

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

ITUC OnLine

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Côte d'Ivoire: No News of Trade Union Leader

Brussels, 5 May 2011 (ITUC OnLine): On 26 April, the ITUC learnt of the arrest of Basile Mahan Gahé, general secretary of the ITUC affiliated organisation Dignité in Côte d'Ivoire. After gathering more information, the ITUC wrote to the authorities the following day, expressing its concern regarding the circumstances of the trade union leader's detention.

After almost a week with no clear signs regarding his situation, the ITUC reiterated its deep concern. The fact that no official response was given to its first letter is all the more worrying given that several media sources have published conflicting reports regarding the whereabouts of Basile Mahan Gahé.

In a second letter <http://www.ituc-csi.org/cote-d-ivoire-arrestation-d-un.html?lang=fr> to the authorities, the ITUC urged the government to take every measure to ensure that the matter is clarified. It called for Basile Mahan Gahé's release, if he is indeed still being held, unless specific charges are brought against him.

ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow also appealed to the Ivorian authorities to urgently guarantee the free exercise of trade union rights.

The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 151 countries and territories and has 305 national affiliates. Website: <http://www.ituc-csi.org> and <http://www.youtube.com/ITUCCSI>

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