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HTUR/MP

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### **Criminalising strikes and sit-ins**

Sir,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents 176 million workers through its 301 affiliates in 151 countries and territories throughout the world, protests against the proposed decree on criminalising strikes and sit-ins.

The ITUC has been informed that on Wednesday 23 March 2011 the Egyptian Council of Ministers agreed during its meeting on a proposed decree that criminalises strikes and sit-ins. This will lead to a legal disaster by all international labour standards and it will disgrace Egypt in the view of the international community.

We urge the Egyptian government to withdraw the said draft decree, and we appeal to the Supreme Council of Armed Forces not to issue it. Instead we would like to see a development of appropriate mechanisms for negotiations between the social partners.

This proposed decree is a serious infringement of fundamental trade union rights and as a member of the ILO, Egypt is bound by international treaties, and we remind you that your government must fulfil its obligations and respect trade union rights.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary