

MENA Solidarity Network

Solidarity with Workers in the Middle East

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Solidarity with arrested textile workers in Egypt

menasolidaritynetwork / 2 days ago



**Urgent
Action**

Sign this statement of solidarity

Workers at Egypt's largest textile factory in Mahalla won a major victory for tens of thousands employed across Egypt's state-owned enterprises by forcing the government to agree to raise the minimum wage to 6000 Egyptian pounds after thousands joined a strike which shut down the mill for nearly a week this February. Workers in Mahalla fought back to demand pay rises in the face of an acute cost of living crisis caused by spiralling prices. Poverty levels have surged in Egypt, with 60 percent of the population near or below the World Bank's official poverty. Yet the military dictatorship

which rules Egypt has splashed out billions on arms sales and mega construction projects such as a \$58 billion new capital city. Strikes are criminalised, independent trade unions are banned and thousands of political prisoners are in jail, including demonstrators who took to the streets to express their solidarity with Palestinians under Israeli bombardment in Gaza. Now the regime wants to take revenge on workers in Mahalla despite conceding key demands from the recent strike. Police arrested five workers claiming they organised the action and the company is threatening to sack them from their jobs.

We stand in solidarity with Mahalla workers Wael Abu Zuwayyad, Muhammad Mahmud Talba, Sabah Ali al-Qattan, Muhammad al-Attar and Abdelhamid Abu Amnah and demand their immediate release. We call on the Egyptian government to stop repression of strikes and protests and cease attacks on trade union organising. The British government must end its complicity in these abuses by stopping arms sales to Egypt's military regime.

Initial signatories include:

John McDonnell, MP – **Maryam Eslamdoust**, General Secretary, TSSA – **Patrick Roach**, General Secretary, NASUWT – **Julie Mwaluke**, Vice-President Unison – **Pat Davis**, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee, Unite the union – **Sean Wallis**, National Executive Committee, UCU – **Sean Vernell**, National Executive Committee, UCU – **Dr Julie Chase**, National Executive Committee, Association of Educational Psychologists – **Jennie Antonio**, Unison Black Members National Committee / LGBT+ National Committee – **Richard McEwan**, National Executive Committee, UCU

See further signatories below.

Add your name to this statement here – names will be published online and sent to the Egyptian embassy in London. Please note, names will not appear automatically.

First name (required)

Last name (required)

Email - for updates on this campaign

Union position

Union

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Download a pdf version of the statement here: [\[Mahalla solidarity statement\]](#)

Other signatories include (17 March 2024)

Sunday Chukwu Unison Unison Black Members; **Ameen Hadi** Unison NW Chair, TUC Black Members Committee; **Audrey Glover** NEU District Membership Secretary, Lancaster and Morecambe; **Eugene Doherty** NEU District Treasurer, Lancaster and Morecambe; **Glyn Robbins** UCU Secretary, Tower Hamlets Trades Council; **Fiona McCleary** PCS Branch organiser and young members rep; **Anna Livingstone** Unite Barts Health Unite, Treasurer; **Dr Kambiz Boomla** BMA Tower Hamlets Treasurer; **Chris Flanagan**, Unison South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare, Branch chair (pc) **Dave Allen** GMB retired; **Conor Rothwell** NEU Rep, **Naufal Ubaidi**; **Adam Adinson** Unison Rep; **Danielle Alderson** Unison Steward; **Ian Reynolds** Unite member; **Valerie James** ; **Birgit Schar** ; **D Lawrence** PCS retired; **K. Burgess** Unison member; **Kath Percy** Telford Unison Retired members officer; **Andy Brown** Telford Unison; **Lydia O'Connor-Butler**; **Jane Bramley** Unite Nottingham; **Shirley Franklin** UCU Retired Members / Trades Council; **Jonathan Fluxman** Unite; **Lawrence Wong** NEU Retired; **Myriam Kane**; **Jo Hiddicoat** Unison; **Miriam Dodd**; **Zarina Chaudhry** Unite Rep; **Miriam Scharf**, NEU International Solidarity Officer; **Darshan Allirajah** ; **Hugo Pierre** Unison Schools Convenor, Camden; **Sue Sullivan** NEU; **Rosemarie Wilson** UCU Retired Members branch; **Gary McFarlane** NUJ London Magazine Branch; **Chinedu Chukwudinma** UCU; **David Hurley** NEU; **Zina Baird**; **Ceylan Deniz**; **Sophia Man**; **Chloe Hill**; **Nazema Adair**; **Paul Clark** CWU, **Paul Armstrong**; **Umm Talbe b. Abi-Bilal**

March 16, 2024 in Egypt. Tags: Egypt, egypt protest repression, solidarity, strike

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