



General Secretary

## **Statement of the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Labor Union**

The Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Labor Union met on Tuesday, December 28, 2010 under the chairmanship of the General Secretary, comrade abdessalem Jerad, following the examination of the social conditions in some internal areas of the country and specifically Sidi Bouzid. Being anxious to follow the development of the situation to contribute to the elaboration of substantive and constructive proposals in order to overcome the outcome and the implications of the events taking into consideration the national and social dimensions in the struggles of the organization since its inception:

1. It Recalled that the Tunisian General Labor Union calls consistently for the creation of a Foundation for development based on the actual correlation between the economic and social dimensions, and pointed to the seriousness of the total fusion in a market economy without an in depth analysis of the social issues and the basic rights of workers.
2. It confirms the contents of all documents issued by the authorities, concerning the regulations or studies on the need for the government to continue its amending role and carry out the task of investing in the interior in light of the reluctance of the private sector to invest in those areas in spite of the multiple and varied incentives and encouragements given to this sector on the level of taxation and social protection.
3. It reaffirms that employment is a social matter that requires widening the circle of consultation within the framework of an approach based on research about the ways to boost growth in order to create more job opportunities. There should also be a review of work relations in the direction of ensuring stability in addition to the need for development of internal demand and the promotion of the ability of consumption since it contributes to improve production and open new horizons of employment.
4. Reminds about the importance of creating a balance between the regions and taking more care of the internal areas. The Tunisian General Labor Union clearly stated these demands in the agreement signed with the government on health insurance where they explicitly stressed the need to rehabilitate the public health sector and on a health map that lays the foundation for justice between the various regions.
5. Indicates that the organization has translated these parameters in studies aimed at priority areas: Kef, Gafsa, Sidi Bouzid ... which included a number of proposals sent to the regional and national authorities in order to be considered in the adoption of a pattern of development to ensure sustainability.

The Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Labor Union rushed to deal with the current events for its awareness of the responsibility of the organization and of its social and national roles by:

**A** - Sending two members of the Executive Bureau to monitor the situation closely and by calling the regional authorities and trade unionists to ward off what might result from this spontaneous movement.

**B** - Issuing a statement on December 21, 2010 calling for the adoption of regional and national workshops for dialogue to eliminate the factors of tension and to avoid the

adoption of security solutions in the treatment of spontaneous reactions, which were launched from a feeling of need and destitution among the unemployed youth overwhelmed by despair, which led some of them to adopt reactions that reached committing suicide.

**C** - Encouraging the training of workers and directing them to avoid further tension, stressing the need for releasing of detainees in order to ensure an atmosphere for honest, transparent, deep and responsible dialogue which aims at finding urgent and adequate solutions to address the real causes of events.

**D** – By the permanent intervention of the General Secretary with the national authorities at different levels for the release of those arrested in the different regions following the events. It also recorded with satisfaction the response that it received many times since most of them were released.

In order to solve the situation, the Executive Bureau of the Tunisian General Labor Union calls for:

- The release of all detainees to create an atmosphere of quiet consultation and constructive dialogue about the radical treatment of the reality of employment and development in the internal regions.
- Taking instant measures in order to activate the presidential decisions concerning employing a young man in each family increases in which there are more than three unemployed people. Working to develop these measures in the direction of employing one from each unemployed two people, in addition to the provide young people who wish to start a commercial or agricultural project with grants and loans and facilitate the procedures.
- Review the restructuring of the economy as a response to the new structure of unemployment after it became centered on the unemployed university graduates.
- Review the employment mechanisms in the direction of greater transparency, clarity and justice, and in order to avoid what some young people might feel like injustice, inequity and frustration.
- Facing the unemployment of the dismissed people by creating the unemployment insurance fund and activating mechanisms for their reintegration in the economic cycle.
- Adopting a journalism open to the citizens and their social, economic and even political preoccupations in order to fill the vacuum that may occur and avoid the different interpretations of the news.
- Opening urgent dialogue about outstanding issues in relation to the sectors of education for its positive impact on the social climate in our country.

**The General Secreatry  
Abdessalem Jerad**