



ITUC International Trade Union Confederation
CSI Confédération syndicale internationale
CSI Confederación Sindical Internacional
IGB Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Mr. Mustafa Al-Kazemi

Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

Copy to:

Mr. Adel Al-Rikabi

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/MG

30 October 2020

The ITUC denounces the government institutionalization of trade union monopoly in Iraq

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 200 million workers globally, to denounce the Ministry of Labour's letter No. 11367 of 12 October 2020, imposing a trade union monopoly in Iraq.

The letter issued by the Ministry of Labour instructs government administrative bodies not to deal with unions other than the officially recognised General Federation of Iraqi Workers.

We would like to remind you that the ILO Conventions 87 and 98, ratified by Iraq, fully protect the principle of trade union pluralism. This principle is grounded in the right of workers to establish organisations of their own choosing, independently and without interference from the public authorities, and in the right to choose the organisation which shall represent them in the collective negotiations. Accordingly, any trade union monopoly imposed by law or practice contravenes the provisions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

We would also like to remind you that the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) has repeatedly recalled the need to repeal the Trade Union Organization Act No. 52 of 1987 and to ensure that the Iraqi law is fully compliant with the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining protected by the ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

Therefore, the ITUC calls on you to immediately withdraw Letter No. 11367 and to ensure that workers are free to establish organisations for the defence of their rights and to choose the organisation which shall represent them in relation to negotiations with government administrative bodies. We also call on you to ensure that the Iraqi law is aligned with the provisions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

We recall that the Iraqi Government is bound to report to the Committee of Experts on the status of application of ILO Convention 87 in 2021, therefore we urge the Government to take all necessary steps to comply with its reporting obligations, including by ensuring effective consultations with representative trade union organisations.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

General Secretary