

## ITUC Statement

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### ITUC stands in solidarity with FENASOL Lebanon

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 191 million workers and 337 national affiliates, including FENASOL Lebanon, strongly condemns the legal action taken against Castro Abdallah, the President of the National Federation of Workers and Employees' Trade Unions (FENASOL).

On 3 October and at the request of the police, Mr. Abdallah, presented himself at a police station as part of investigations into allegations of having incited workers at the MAN Enterprise Company. The allegations were made by MAN Enterprise Company after FENASOL was approached by workers at the construction company, who sought union support in demanding their rights.

The workers approached FENASOL following incidents at work in which they were forced to sign contract terminations by management, had payments for overtime hours withheld, and where adequate health care was neglected following workplace accidents.

Police investigations into the legitimate exercise of workers' rights, particularly their right to join a union freely and independently, violates the principles of Freedom of Association of the ILO.

The right to engage in union activities is a cornerstone of a democratic society and any efforts to hinder or intimidate workers and their leaders or to criminalise the exercise of these rights is contrary to international human rights and Lebanese labour laws.

We implore the Ministry of Labor to uphold its responsibility, to conduct thorough inspections regarding this matter and to call an end to such labour rights abuses. It is imperative that workers are provided with safe, fair, and dignified working conditions, free from exploitation and mistreatment.

We call upon the Lebanese authorities to drop all charges against Castro Abdallah for exercising trade union rights and to fulfil their commitment to international labour standards.

HTUR/WR/03 October 2023