**President Kais Saied,**

**Palace of Carthage,**

**Tunis, Tunisia.**

Date

Dear Mr President,

**Call for the preservation of democracy and respect for human and trade union rights in Tunisia.**

I’m writing on behalf of our organisation - [name of your organisation], to express our grave concern about the ongoing attacks on democracy, shrinking civic space, and the persecution of trade unionists in Tunisia. Recent events in the country have led us to believe that there is an urgent need for your government to take action to restore democracy and protect the rights of all Tunisians.

We are deeply troubled by the arbitrary arrests and detention of trade unionists in Tunisia, including the recent arrest of Anis Kaabi, the General Secretary of the highways branch of the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT). Kaabi was arrested over a strike by toll booth workers and is yet to be released. These actions violate the fundamental rights of workers, as enshrined in the Tunisian Labour Act and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 87 on freedom of association, which Tunisia has ratified.

The shrinking civic space is also a cause for concern. The right to freedom of expression and assembly are essential components of any functioning democracy. However, we have seen increasing attempts by your government to restrict these rights, including the arrests of protesters and trade unionists for peacefully exercising their rights.

Further, we are deeply troubled by the recent expulsion of Sister Esther Lynch, the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), from Tunisia. This has been followed by the government’s refusal to allow an international trade union delegation to undertake a solidarity visit to the UGTT at the beginning of March. These actions demonstrate a further decline in the democratic credentials of Tunisia that must be halted.

We, therefore, call on your government to take immediate action to address these concerns. We urge you to:

1. Release all detained trade unionists, including Anis Kaabi, without conditions, and drop all charges against them.
2. Ensure that trade unionists can exercise their rights without fear of harassment, intimidation, or violence.
3. Respect and protect freedom of expression and assembly, and immediately cease all attempts to restrict these fundamental rights.
4. Reinstate the dismissed government and restore democratic institutions, including the Parliament.
5. Respect and uphold the Tunisian constitution, which guarantees freedom of association and peaceful assembly.
6. Investigate all alleged attacks against trade unionists and sanction them accordingly.
7. Respect the rights of international trade union organisations to engage with their Tunisian counterparts.

We believe these actions are crucial to restoring democracy and protecting the rights of all Tunisians. We urge you to take swift and decisive action to address these issues.

Yours sincerely,

**Signature**

**[Name of your Secretary General],**

**[Name of your Organisation].**

cc: United Nations Human Rights Council: InfoDesk@ohchr.org

cc United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association: civilsociety@ohchr.org

cc: The African Union Commission: chairperson@africa-union.org

cc: African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR): au-banjul@africa-union.org