



A statement of solidarity with detained activists from the National Committee for the Defence of the Rights of Unemployed Workers

The Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) has received the unfortunate news of the harsh judicial rulings issued on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, by the First Instance Tribunal in Laghouat, Algeria, sentencing eight active members of the National Committee for the Defence of the Rights of Unemployed Workers to a one-year of imprisonment, half of which suspended.

The activists had been detained for 15 days on charges of unauthorised gathering although it was just a peaceful demonstration that took place on January 28.

The ATUC condemns the arrest, detention and the harsh court ruling against those activists, and expresses its rejection of all forms of dictatorship by silencing and harassing peaceful activists who demand jobs, which are a basic right.

The ATUC regrets the open hunger strike the activists began after the ruling was issued, and adds its voice to that of the civil society institutions inside and outside Algeria, as well as to the national and international public opinion, demanding Algerian authorities to immediately release the sentenced members.

The ATUC also announces it had joined a national and international campaign to advocate the activists' case.