



KATIPUNANG MANGGAGAWANG PILIPINO

(TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)

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An affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

03 March 2012

DR. KAMAL EL GANZORY

Prime Minister

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Egypt – Judgement against Kamal Abbas

Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of **Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)** as a matter of urgency to withdraw all charges and annul an egregious sentence of 26 February against Kamal Abbas, the general coordinator of CTUWS.


The ITUC has been informed that on February 26 a Misdemeanor court in the city of Helwan sentenced Kamal Abbas in absentia, to six months imprisonment for “insulting a public officer” during the 2011 International Labour Conference in Geneva. The sentence refers to Thursday 9 June 2011, when Kamal Abbas interrupted Ismael Fahmy while he was delivering a speech to the Conference.

Kamal Abbas, who attended the Conference as a representative on the ITUC delegation, is accused of expressing his objection to the claim that the ETUF represented Egyptian workers. According to the information received, the court refers to a decision that Ismael Fahmy was the acting President of ETUF when he gave the speech.

The ITUC is extremely concerned by the sentence against Mr. Abbas, and its implications for Freedom of Association as well as Freedom of Expression within the confines of the ILC.

The TUCP asks the Egyptian authorities to immediately withdraw all charges, annul the sentence, and to refrain from any further harassment against trade unionists or other civil society representatives for the exercise of their legitimate activities.

Sincerely,



ERNESTO F. HERRERA, Ph.D
Fmr. Senator, and
TUCP President

**37 YEARS OF
SOLIDARITY
TUCP 1975-2012**