

SHARAN BURROW
PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENTE
PRÄSIDENTIN
PRESIDENTA

GUY RYDER
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
GENERALSEKRETÄR
SECRETARIO GENERAL

Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
President
Palestinian National Authority

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GS/km

10 July 2007

Dear Mr. President,

We have learned today, with deep concern, of the kidnapping today of our colleague Shaher Sa'ed, General Secretary of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) and member of the General Council of the International Trade Union Confederation.


He was taken by masked gunmen from a restaurant in Nablus and held by them for half an hour during which they threatened him and tried, without success, to force him to resign from his PGFTU and civil society functions.

Brother Sa'ed was released after having made clear his refusal to be intimidated and his determination to continue his trade union work. His ITUC colleagues, representing 168 million workers in 153 countries salute his courage, and reiterate their solidarity with him and with all those seeking to carry on independent trade unionism activity in the extremely difficult conditions prevailing in Palestine.

At the same time, Mr. President, the ITUC calls upon you to provide guarantees for the safety of Brother Sa'ed and to do all within your power to ensure that trade unionism, which is an essential part of the building of a democratic and independent state of Palestine, can be undertaken free of the threat of violence or coercion.

We look forward to receiving your response on this critically important matter.

Yours sincerely,



A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Ryder".

**ITUC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CSI CONFÉDÉRATION
SYNDICALE INTERNATIONALE
CSI CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL INTERNACIONAL IGB INTERNATIONALER
GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND**

General Secretary