to contracts, insurance, and workplace safety, even as we clean the very streets through which the state boasts of its "civilised" image — built on our sweat and broken bodies.

We must also highlight how the ongoing war in Sudan has deepened the suffering of bin workers and worsened already dire conditions. Many of them have lost contact, and their whereabouts and living conditions are unknown. Fears are growing over their fate amid reports of brutal killings in areas that witnessed intense fighting. The complete absence of information about them in the chaos and destruction makes their cause not only a labour demand but also a humanitarian and moral priority.

The solidarity between bin workers in the Global South and Global North is not just an emotional act — it is a necessary step in a shared struggle. Austerity, racism, and union-busting are global policies aimed at weakening the power of the working class.

The fightback begins with organisation, coordination, consciousness, and the tearing down of artificial borders between workers here and there.

We stand with you, and we say: there is no going back. You are not alone. Your voices reach us. Just as bin workers in Sudan — without an official union — organised their own committees by hand and seized their right to organise, we see you continuing on this path with resilience and awareness.

Long live your struggle.

Long live international solidarity.

Glory to the workers — everywhere, at all times.

- 1 The Sudanese Workers Alliance for the Restoration of Trade Unions (SWARTU)
- 2 The Demands-Based Campaigns (TAM)

On behalf of the Bin Workers' Strike and Negotiation Committees – Sudan 6 May 2025