

Statement of Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) on Peshawer

Massacre (endorsed by the 14th ITUC General Council)

The PWF condemns the massacre of 142 persons, including 131 schoolchildren, in Peshawer. This is the latest and most horrible example of extremism in our country. All religions, including Islam, protect innocent children rather than slaughtering them; an outrageous act committed by the Taliban in the name of religion.

Such terrorism has cost lives, has generated fear among workers and citizens and has had a destructive effect on life in Pakistan. In addition to the direct human cost of extremism, Pakistan's workers have suffered from devastating social and economic damage; a dangerous side effect of terrorism. We support the action of the army of the Government of Pakistan to contain and overcome this threat by the Taliban in tribal areas. There is no alternative to a military response at this time.

The trade union movement and all people of good will must unite against extremism and terrorism in all of its forms. We call on the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the global trade union movement to support the workers and people of Pakistan in their struggle against the forces of extremism and terrorism. In addition to the military challenges, it is fundamental for the world to show solidarity to the people in Northern Pakistan who have suffered so much at the hands of extremists, including the destruction of their economy. Their desperation must be replaced with hope for better lives, for development, and for democracy.