



International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions
Internationale Föderation der Chemie-, Energie-, Bergbau- und Fabrikar-beitengewerkschaften
Fédération Internationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs de la Chimie, de l'Energie, des Mines et des Industries Diverses
Internationella kemi-, energi-, gruv- och fabriksarbetarefederationen
Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas
国際化学エネルギー鉱山一般労連
Международная федерация профсоюзов химиков, энергетиков, горняков и работников других отраслей

President: Senzeni Zokwana • **General Secretary:** Manfred Warda

Ref: ICEM10/EN LT/76

22 July 2010

Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki
Embassy of Iraq
Elfenstrasse 6
P.O.Box
3006 Bern
Switzerland

Transmitted to E-mails Minister@industry.gov.iq, Minister.office@industry.gov.iq, invest@industry.gov.iq, igo@industry.gov.iq, oilministry@oil.gov.iq and invrep@iraqmofamail.net, and fax numbers: +41 (0)31 351 8312 and +41 (0)22 733 0326

Dear Honourable Prime Minister al-Maliki:

The International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), a global trade union federation representing millions of oil, gas, and electric workers, is deeply disturbed by Iraq Ministerial Order No. 30 of 20 July 2010 that effectively sent Iraqi police officers into all the offices of the Electricity Workers' Union to halt all union activities.

The Ministerial Order "prohibits all trade union activities at the Ministry and its departments and sites," and it orders the police "to close all trade union offices and bases and to take control of the union's assets, properties and documents, furniture and computers." We have learned that one of our Iraqi trade unions affiliates, General Union of Electricity Workers and Technicians (GUEWT), has been severely impacted by this ill-advised order.

This order is a direct affront to all trade unions in Iraq, particularly trade unions such as the GUEWT that ICEM and its affiliated unions across the world have been working with in order to establish free and democratic institutions for the betterment of all Iraqi workers. This order is a willful violation of international core labour standards, standards that should instead form the basis of Iraqi labour law.

The ICEM sees this draconian action coming from directly Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani, who recently has taken over responsibility for the electric sector and someone we feel seeks to impede ordinary Iraqi workers and citizens from gaining participatory roles in democratic institutions and a democratic government. We find this reprehensible and a serious roadblock to reconstruction inside Iraq.

The ICEM is also disturbed by other recent actions that undermine the Iraqi trade union movement. We specifically refer to restrictions placed on Iraqi trade unionists to travel



International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions
Internationale Föderation der Chemie-, Energie-, Bergbau- und Fabrikarbeitengewerkschaften
Fédération Internationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs de la Chimie, de l'Energie, des Mines et des Industries Diverses
Internationella kemi-, energi-, gruv- och fabriksarbetarefederationen
Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas
国際化学エネルギー鉱山一般労連
Международная федерация профсоюзов химиков, энергетиков, горняков и работников других отраслей

President: Senzeni Zokwana • **General Secretary:** Manfred Warda

outside Iraq in order to engage in forums and workshops with trade unions, including the ICEM and activities, as well as the activities of our affiliated unions. We are also deeply concerned about transfers of Iraqi trade union leaders away from enterprises around which their trade union activities are centered. This violates universally recognised labour standards and we will continue to press your government when this happens.

The ICEM calls on the Iraqi Government, immediately, to withdraw Order 30 of 20 July 2010, and allow all trade unions to operate openly and freely in Iraq. We also again urge the Iraqi government to adopt and implement a fair and just labour law that grants rights that are commonly accepted throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Manfred Warda'.

Manfred Warda
General Secretary