



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

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

H.E. Dr Abdalla Hamdok

Prime Minister
C/o Embassy of Sudan, Brussels
F.D Rooseveltlaan, 124
1050 ELSENE

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/ZM

29 March 2021

The ITUC welcomes the ratification of ILO Conventions and demands for respect for workers' right to freedom of association

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 200 million workers in 163 countries including Sudan, to congratulate you and your country for ratifying the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 on 17 March 2021, together with the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)

While noting the commitment by Sudan to join the international community in ending forced labour and its various forms, we remain worried about the failure by your government to implement both in law and in practice the principles of the conventions on Freedom of Association, Collective Bargaining and Tripartism.

As you may be aware, freedom of association and the right to organise are enabling rights without which it is impossible to end slavery. There cannot be freedom without allowing workers to build collective representation. National anti-slavery action plans as required by P29 can only be effective when they are negotiated among social partners through tripartite consultation. These conventions are central to ending forced labour.

As stated in our previous communications, your government must stop the arrests, detention and intimidation of independent trade unions in particular the Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF) and its affiliates that were dissolved on 17 December 2019. The government must restore their status including a stop to the acquisition of trade union property and allow them to operate in an environment that is free from harassment to enable them to engage with your government in the implementation of P29.

We welcome your commitment to end slavery but urge your government to end the persecution of trade unions without further delay. Failure to do so constitutes a blatant violation of the international legal obligations enshrined in these conventions recently ratified by Sudan. We look further to your cooperation in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary

cc: The Director General, International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly
and of Association
African Union Commission
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
The European Union (EU)
Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTF)