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The Palestinian Authority

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TUR/JS

2 February 2007

PGFTU Headquarters bombed

Dear President,

Only three days ago, I wrote to you to condemn the rocket attack on the home of Deputy Secretary General of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) and I am now obliged to write to you again to protest in the strongest possible terms against the bombing of the headquarters of the PGFTU.

The ITUC has been informed that the PGFTU headquarters were attacked early this morning. The main entrance of the building was bombed and the radio station in the building (the Voice of Workers) was burnt down. Fortunately nobody was in the building when the attack took place.

This is not the first time that the headquarters and the union's means of communication have been targeted. A similar incident took place on 12 October. The ITUC is very concerned about these continued attacks, and considers it to be pure chance that nobody has been injured or killed despite the very violent nature of the attacks.

It is totally unacceptable that peaceful trade unionists, working hard to promote the rights of workers, must work and live in fear of their lives and that of their family members. The ITUC has already written to remind you that such attacks are very grave violations of fundamental human and trade union rights, and that the Palestinian Authority has a duty to ensure the personal safety of all trade unionists in accordance with internationally recognised rights, namely the right to life and freedom of association.

The ITUC urges you to immediately take all necessary measures to ensure the full safety of all PGFTU trade union officials, activists, members and their families. We also urge you to ensure respect for the premises and all other property of the PGFTU. We urge you to immediately order a thorough investigation into this attack and the recent attacks against the home of Mr. Al Bayari and to bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice. The PGFTU and Mr. Al Bayari should be given proper compensation for the damages caused.

I thank you for your prompt attention to this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

Cc.: Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Ismail Haniya