

Our ref:

Your ref:



H.E the Ambassador of Iraq
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24 February 2010

Your Excellency,

Interference in the internal democracy of the Iraqi Teachers' Union

I write to express my concern at the recent interference by the government of Iraq in the internal elections of the Iraqi Teachers' Union (ITU).

I understand that last year your government sought to impose a structure on the ITU to oversee internal elections despite the fact that the leadership of the union had recently been elected by a legitimate and democratically convened conference in December 2007. The ITU filed for and won a court injunction against this action on 7 May 2009. The Deputy Prime Minister Rafie al-Issawi subsequently met up with ITU leadership and came up with set of recommendations that were then approved by the council of ministers.

Despite this, I now understand that your government has ignored its own decision and has recently imposed new elections on the union, barring the existing leadership from standing and by-passing the union's democratic structures

UNISON strongly condemns these actions and wishes to remind you that they are in contravention of your government's obligations as a signatory to the International Labour Organisation's conventions on freedom of association

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Prentis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Prentis
General Secretary

cc The Rt Hon David Milliband MP, Foreign Secretary

