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HTUR/MD

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Death of Sheriff Diba Gambian union leader

Mr. President,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) which represents 180 million members in 162 countries and territories including Gambia, was informed the death on 21 February 2016 of Sheriff Diba, leader of the Gambian National Transport Control Association (GNTCA) while he was in detention in the Mile 2 Prison in Banjul.

Sheriff Diba was arrested with other leaders of the GNTCA during a protest action in favour of a reduction in the price of fuel.

The conditions in which Sheriff Diba's death occurred are still unclear but it was widely reported that it was result of abuse and torture received in the offices of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) of Gambia, which is well-known for horrifying violence against human rights defenders in the country.

The ITUC and the millions of workers it represents throughout the world strongly condemn the death of Sheriff Diba and call upon the Gambian government to ensure a full and transparent investigation to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

The ITUC also calls upon the Gambian government to lift all arbitrary and illegal measures concerning the dissolution of the GNTCA and prohibition of its activities and to withdraw all legal proceedings against the leaders and members of the GNTCA.

The ITUC will closely follow further developments in this case and other instances of violations of trade union and other human rights.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

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