

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

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Djibouti: trade unionists released but serious concerns remain

Brussels, 12 October 2005 (ICFTU OnLine): The ICFTU today received news of the release of all the union leaders and workers arrested following the general strikes at the Port of Djibouti.

According to the ICFTU affiliated, the Djibouti Union of Labour (UDT), all the strikers and union leaders arrested on 25 September were released without charge. Thirty six of them, including 11 leaders from the Port Workers' Union (UTP), who had been placed in police custody then in detention awaiting trial, have not, however, been able to return to their posts, having been dismissed. In addition, the Attorney General has just instigated an appeal against the release, on behalf of the Office of Public Prosecutions.

The ICFTU General Secretary, who had written to the president of Djibouti to demand the release of all the detainees concerned (*), thanked all those who acted in favour of the union leaders' and strikers' release, but reiterated his strong concern regarding the harassment and unfair dismissals of workers and union representatives from the autonomous international Port of Djibouti.

(*) to read Guy Ryder's letter of 27 September to the Djiboutian authorities:

<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222842&Language=FR>

(*) to read the ICFTU OnLine press release of 28 September denouncing the anti-union repression in the Port of Djibouti:

<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222844&Language=FR>

The ICFTU represents 145 million workers in 234 affiliated organisations in 154 countries and territories. The ICFTU is also a partner in Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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