

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo

President
Federal Republic of Somalia
Mogadishu
Somalia
By email

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/ZM

5 October 2020

ITUC Demands Immediate Stop to Police Interference in Trade Union Activities

Dear Mr President,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents 200 million workers in 163 countries, including Somalia, to strongly condemn police interference in the activities of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) at FAVORI LLC company.

We are reliably informed that on 26 September 2020, workers at FAVORI LLC working at Aden Abdulle International Airport in Mogadishu embarked on a peaceful protest action against the illegal dismissal of one of their colleagues by the management of FAVORI LLC. The workers who protested are bona fide members of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU).

Representatives from our affiliate union, including the General Secretary, Mr Omar Faruk Osman, attended the protest action to assist the workers and management to resolve the dispute. They also attended an afternoon meeting at Decale Hotel, which was called by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, the Hon. Mohamed Abdullahi Salad (Omaar), who was accompanied by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, MP Sadiq Hirsi Warfa. The meeting was also attended by Mr Sadaq Omar Mohamed (Sadaq John), Commander General of the Banadir Regional Police.

Commander Sadaq John was the most outspoken during the meeting. He used threatening language against FESTU leadership and the workers' representatives. Among other things, he questioned the legitimacy of FESTU and announced on the spot that he was personally summoning FESTU's General Secretary, Omar Faruk Osman, to his office for criminal investigations. Furthermore, he threatened him, saying, "I know how to look for you", while alleging that he was sent by the President. Commander Sadaq John is further alleged to be intimidating workers at the company to resign from the union.

Mr President, we strongly condemn the threats issued by Commander Sadaq against workers' representatives undertaking their lawful duties to protect the rights and interests of workers. We believe the utterances are an abuse of power and a violation of the Federal Republic of Somalia's Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression, among other rights.

Furthermore, the right to strike is a fundamental right protected by your country's labour laws and article 3 of the International Labour Organization's Convention on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948, No. 87, ratified by your country in 2014.

We call upon your government to respect constitutional rights and your international obligations by not interfering in trade union activities; to stop issuing threats to trade union leaders and their members for engaging in trade union activities; and to respect the rights of FAVORI LLC workers to join and participate in trade union activities.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

cc: H.E. Mohamed Hussein Roble
Prime Minister
Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E. Sadik Hirsi Warfa
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Salad (Omaar)
Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation
Federal Republic of Somalia
Somali Police Force (SPF) Commissioner
Director General of National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA)