

Our ref:

Your ref:



His Excellency Hosni Mubarak  
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2 May 2007

Dear President Mubarak

UNISON, which represents almost 1.4 million workers in public services in the UK, is very concerned to hear about your Government's recent decision to shut down the *Centre for Trade Union and Worker Services* (CTUWS) branch in Naj' Hamadi (Qena Governorate) and the intimidation of CTUWS staff in the Mahalla City branch office. CTUWS is an independent civil society organization committed to defending workers' rights in Egypt. The organisation has earned itself considerable respect in the international trade union movement for its active role in providing support to Egyptian workers struggling for the respect of fundamental labour standards particularly amongst vulnerable workers in the informal economy and women workers. UNISON is proud to have funded the CTUWS to promote workers' rights, a legitimate activity in a country which is a member of the United Nations.

Egypt is a leader in the Arab world and your Government can be a role model as a protector of the right to freedom of association and other fundamental human rights, including freedom of assembly and expression: rights which are guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Your country's recent attendance at the UN Committee on Migrant Workers in Geneva is testament to the role that Egypt can play on the world stage. The right for the CTUWS to freely conduct its work to protect and advocate for workers' rights is something that the Egyptian government should be eager to protect and could legitimately be proud of.

On behalf of UNISON, I urge you to issue instructions to the relevant governmental bodies to rescind the restrictions and other measures imposed on the CTUWS, as a positive sign of your Government's commitment to international labour and human rights.

Yours sincerely



Dave Prentis  
General Secretary

c.c

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