



To the Iraqi labor movement

July 16, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I want to extend our solidarity and support to the diverse unions and labor federations in Iraq, representing thousands of workers across many industries and in every region of the country. Iraq's workers face increasing hardships as a result of the ongoing, and deteriorating, economic situation, which has been exacerbated by the conflicts of the past twelve years, not least of which is the current invasion of ISIS, which has resulted in mass displacement and the loss of jobs around the country.

The best chance Iraqi workers have for defending their rights and ensuring that economic development benefits Iraqi workers is forming independent, democratic unions. Representative unions are also essential for putting Iraq on the right path to democracy, as unions are the best vehicle through which workers can express their voices and advocate for their needs, including economic development that works for everyone.

For this reason, our organizations stand behind your federations and their many branches and affiliates and recognize your legitimacy under ILO conventions 87 and 98, which guarantee workers the right to choose their organizations and for worker organizations to be free of government interference. All workers have the right to choose the union they want to represent them and any limitations on that, or interference in the internal affairs of unions by the government or employers, constitutes a violation of freedom of association.

In Solidarity,

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Executive Director  
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Executive Secretary  
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