



6<sup>th</sup> August, 2008

## PRESS STATEMENT

### **The ITUC-Africa strongly condemns the Coup in Mauritania**

The International Trade Union Confederation – African Regional Organisation (ITUC-Africa) notes with dismay, the anti-democratic action that has visited Mauritania following a coup d'état staged by some elements of the Mauritanian Armed Forces, toppling the democratically elected government of H. E. President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008. President Abdallahi and his Prime Minister, Yahia Ould Ahmed El-Ouakef have been detained by the coup makers.

The ITUC-Africa views this anti-democratic action as most unfortunate. It is illegal and is in contravention with the values and principles of the African Union (AU). If anything, it represents a return to dictatorship that will again rain anarchy on the people of Mauritania.

As such, the ITUC-Africa strongly condemns the coup and demands the immediate release and reinstatement of President Abdallahi and his Prime Minister and the return of the country to constitutional rule.

The ITUC-Africa calls on the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and the rest of the International Community not to recognise or have any dealings with the junta in Mauritania. The ITUC-Africa also urges the UN Security Council to impose stiffer economic sanctions, arm embargo, land, sea, and air blockage on Mauritania until the junta hands over power to President Abdallahi.

The ITUC-Africa also calls on all its affiliates to condemn the coup in Mauritania and to closely monitor the situation in that beleaguered country.

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General Secretary