

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Mr. Ahmad Awad Bin Mubarak
Minister of Foreign Affairs and expatriates
Republic of Yemen
By email

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/MG

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The ITUC renews its support to the GFYTU and denounces the government's interference.

Dear Minister,

The ITUC, representing 200 million workers across 163 countries and territories around the world, including Yemen, expresses our strong disappointment at the Government of Yemen's ongoing interference in internal trade union affairs and discrimination against our affiliate, the General Federation of Yemeni Trade Unions.

We have recently recorded several cases of abuses of freedom of association in Yemen. These include substantial government interference in the internal affairs of the General Federation of Yemeni Trade Unions including property confiscation and anti-union discrimination, as well as formation of unions that are effectively answerable to government parties. We would like to remind the Government of Yemen that these practices are a stark violation of local laws and regulations as well as of ILO Conventions No.87 on Freedom of Association and the Right to Organize, and ILO Convention No.98 on Collective Bargaining.

Today we fully reaffirm our support to the General Federation of Yemeni Trade Unions and its legitimate leadership in the face of the illegal measures taken by your government through the Ministry of Social Affairs and through establishing parallel entities to the General Federation of Yemeni Trade Unions and its elected leadership.

We are well aware of what Yemen is going through because of its six-year long war, in addition to the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused the collapse of the humanitarian situation and increased the suffering of workers. This situation requires concerted efforts to engage in an effective social dialogue between your government and the rest of the representative social partners to find solutions for the complicated social issues.

We trust that the Yemeni government will take the necessary measures to respect international laws and treaties regarding freedom of association and cease interference in the internal affairs of trade union organisations. We also hope that the armed conflict in Yemen will be brought to an end as soon as possible, in order to enable engagement in peace building in Yemen based on social justice, democracy and dignity.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary