



النقابة العامة للعاملين بالضرائب العقارية
عضو الاتحاد الدولي للخدمات العامة
Real Estate Tax Authority Union
Affiliated to Public Services International (PSI)

Mr. Guy Ryder

General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC),
5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, Bte 1
1210 Brussels
Belgium

Cairo, Tuesday, 30 June, 2009.

Dear Mr. Ryder,

On behalf of the Real Estate Tax Authority employees and members of the Real Estate Tax Authority (RETA) independent union, we would like to thank you for your solidarity with and support of our movement and struggle for realizing our legal rights and our independent union through the past years.

Our struggle and your support helped us to realize the most important part of our demands, which was establishing our independent union that lately has afflicted to the Public Services International (PSI). The members of our union are insisting still to keep it independent from the official trade union federation which is subject to the state. However, our struggle to keep this independence is undergoes the most difficult circumstances.

So far, the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF) and the National Trade Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Affairs (NTUBIFA) provoke the administrative and security authorities against our independent union. For instance, Mr. Hussein Megawer, the president of ETUF, sent a letter to Dr. Yusuf Butros Ghaly, the Minister of Finance, to whom the members of RETA union administratively fall under, to ask him not to deal with our independent union.

Moreover, Mr. Farouk Shehata El Awady, the president of NTUBIFA, asked Mr. Tarek Farrag, the chairman of the Real Estate Tax Authority to ignore our Union and to pursue its members.

Although the members of our union have resigned from NTUBIFA, subscription fees for NTUBIFA are still arbitrarily - with the cooperation of the administrative bodies - deducted from their salaries.

The official trade union organization exceeded all the trade union norms when it let its heads attack and beat members of our union. Mr. Mohamed Rukaya, a member of NTUBIFA, assaulted Mr. Ahmed Abul Yazeed el Shafe'l, the chairman of our independent union committee in Gharbiya Governorate. In Sharkiya Governorate, the treasurer of NTUBIFA committee there, Mr. Abdel Aziz Waly, assault Mr. Ahmed Abdel Sabour, the chairman of our independent union committee in the same governorate.

Trade unionists from both NTUBIFA and ETUF started to sue members of our independent union over financial corruption charges because they collect the subscription fees for our union without official permission, though all the union's financial activities, as our regulations stipulate, are supervised by our general assembly.

As if all the above is not enough, Mr. Hussein Megawer, the president of ETUF, continues his attacks against our union in every occasion. He accuses us unceasingly in order to force us to enter under his cloak.

On the other side, our Union faces great difficulties to exercise its role as a trade union organization representing 37.000 members. One of these difficulties is that the government, represented by the Minister of Finance, retreated from the agreements which were held with us after our strike of December 2007. The Ministry of Finance stopped to implement our other demands which remained unfulfilled.



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Because of conducting trade union activities, members of our independent union were referred for investigation before the administrative prosecution and the legal departments of their work sites. Those members are Mr. Tarek Mustafa, the treasurer of our union and the chairman of RETA union committee in Kalubiya Governorate, Mr. Abdel Nasser Sayed Mansour, the chairman of RETA union committee in Beni Suef Governorate, Mr. Hussein Kilany, the chairman of RETA union committee in Assiut Governorate, Mr. Ezzat Khaled, the chairman of RETA union committee in Qena Governorate, and Mr. Khaled Mubarak, the treasurer of RETA union committee in Aswan Governorate.

Quite a good number of our members are illegally called often to the State Security offices where they are intimidated. Some of our trade union leaders were arbitrarily transferred from their job sites to remote places. Mr. Atef Fathy, for example, was transferred to a location 180 kilometers far from his domicile and his family.

Confronted with these blatant violations of our right to have an independent trade union, we insist to continue the march which we have already started. We have full confidence in your support and your solidarity as usual.

With my sincere regards.

Kamal Abu Eita

Chairman of the Real Estate Tax Authority (RETA) Union.