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Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
President
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The Palestinian Authority

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TUR/JS

30 January 2007

Rocket attack against Deputy General Secretary of the PGFTU

Dear President,

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 304 affiliated member organisations, with a total membership of 168 million workers in 153 countries and territories, including Palestine, I strongly condemn the rocket attack on the house of Deputy Secretary General of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU), Rasem Al Bayari.

The ITUC has been informed by its affiliate the PGFTU that gunmen attacked Mr. Al Bayari's home at 2.15 am on 29 January 2007. The gunmen fired two rockets against his house, destroying the doors and the entrance to the building. Mr. Al Bayari and his family only survived the attack as they were asleep on the upper floor of the residence.

At 2.30 am today shots and bombs were again fired at the house, which is now completely damaged, leaving Mr. Al Bayari and his family without proper shelter. Mr. Al Bayari now fears for his life, but unfortunately he and his family have had to stay in their house with only a small number of security people for their protection.

The ITUC already wrote to express its deep concern when the headquarters of the PGFTU was attacked on 12 October 2006. These continued attacks against the trade union movement in Palestine are grave violations of fundamental human and trade union rights. The ITUC is especially concerned about the very grave threat to the safety of Mr. Al Bayari and his family.

The Palestinian Authority, as a responsible Authority, must uphold internationally recognised rights, including full respect for fundamental human rights of workers, such as their right to life.

The ITUC urges you to immediately ensure the safety of Mr. Al Bayari and his family and prevent further attacks on his home. We urge you to order a thorough investigation into the rocket attacks and the shooting, to bring the perpetrators of this serious crime to justice and to ensure proper compensation to Mr. Al Bayari and his family for the destruction of their home.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary