

Resolution No. 5

AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF AFGHANISTAN WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES (NUAWE)

The 4th ITUC-AP Regional Conference, 7 - 9 October 2019, Tokyo, Japan:

EXPRESSES deep concern on the attack of the head office of the National Union of Afghanistan Workers and Employees (NUAWE) and its other 16 properties on 21 April 2018 by the Afghanistan Government with heavily armed police and security forces pursuant to a presidential decree, confiscation of all properties, assets, equipment and others, cancellation of the legal license and freezing union bank accounts;

NOTES WITH CONCERN that such undermining the operations and activities of the NUAWE is intended to pressurise the union by expropriating legitimately acquired properties; these actions, taken without any judicial authorisation or law and breaching the constitution of Afghanistan, are a serious interference in legitimate trade union activities contrary to the provisions of ILO Convention No. 87. The union movement has no way to collect membership fees from its members and utilise the bank accounts for its day-to-day functions. The government had instructed the Ministry of Justice not to renew the license if the union does not hand over the properties to the government. This violates the commitment of the government to facilitate the registration of trade union organisations without prior authorisation and to protect the rights of the union.

The NUAWE's main office in Kabul and all its branches in 16 districts are still closed and are under occupation by the Government. The attack on the NUAWE has generated a climate of fear and intimidation among trade unions and prevent the full exercise of the functions of NUAWE and its 175,000 members;

RECALLS that the ILO/ITUC/ITUC-AP joint delegation visited Afghanistan in March 2019 and met with the Labour Minister and other officials. The Minister promised to revoke the suspension of license of the NUAWE and unfreeze its bank accounts. Similar promise by the Minister was reiterated during the International Labour Convention June meeting but did not make any progress on the promises and position of union movement remains the same as was in April 2018;

DEMANDS that the Government of Afghanistan:

- (a) Return all properties to the NUAWE;
- (b) Un-freeze the union bank accounts;
- (c) Renew immediately the legal registration license of the NUAWE;
- (d) Non-interference by Government in the internal democratic affairs of the NUAWE; and
- (e) Recognition of the NUAWE as free and democratic trade union movement of Afghanistan in accordance with the principles of ILO Convention No. 87 and No. 98;

EXTENDS

full support to the NUAWWE and the working people of Afghanistan in their struggle for existence; and

REQUESTS

- (a) all affiliates to send protest letters to the Government of Afghanistan with copies to Afghan mission in their respective countries;
- (b) to invoke further the ILO supervisory mechanism on the complaint against the Government of Afghanistan; and
- (c) to lodge complaint against the Government of Afghanistan with the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union, the USA (particularly on GSP status of Afghanistan) and the UN or other donor agencies, for invoking the jurisdiction of the aids preference to Afghanistan vis-à-vis its non-compliance with basic fundamental rights guaranteed under the ILO Core Conventions (No. 87 and No. 98).