

UNITED FOR A JUST FUTURE

IndustriALL Global Union 3rd Congress
14-15 September 2021

Solidarity with Algerian free and democratic trade unions

Since February 2019, the popular protests in Algeria, known as Hirak Movement, continue to fight for democracy, for a democratic state and society demanding their fundamental human rights in a peaceful manner. Democratic trade unions are at the forefront of this movement. The Algerian government continues to pursue harsh attacks against Hirak movement militants in general, but particularly against the leaders of free and democratic trade unions.

The government retaliates against the free trade unions, as they are actively involved in the popular movement through general strikes and actions. Algerian free and democratic trade unions have been conducting their actions and activities for years in a repressive environment suffering intimidation, arbitrary imprisonment and torture. Thousands of union militants were sacked from their jobs, dozens of people sentenced to be in prison for undefined long periods.

The criminalization of protest and of the fundamental right to organize and perform trade union activities is regular practice of the Algerian government in violation of international conventions. Militants of Hirak movement and democratic unions are accused with terrorism charges, and recently there is a very worrying escalation aiming to wipe out all civil society movements, particularly democratic trade unions in Algeria.

The latest case in this regard is about the trade union leader Ramzi Dardar from IndustriALL's affiliate Industrial Workers' Union of Algeria. On 31 June 2021, the security forces arrested him and the criminal court decided to place an arrest warrant against him accusing him of belonging to a terrorist organization, and of conveying a speech of hatred and attacking national unity.

IndustriALL Global Union, together with other global unions, appealed to the ILO to carry out an urgent intervention vis-a-vis the Algerian government demanding the immediate release of Ramzi Dardar and to drop all the charges against him. In response, the Algerian government moved Ramzi Dardar to the death row in the basement.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union's third Congress on 14-15 September 2021:

- Strongly condemns the Algerian government's continuous criminalization of the right to organize and to perform trade union activities, as well as the repression against free and democratic trade unions;
- Urges the Algerian government to comply with the resolutions of the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards and Conventions to stop violating ratified international conventions;
- Expresses its solidarity and support for the Algerian movement for democracy and the free and democratic trade unions, in particular its affiliates UAE and SNATEG;
- Calls on the Algerian government to release immediately all Hirak movement activists and trade union leaders, in particular Ramzi Dardar.