

Morocco - Petition: Free the Hirak political prisoners

Monday 30 October 2017 (Date first published: 30 October 2017).

introduction

The death of Mohcine Fikri - a fish vendor crushed in a garbage truck on October, 28th, 2016 while trying to retrieve his confiscated merchandise in Al Hoceima - has paved the way for the rise of 'Hirak', a popular movement of the Rif that fights for social justice and the right to equal development. Since that date the northern region of Morocco has witnessed a historical turmoil. Despite the militarisation of the region and the state's manoeuvre to discredit the upheaval, Hirak was able to mobilise thousands of demonstrators in the north of Morocco.

However, the Moroccan state began a wave of repression that has not been seen for decades. Hence, in May and in a context of rising repression against the Movement of the Rif, fifty political prisoners, among them the leaders of Hirak, were transferred to the Oukacha prison in Casablanca. Consequently, and conscious of the difficulties that the families of the detained would face, a committee for the support of political prisoners was established on the 31 May 2017.

The Committee of Support for the Political Prisoners of Hirak [Casablanca] is a collective independent of all political organisations, unions, and associations. It is comprised of militants from different political, associative and union horizons and who defend the cause of political prisoners, and who stand against the criminalisation of social movements. The Committee calls for the immediate liberation of all of Hirak's political prisoners.

PETITION: Call for Solidarity with the People's Struggle in Morocco

The death on 28 October 2016 of Mohcine Fikri — a young fishmonger crushed while protesting the confiscation of his merchandise by officials in Al-Hoceima, a town of the region of northern Morocco known as the Rif — triggered a popular movement which has been shaking Morocco ever since. Over the past year, a vast number of Moroccans have come together in the Hirak, a peaceful movement calling for social justice and economic development.

The response of the Moroccan authorities has been brutal, killing another young man, arresting over 400 protesters, with over 300 of them kept in detention, including 15 minors and 7 journalists who were covering the events. The Hirak's political prisoners, including key figures of the movement such as Nasser Zefzafi, are facing charges that could lead to long jail sentences, up to the death penalty. Since September, 37 of them started an open-ended hunger strike against their detention and the brutality of the crackdown. Their situation has become critical with some of them taken to hospital.

The Moroccans are standing up for social justice. It is their inalienable right to protest peacefully. We hold the Moroccan authorities responsible for the lives of the detainees and demand the immediate release of all Hirak's prisoners and cessation of the repression of the popular protest.

Signed:

Members of the European Parliament:

Marina Albiol, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Martina Anderson, GUE/ NGL (Ireland)
Xabier Benito, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Malin Bjork, GUE/ NGL (Sweden)
Lynn Boylan, GUE/ NGL (Ireland)
Matt Carthy, GUE/ NGL (Ireland)
Javier Couso, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Eleonora Forenza, GUE/ NGL (Italy)
Tania González, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Josu Juaristi, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Patrick Le Hyaric, GUE/ NGL (France)
Claure Moraes, Party of European Socialists (UK)
Liadh Ni Riada, GUE/ NGL (Ireland)
Lola Sánchez, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Estefanía Torres, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Miguel Urbán, GUE/ NGL (Spain)
Marie-Christine Vergiat, GUE/ NGL (France)
Marie Pierre Vieu, GUE/ NGL (France)

Members of National Parliaments:

Clementine Autain, France Insoumise (France)
Ugo Bernalicis, France Insoumise (France)
Richard Boyd Barrett, Teachta Dála (Ireland)
Christine Buchholz, Die Linke (Germany)
Pablo Bustinduy, Unidos Podemos (Spain)
Gerry Carroll, People Before Profit (Northern Ireland)
Joan Collins, Teachta Dála (Ireland)
Eric Coquerel, France Insoumise (France)
Sergio Coronado, Ex-Député Ecologie Sociale (France)
Clare Daly, Teachta Dála (Ireland)
Sadet Karbulut, SP (Netherlands)
Gino Kenny, Teachta Dála (Ireland)
Gigi Malabarba, Ex-Senatore PRC, Comunia (Italy)
Noël Mamère, Ex-Député Groupe Ecologiste (France)
Mathilde Panot, France Insoumise (France)
Brid Smith, Teachta Dála (Ireland)
Franco Turigliatto, Ex-Senatore PRC, Sinistra Anticapitalista (Italy)
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz, Podemos (Spain)

Unionists:

Amr Badr, Board Member, Syndicate of Journalists (Egypt)
Wim Baltussen, FNV (Netherlands)
Sergio Bellavita, USB Nazionale (Italy)
Khaled al-Bolshi, Former Secretary, Syndicate of Journalists (Egypt)
Hans Boot, Editor of Solidariteit (Netherlands)
Ángel Bosqued, Secretario de Relaciones Internacionales de CGT (Spain)

Fabrizio Burattini, USB Scuola (Italy)
Daniel Ceriotti, Sindicato de Nutricionistas (Uruguay)
Irene Ciccio, USB Scuola (Italy)
Nara Cladera, Union Syndicale Solidaires (France)
Herbert Claros da Silva, International Relations Secretary, CSP Conlutas (Brazil)
Eliaana Como, Direttivo Nazionale FIOM, Direttivo Nazionale CGIL (Italy)
Manuel Cortes, General Secretary, Transport and Salaried Staff Association (UK)
Kevin Courtney, Joint National Secretary National Education Union (UK)
Dominique Daigneault, Présidente du Conseil Central du Montréal métropolitain-CSN (Canada)
Leonardo De Angelis, USB Sistemi Informativi (Italy)
Mimmo De Stradis, USB Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (Italy)
Ronnie Draper, General Secretary, Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (UK)
Stéphane Enjalran, Secrétaire National Union Syndicale Solidaires (France)
Stefania Fantauzzi, USB Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (Italy)
Dario Filippini, USB Pensionati (Italy)
Rob Gerretsen, FNV (Netherlands)
Sam Gindin, Retired Assistant to the President, UNIFOR (Canada)
Flavio Guidi, Cobas Scuola Brescia (Italy)
Estéban Guijarro, Secretario General de CGT Madrid (Spain)
Howie Hawkins, Teamsters Local 317 (USA)
Ernesto Herrera, Editor de Correspondencia de Prensa (Uruguay)
Pina Imbrenda, USB Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (Italy)
Isabel Koifmann, Sindicato Ecos, Cooperativa Magisterial (Uruguay)
Deepa Kumar, President Rutgers AAUP-AFT (USA)
Bartolo Lara, Fucvam, Cooperativas de Vivienda (Uruguay)
Ron Lare, UAW Local 600 (USA)
Elena Lequio, Adeom, Sindicato de Municipales (Uruguay)
Michael Letwin, Former President, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW 2325 (USA)
Francesco Locantore, Direttivo nazionale FLC-CGIL (Italy)
Christian Mahieux, Union Syndicale Solidaires (France)
Stefano Maruca, Ufficio Internazionale CGIL (Italy)
Kim Moody, member National Union of Journalists (USA)
Neli Maria Paschoarelli Wada, Diretora do SINTUSP (Brazil)
Yahya Qallash, Former President Syndicate of Journalists (Egypt)
Anna della Ragione, Direttivo nazionale FLC-CGIL (Italy)
Leonel Revelese, COFE, Sindicato de Funcionarios del Estado (Uruguay)
Luca Scacchi, Direttivo Nazionale CGIL (Italy)
Jesse Sharkey, Vice President Chicago Teachers Union (USA)
Nando Simeone, Direttivo Nazionale FILCAMS-CGIL (Italy)
Michael Thomson, Secretary of NSW Division, National Tertiary Education Union
Giuseppe Tiano, USB Calabria (Italy)
Waldemar Torino, Adeom, Sindicato de Municipales (Uruguay)
Nico Vox, USB Milano (Italy)
Matt Wrack, General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union (UK)

Various:

Dr Viviana Asara - Wien University (Austria)
Associazione Ya Basta Êdî Bese (Italy)
Al-Nadeem Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture (Egypt)
Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi, Professor, San Francisco State University (USA)

Gilbert Achcar, Professor, University of London (UK)
Giuseppe Acconcia, Journalist, University of Padua (Italy)
Greg Albo, Professor, York University (Canada)
Jean Claude Amara, Porte-Parole de Droit Devant (France)
Miriyaam Aouragh, Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster (UK)
Associazione "Cultura è libertà" (Italy)
Gianfranco Bettin, President of the Marghera Municipality (Venice) and writer (Italy)
Alberto Boga, Militantes Guevaristas de la Costa (Uruguay)
Koenraad Bogaert, Professor, Ghent University (Belgium)
Sergio Bologna, Author (Italy)
Willem Bos, SAP/Grenzeloos (Netherlands)
Olivier Besancenot, Ancien Candidat à l'Élection Présidentielle (France)
Tithi Bhattacharya, Professor, Purdue University (USA)
Houria Bouteldja, porte parole du Parti des Indigènes de la République (France)
Adrian Budd, Head of Division of Social Sciences, London South Bank University (UK)
Marco Brunazzo, Professor, University of Trento (Italy)
Thomas Casadei, Professor, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia (Italy)
Dr Robin Celikates, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
John Chalcraft, Professor, LSE (UK)
Noam Chomsky, Professor, MIT and University of Arizona (USA)
Petros Constantinou, KEERFA (Greece)
Lorenzo Declich, Researcher (Italy)
Herman De Ley, Professor émérite, Ghent University (Belgium)
Ludo De Witte, sociologue auteur, (Belgium)
Erri De Luca - Writer (Italy)
James Dickins, Professor, University of Leeds (UK)
Adèle Dorada, Secrétariat fédéral d'Alternative Libertaire (France)
Christian Elia, Journalist and director of QCODE Magazine (Italy)
Nada Elia, Author (USA)
Juanita Elias, Doctor, University of Warwick (UK)
John Esposito, Professor, Georgetown University (USA)
Patrick Farbiaz, Sortir du Colonialisme (France)
Nadia Fadil, KU Leuven (Belgium)
Sara Farris, Doctor, Goldsmiths University (UK/ Italy)
Sue Ferguson, Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University (USA)
Paolo Ferrero, Vice president of the Party of the European Left (Italy)
Bill Fletcher, Jr., Former President of TransAfrica Forum (USA)
Pim Fisher, Immigration Lawyer, Haarlem (Netherlands)
Mgr Jacques Gaillot, Président de Droit Devant (France)
Stefano Galieni, Partito della Rifondazione Comunista (Italy)
Gennaro Gervasio, Professor Roma Tre University (Italy)
Aldo Garzia, collaborator Il Manifesto (Italy)
Dr Lindsey German, Stop the War Coalition (UK)
Gennaro Gervasio, Researcher Università Roma Tre (Italy)
Toufic Haddad, Author (USA)
Hamza Hamouchene, Environmental Justice North Africa (EJNA)
Thomas Harrison, Co-Director, Campaign for Peace and Democracy (USA)
Sandew Hira, coordinator of the Decolonial International Network (Netherlands)
Keith Hyams, Doctor, University of Warwick (UK)
John Hendy, Human Rights Lawyer and Queen's Counsel (UK)
Roza Khan, Inqalabi Socialist (Pakistan)

Sartaj Khan, Inqalabi Socialist (Pakistan)
William Keach, Professor, Brown University (USA)
Kento, Journalist and rapper (Italy)
Joost Kircz, Professor, University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
Hanane Karimi, sociologue (France)
Sadri Khiari, auteur, artiste (Tunisia)
Ramah Kudaimi, Syrian Solidarity Collective (USA)
Marcel van der Linden, Professor, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Ken Loach, Film Director (UK)
Les Levidow, Professor Open University (UK)
Lowkey, Rapper (UK)
Alan Maass, Editor Socialist Worker (USA)
Piero Maestri, Communia Network (Italy)
Gianfranco Manfredi, Singer (Italy)
Philip Marfleet, Professor, University of East London (UK)
Myriam Martin, Porte-Parole d'Ensemble, Conseillère régionale Occitanie (France)
Karim Metref - Journalist (Italy/ Algeria)
Mahienour el-Massry, Human Rights Lawyer and Former Political Prisoner (Egypt)
Alessandra Mecozzi, Associazione "Cultura è libertà" (Italy)
John Molyneux, Editor, Irish Marxist Review (Ireland)
Antonio Moscato, Professor, Università del Salento (Italy)
Martín Mosquera, Democracia Socialista (Argentina)
Yasser Munif, Assistant Professor, Emerson College (USA)
Hassan Nafaa, Professor, University of Cairo (Egypt)
Ghayath Naisse, Revolutionay Left Current (Syria)
Fatima Ouassak, auteure politologue (France)
Mario Pieri, Colectivo Militante (Uruguay)
Marco Philopat, Writer and publisher (Italy)
Christine Poupin, Porte-Parole du NPA (France)
Philippe Poutou, Ancien Candidat à l'Élection Présidentielle (France)
Malcolm Povey, Professor, University of Leeds (UK)
Raphaël Pradeau, Co-Porte-Parole ATTAC (France)
Nicola Pratt, Professor University of Warwick (UK)
Alberto Prunetti, Writer and journalist (Italy)
Asad Rehman, Executive Director War on Want (UK)
Rebeca Riela, Sociedad de Economía Crítica (Argentina)
Revolutionary Socialists (Egypt)
Shirin Rai, Professor University of Warwick (UK)
Kikélola Roach, Professor, Ryerson University (Canada)
Mario Rossi, Secretario Político del Movimiento Revolucionario Oriental (Uruguay)
Arundhati Roy, Author (India)
Camilla Royle, Deputy Editor, International Socialism Journal (UK)
Devi Sacchetto, Professor University of Padua (Italy)
Steven Salaita, Author (USA)
Stephen R. Shalom, New Politics, (USA)
Jane Slaughter, former editor of Labor Notes (USA)
Mike Smith, Professor University of Warwick (UK)
Antonio Stopani, Doctor, University of Turin (Italy)
Strong Egypt Party - Hizb Misr al-Qawiyya (Egypt)
Bhaskar Sunkara, Editor of Jacobin (USA)
Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Assistant Professor, Princeton (USA)

Aurélie Trouvé, Co-Porte Parole ATTAC (France)
Francesco Vacchiano, Doctor, Lisbon University (Portugal/ Italy)
Vrede Vrw, association pour la paix (Belgium)
Lello Voce , Poet (Italy)
Jean-André Waag, Secrétariat Fédéral d'Alternative libertaire (France)
Matthew Watson, Professor, University of Warwick (UK)
Thomas Weyts, SAP-Gauche anticapitaliste (Belgium)
