



Nyon, 22 May 2007

Mr. Abdul Khaliq al Kadi, Chairman
Yemenia Airways
Republic of Yemen
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e-mail: Chairman@yemenia.com

Dear Mr al Kadi,

Dismissals of Union members at Yemenia Airways on May 8

As the General Secretary of Union Network International (UNI), it has been brought to my attention that the Yemenia Engineers Association, which has good relations with UNI and its affiliate around the world, is currently experiencing major difficulties in exercising its basic trade union rights.

We have been reliably informed by our colleagues that 3 trade union officers were already fired in November 2006 and have been blacklisted and prevented from finding a new employment somewhere else because they were carrying out their legitimate union duties of representing and communicating with the workers.

We are disappointed to learn that a reputable company such as Yemenia Airways is failing to respect recognised union rights and has instead resorted to victimising union leaders through unfair dismissals.

We are also aware of the new wave of dismissals of 16 members and are very concerned that this is only due to their commitment to union activity within the Engineers Association. We know that these members were actually in good standings with their immediate supervisors.

The right to represent workers without hindrance is a fundamental union right enshrined in the ILO Conventions for which no union representative should be punished. The action taken by your company goes against ILO Convention on Workers' Representatives and should be rescinded forthwith.

As a global union representing over 15 million workers in 900 unions in over 150 countries worldwide, we condemn the action taken by Yemenia Airways and demand the immediate reinstatement of Mohammed Omar Om'mean, Abdullah Ahmad Qurwassh, and Ali Masaud, who were fired in November, as well as the 16 members who were dismissed on May 8, followed by good faith negotiations between Yemenia Airways' management and the union.

I look forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Jennings'.

Philip Jennings
General Secretary
UNI Global Union