

**Ayuba Wabba**

President  
Président  
Präsident  
Presidente

**His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein**  
**Royal Hashemite Court**  
**Amman**  
**Jordan**

**Sharan Burrow**

General Secretary  
Secrétaire générale  
Generalsekretärin  
Secretaria General

**HTUR**

**3 August 2020**

**Recent attacks against Jordanian Teachers Syndicate**

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the 200 million members of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), including in Jordan, we write to denounce the recent attacks against the Jordanian Teachers Syndicate (JTS).

We were informed that on 25 July 2020, the Jordanian Police raided and closed the JTS headquarters in Amman as well as 11 local branch offices across the country and arrested all 13 board members. This followed an order to close the union offices for two years, issued by the Attorney General Hassan al-Abdallat. Earlier, he had already suspended the union's council to replace it by an unelected one. However, the 2011 Jordanian Teachers Syndicate Law states that the union can only be dissolved by a vote of two-thirds of the members of its central committee or by judicial order. The Attorney General does not have the authority to issue judicial orders under Jordanian law. Reportedly, the arrested union leaders were not allowed to have family visits for a long time, not even for the delivery of critical medication. In combination with their hunger strike against the injustice of their arrest, this has led to the deterioration of their health condition and the urgent hospitalisation of Dr. Nasser Nawasrah, the Deputy President, Mutasem Bishtawi, National Council Secretary and Council Member Abedalsalam Alayasrah. Noor Eddin Nadeem, the Association's Spokesperson, suffers from a heart condition and was admitted to intensive care.

On 29 July 2020, while the teachers organised a peaceful protest in Amman to denounce this undue interference in trade union affairs, they were faced with violence and disproportionate use of force by the police. Almost 500 teachers were arrested, and further arrests continue to date.

In addition, the Attorney General has issued a comprehensive gag order on all reporting about the situation, including sharing content or commenting on social media.

Your Majesty, we wish to emphasise that the right to freedom of association is an international human right protected by the Constitution of Jordan as well as international treaties to which Jordan is a party. Both the government interference in the union and the violent suppression of a peaceful protest are serious violations of the right to freedom of association. Denying the public and union members to discuss these issues is a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression which is essential to the functioning of independent trade unions.

Following their unlawful arrest, their ill treatment and hunger strike, the health and even lives of some of the union leaders is in imminent danger and we will hold the Jordanian government to account for their well-being.

We, therefore, call for your immediate intervention to release the arrested teachers and JTS council

members as a matter of urgency; to annul the Attorney General's order to dissolve the JTS; and to refrain from further attacks and harassment of the JTS and its members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.' followed by a stylized flourish.

General Secretary