

Akiko Gono

President
Présidente
Präsidentin
Presidenta

Luc Triangle

General Secretary
Secrétaire général
Generalsekretär
Secretario General

HE, Dr. William Samoei Ruto

**The President of the Republic of Kenya and
Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces
State House
P.O. Box 40528
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: info@headofpublicservice.go.ke**

HTUR/ZM

07 March 2024

ITUC condemns the brutal attack on Dr. Davji Attallah, Secretary General of KMPDU

Dear President Ruto,

I write on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) which represents 191m workers in 169 countries, including Kenya, to condemn the brutal attack of Dr Davji Atallah, Secretary General of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) by the security forces in your country. I had the pleasure to meet you during the ITUC-Africa Congress in Nairobi last November.

The ITUC is reliably informed by its affiliate union, the Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) that Dr Davji Atallah was shot in the head on 28 February 2024 by security forces during a peaceful demonstration to the Treasury offices. The protest called for the release of funds allocated to the Deployment of Health for both the recruitment of medical interns and payment of the educational fees of postgraduate medical students. These young medics signify an essential part of the country's health care system. As a result of the shooting, Dr. Davji suffered severe head injuries that resulted in his hospitalisation. Scores of other protestors were injured in the stampede that followed the gunshots.

Mr President, we condemn the reckless use of firearms by the security forces against innocent civilians exercising their constitutional and internationally recognised rights. The Republic of Kenya ratified several human rights instruments that include the United Nations' Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 1948 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981. These instruments guarantee the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The ITUC reiterates the principles outlined in the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association which state that the right to petition is a legitimate activity of the trade union and should not be unjustly obstructed.

The ITUC calls upon your government to respect human rights and bring to justice the security forces' personnel who disrupted a legitimate protest action taken by its members and resulted in the severe injuries of the KMPDU Secretary General. We look forward to working closely with your government to promote and respect good industrial relations throughout Kenya.

Yours sincerely,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary

cc: Hon. Florence Bore, Minister of Labour and Social Protection cs@labour.go.ke

cc: Dr. Francis Atwoli, Secretary General, Central Organisation of Trade Unions info@cotu-kenya.org

cc: Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Kingdom of Belgium info@kenyabrussels.com