**FNV’s stance on human and trade union rights in Egypt**

The International Trade Union Confederation ([ITUC](https://www.ituc-csi.org/)) sent President Al-Sisi a letter on August 30th expressing its deepest concerns regarding the serious and systematic violation of human and trade union rights in Egypt. FNV, as one of the ITUC’s national affiliates, shares the same concerns and high lights the main points in this statement. The full ITUC-letter can be found here.

The ITUC’s annual [Global Rights Index](https://www.globalrightsindex.org/en/2022/countries/egy) has rated Egypt as one of the 10 worst countries in the world for working people. Workers and their representatives in Egypt live under constant intimidation and continued repression for their union activities. Workers are deprived of their basic rights and freedoms at work, while many independent trade unions remain unregistered after their arbitrary dissolution in 2018. Anti-trade union discrimination is rife with termination of union and worker leaders for their trade union activities.

The current legal framework continues to impose obstacles to the registration and functioning of trade unions, including their right to form independent trade union organisations, choose their own representatives, draft their own constitutions, and manage their activities. The law continues to excessively regulate the exercise of the right to strike such that the full exercise of this right in practice has lost all meaning. This goes against numerous rights and recommendations agreed on internationally, for instance under the ILO conventions.

We are also deeply concerned with the state of respect for human rights and civil liberties in Egypt. There are serious restrictions on freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. Furthermore, there are constraints on democracy and space for civil society and political opposition, including applying terrorism legislation against those exercising civil liberties.

The government continues to harass, intimidate, arrest, detain and prosecute rights activists, peaceful protesters, journalists, academics, artists, politicians, and lawyers. Legislation has been put in place which gives even more possibilities for civilians to be referred to military courts, eroding further guarantees to a fair trial. These violations of human and labour rights have impacted the social and economic lives of many trade unionists and other human rights activities.

We note with concern the news that in 2020, Egypt recorded a more than threefold increase in executions, surpassing Saudi Arabia and becoming the third country in the world with the most executions during that year. We also note reports that Egypt continues to escalate its use of the death penalty and executions, in many cases following unfair proceedings and mass trials.

For these reasons, and considering the seriousness of the violations of freedom of association faced by workers, FNV supports ITUC’s call on President Al-Sisi and its government to comply with Egypt’s obligations under international human rights and labour standards without delay and to immediately release all those arrested for exercising their civil liberties including trade unionists and journalists. The government must hold to account all those responsible for human and labour rights violations including those in the security forces.