



Statement

The members of the National Administrative Commission the Tunisian General Labor Union had an exceptional meeting on Tuesday, 11 January 2011 in Gammarth. The meeting was chaired by comrade Abdesslem Jerad the General Secretary, following the analysis of the outcome of the protest movements in a number of regions, especially the attacks and violence that the demonstrators witnessed and which reached shooting. This resulted in the fall of a number of innocent victims. Because of the need for immediate intervention to respond to the legitimate demands of the protesters, they:

1. Strongly condemn the shooting of demonstrators and the killing of innocent citizens in a number of regions, specifically Thala, Kasserine and Rgueb. They also condemn the break into the Regional Labour union in Kasserine and the destruction of property and documents.
2. Call for forming a committee to investigate the facts in order to determine the responsible of shooting live bullets at demonstrators in the concerned regions.
3. Call urgently for the immediate withdrawal of the army from all the cities and streets, and to stop all forms of siege in some internal areas.
4. Stress the freedom of expression and the right of peaceful protest for legitimate rights according to the contents of the international conventions and the Constitution of the country away from causing any damage to public property, and to preserve this property as a national gain achieved by our people throughout the long process of national struggle and social development.
5. Renew the call for the release of all detainees, the elimination of the factors that heightened tension and the formation of a committee for national dialogue to consider economic, social and political reform which has become imperative in order to ensure the factors of stability, security and prosperity. They also call for the creation of regional and local commissions to consider the required real-time reviews of the pattern of development in our country.
6. Call for providing every unemployed person, who has been unemployed for more than one year, with a monthly grant that would enable him to meet the minimum needs of life and guarantee his right to free medical treatment waiting for giving him a decent work according to his scientific and professional qualifications.

7. Reaffirm the importance of starting urgent and serious negotiations about the need to create an unemployment fund to help the jobless people and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the economic changes due to the privatization policy, which led to the closure of a number of companies that were unable to survive in an economy based on fierce and open competition.
8. In order to expand the circle of consultation, they renew the call to make the regional and local unions a permanent member in order to participate to the regional development councils and the regional and local committees of employment in the attribution of licenses.
9. Express their support for the affected regions and their solidarity with the families of victims. They also express their acknowledgment of the right of the regional trade union structures to protest against the damage that affected the unions and the citizens. They also stress the right of the remaining regions and sectors to protest in support and solidarity with the affected regions, in coordination with the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Labor Union.
10. Warn all desperate attempts to hold the trade union sector or regional structures responsible for the recent tragic events in our country.
11. Register their displeasure with the persistence of the policy of media blackout which prevented the citizens and people in general from having accurate information about the nature of the deteriorating conditions in various regions of the country.
12. In the light of the recent events in the country, they decide to postpone the National council that was planned to be held on 10, 11 and 12 February 2011 to a later date.

Tunis, 11 January 2011

The General Secretary

Chairman of the Administrative Commission

Abdessalem Jerad

