

MICHAEL SOMMER
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SHARAN BURROW
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN
SECRETARIA GENERAL

H.M. KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA
Manana
Kingdom of Bahrain

E-mail: info@mofa.gov.bh

GS/TN/km

7 April 2011

H.M. King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa,

The International Trade Union Confederation, which represents 175 million workers from 305 member organisations in 151 countries and territories, is gravely concerned at the actions of the Government of Bahrain in forcing the dismissal of some 1,300 workers due to their participation in legitimate trade union activity, and at the other specific violations of international law being perpetrated against the Bahraini trade union movement.

The actions of your government constitute flagrant breaches of Convention 87 on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation which your government, as an ILO member state, is obliged to respect, of ILO Convention 111 on Discrimination which Bahrain has ratified, and further violate fundamental human rights standards of the United Nations.

These actions, following the bloody repression of legitimate and peaceful demonstrations by Bahraini and foreign security forces, are already causing serious damage to Bahrain's international reputation and its economic interests. Given your country's dependence on international economic relations, and the growing international dismay and condemnation of your government's actions, any continuation of this unacceptable repression will cause even further and deeper damage to Bahrain's economy and reputation.

The ITUC, the Global Union Federations and national affiliates across the world affirm our total and unwavering support to and solidarity with the trade union movement of Bahrain. We call upon you as a matter of the utmost priority and urgency to immediately cease the repression against the working people of Bahrain and their trade union movement, to ensure the immediate reinstatement of all those who have been dismissed unjustly and for political reasons and to halt all legal proceedings against workers for exercising their legitimate rights to take part in trade union activity.

The international trade union movement will continue to monitor developments in Bahrain closely and continuously, and will not hesitate to conduct further global action in defence of Bahrain's working people and in ensuring respect for universal

human rights. We urge you to exercise your authority in the best interests of the people of Bahrain in full conformity with international law, and pursue the path of dialogue and reconciliation with the trade union movement of Bahrain instead of the current policy of confrontation and repression.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. R.' followed by a long, flowing horizontal stroke that ends in a small loop.

General Secretary