

Stand in solidarity with the revolutions in Algeria and Sudan

Trade unionists, MPs and campaigners launch international open letter

Dear comrade,

The revolutions in Sudan and Algeria are reaching a critical juncture. Millions have taken part in street protests and strikes over the past few months, bringing down dictators whose rule lasted decades. Yet the demands of the uprisings for real democratic change and social justice are still a long way from being fulfilled, as the military and security apparatus of the old regimes attempts to hold onto political power.

The question of solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are risking everything to fight for peace, freedom, social justice and democracy cannot be an abstract one. Governments around the world have empowered the regimes' repressive capacity, through supplying arms and equipment used for military and security purposes, and through cooperation around 'counter-terrorism' and border controls.

On international workers' day this year, we saw trade unionists attacked by the police in Algiers using tear gas as they attempted to march. Meanwhile in Sudan, the deputy head of the military junta, General Mohamed Dagalo of the notorious Rapid Support Forces militia, said the thousands of peaceful protesters including members of the independent unions affiliated with the Sudanese Professionals' Association were causing "chaos" which would no longer be tolerated.

Workers' organisations are fighting back. In Algeria, independent union federations launched a call for a general strike on the first day of Ramadan (7 May). Sudanese doctors have escalated their strike action, workers in Port Sudan and other groups of workers are joining protests and declaring their support for the revolution every day.

We need your help. Will you join us in:

- sending greetings to trade unionists in Algeria and Sudan who are mobilising support for the popular uprisings' demands through strikes, protests and sit-ins, and fighting to create democratic, independent unions and break the control of regime supporters over workers' and professional associations.
- calling on the trade union movement around the world to mobilise solidarity with the sit-ins, strikes and protests in Sudan and Algeria.
- campaigning against military or security co-operation with the old regimes (and other individuals and groups responsible for human rights violations); opposing our governments supplying them with arms or equipment for repression.
- declaring solidarity with the struggle to establish genuine democracy in Sudan and Algeria, and opposition to all forms of military rule.

Vidal Aragonés, Member of the Catalan Parliament; **Richard Boyd Barrett**, People Before Profit TD (Member of the Dail), Ireland; **Christine Buchholz**, Member of the Bundestag, Die Linke, Germany; **Petros Constantinou**, councillor, City of Athens, Greece; **Maria Carvalho Dantas**, member of the Spanish Congress (MP), Spanish State; **Merve Diltemiz** (victimised peace academic, the teachers' union Egitim Sen, Ankara University), Turkey; **Yang Dong-gyu**, Vice-President of the KCTU, Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, South Korea; **Carolyn Egan**, president of the United Steelworkers Toronto Area Council; **Oihana Etxebarrieta**, Member of the Basque Parliament for EH Bildu; **Ronnie Kasrils**, former minister, South African government and anti-apartheid campaigner; **Alex Kenny**, National Executive Member, National Education Union, UK; Councillor **Eamonn McCann**, People Before Profit, Derry, Ireland; **Nita Sanghera**, University and Colleges Union Vice-President, UK; **Kiri Tunks**, Joint President, National Education Union, UK; **Professor Salim Vally**, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Read the full list of signatories and get involved: www.menasolidaritynetwork.com/algeriasudanletter