



Mody GUIRO

President

Président

Kwasi ADU-AMANKWAH

General Secretary

Secrétaire Général

Route Internationale d'Atakpamé

Centre FOPADESC Agoè – Nyivé

B.P. : 4401 – Tel. : 00228 225 07 10

Fax: 00228 225 61 13

LOME - TOGO

Email : [info@ituc-africa.org](mailto:info@ituc-africa.org)

Web : [www.ituc-africa.org](http://www.ituc-africa.org)

Mr Abdalla Hamdok  
Prime Minister  
The Republic of Sudan  
Khartoum

17 April 2020

O/R: 251/2020/GS/AK

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

**Call for the immediate release of detained Trade Unionists in Sudan and cessation of all forms of harassment and interference in trade union operations**

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation ([www.ituc-africa.org](http://www.ituc-africa.org)) is very concerned about the ongoing repression and persecution against trade organisations and unionists in Sudan.

The pieces of information that have reached us indicate that, while the world is plunged into a severe health crisis caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Sudanese government seems not to be appropriately prioritising this development. We are concerned that the government is rather focused on harassing and breaching the human and labour rights of workers, a constituency that should be cultivated as a partner in the fight against the pandemic.

We are also informed that the legitimately elected representatives of the workers were arbitrarily prohibited from executing their mandates on account of Government's interference in union activities by imposing trade union representatives on the Sudanese workers. Further, we are disturbed that the Sudanese Transitional Government has forcefully taken over the assets of the Sudanese Workers' Trade Union Federation (SWTUF). We also find it unacceptable that anyone who tried to protest against these illegal acts was summarily imprisoned without due trial.

Further, we learnt that on April 13 2020, two trade union leaders, Mr. Abbas Mohammed Ahmed Habib Allah and Mr. Tarek Mahmoud President and Secretary General respectively of the National Education Union were arbitrarily arrested and put in jail. A third unionist was interviewed by the police before he was released.

ITUC-Africa strongly denounces these violations and the non-respect of trade union freedoms and human rights in Sudan. We strongly condemn the use of force to deprive workers of their right to freely organize and to confiscate their properties.

We call on the Sudanese government to take the necessary measures to end the incessant repression and interference in trade unions activities. We also call for the immediate and unconditional release of the trade union leaders detained. Charges against them should immediately be dropped.

Also, we join the global trade union movement's call on the government to respect workers position by reinstating the SWTUF with its full inalienable rights, including the right to freely conduct its administration and operations without let or hindrance. The confiscated assets of the SWTUF should also be fully and completely restored.

We further call on the Government of Sudan to end all acts of harassment and intimidation against citizens and human rights defenders and others who seek to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association, including the free exercise of trade union rights.

Finally, ITUC-Africa emphasizes the need for the Government of Sudan to prioritize dialogue and negotiations as sustainable ways to achieving enduring peace, security and the consolidation of the Sudanese people's revolution.



**Kwasi Adu-Amankwah**  
**General Secretary**