

Egypt: Founding declaration of new independent trade union federation

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Egyptian Federation for Independent Unions Constitutional Body Creation

Egypt is going through historical moments... Its people is courageously struggling to defend the right to live a decent life... the right to dignity, freedom and social justice... to decent opportunities and just pay... to a democratic society for all, offering every single citizen a share in its wealth and GNP... a society that does not allow few to buy private jets whereas the rest of the population cannot even afford public transportation... a society that refuses to pay the top of the pyramid salaries higher thousand of time than minimum wage.

A society that allows its people to breathe freely... to freely speak, interact and express itself... a society that allows all people categories and classes to defend their interests and negotiate freely... a society that does not oppress its people, inhibits its ambitions and natural tendencies to develop workers capacities and improve their life conditions.

Workers and people struggled for decades and participated, especially since 4 years, in unprecedented recurrent protest actions to defend their legal rights. They succeeded in their endeavor despite the lack of independent union organization, stolen piece by piece for decades. They succeeded in attracting larges social sectors, and mobilizing greater sympathy among the Egyptian society, workers and union movements.

Workers defended their right to work to face unemployment specter - that devours youth - and demanded to set a new fair minimum wage that guarantees decent living for all workers. They fought courageously to defend their democratic right to organize and create independent union organizations.

Labor struggles paved the way to today's people revolution. That is why Egypt workers and employees totally refuse that the "governmental" general federation represents them and speaks in their name, because it often denied their rights and claims and even issued the famous statement on January 27 claiming to oppose every single protest action during this period.

Therefore, independent unions and committees [RETA, Retired Workers Union, Health professionals Union, Teachers Independent Union] along with workers independent groups in industries declare the creation of Egyptian Federation for Independent Unions and its constitutional body on Sunday the 30th of January 2011 and emphasizes on the following:

- Egypt citizens right to work - and binding the government to "unemployment compensation".
- Define a minimum wage no less than 1200 LE, with a yearly raise proportionate to inflation; guarantee workers rights to bonuses and benefits according to work value, especially work compensation for those facing work hazards. Moreover, maximum wage should never exceed minimum wage by more than ten times.

- The right for all Egyptian citizens to fair social security including the right to health care, housing, education “ensuring free education and syllabus development to cope with science and technology evolution”, the right for all retired to decent pensions and benefits.
- Workers and employees right to organize, to create their own bylaws, to remove all legal restrictions regarding this right.
- Free all detainees imprisoned after January 25th.

Egypt Federation for Independent Unions Constitutional Body invites all Egypt workers to create civil committees in order to defend their workplace, workers and citizens during these critical times and to organize protest actions and strikes in the workplaces, except for vital sectors workplaces, to realize Egypt people claims.

Egyptian Federation for Independent Unions

The “Constitutional Body”

30/01/2011

P.S.

* <http://www.unionbook.org/profiles/blogs/egypt-founding-declaration-of>