



## **Tunisian General Union of Labor**

### **Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (UGTT)**

#### **Statement of the National Administrative Commission**

Members of the National Administrative Commission of the Tunisian General Union of Labor convened on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 in an extraordinary meeting in Gammarth. The meeting which was chaired by comrade Abdesslem Jerad, the Secretary General, addressed the rapid developments which the country has witnessed recently. Having carefully considered the immense sacrifices by the female and male trade unionists and workers, the public and the great martyrs who passed away in the historic popular uprising in order to combat the manifestations of inequity, injustice, and deviation; and out of their belief in the national and social role that has always been played by the UGTT for the sake of freedom, justice and human rights, the members of the National Administrative Commission of the Tunisian General Union of Labor:

1. Stand in humility and pay homage to the martyrs who passed away during our heroic people's uprising against oppression and tyranny, and against the gangs which wreaked havoc with the country, and to fight the oppressive regime which suppressed the public and individual freedoms and human rights.
2. Recall that the UGTT, through its studies and memos addressed to the government and the public opinion, was the first to alert to the situation of tension and anger our people suffered from due to the clumsy development policies which have created unemployment and poverty, as well as social and cultural desertification.
3. Stand in tribute and appreciation to the solidarity of all the segments/classes of people who are doing their best to maintain security and protect public property; reiterate that the vandalism, sabotage and looting acts were carried out by groups which are hired by and affiliated to the leaders of the presidential security and some of the corrupt relatives of the former president and his followers and relatives; and consider any attempt to divert the public opinion from the real perpetrators of vandalism, sabotage and looting as an act of deception and media blackout.
4. Call for the immediate freezing of the balances of the former president, his family and in-laws, the nationalization of their property, prevent all suspects from leaving the Tunisian territories pending the results of the investigations to be conducted by the relevant committee.
5. Stress the need for the immediate implementation of the announced political reforms which are related to the effective separation of the party from the state, issuing legislative amnesty, revision of the Constitution and the Election Code, and empowering all the political trends with

the right to organize, freedom of association and the right to exercise their political activity freely away from all the pressures and constraints.

6. Call for the formation of representative structures with broad powers to monitor the implementation of what was announced in terms of the immediate measures and the political, economic and social reforms.
7. Stressing the trade union right in accordance with the international conventions and national laws, the members call for the immediate dissolution of the vocational sections and vocational universities because they are considered as parallel structures which have clearly damaged the labor relations and the social atmosphere within the production institutions, and the need for the dissolution of the structures of the Constitutional Democratic Rally, the party which is still headed by former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.
8. Call for reconsidering the terms and conditions of the right to non-violent demonstration to eliminate the crippling limitations of the freedom of protest against the policies which contradict the people's interests and aspirations.
9. While the UGTT adheres to and promotes the social and political reforms, it considers that the composition of the coalition government as has been declared does not respond to the conditions set by the Executive Office in its Statement issued on Saturday, January 15, 2011, and does not comply with the aspirations of the workers and the public in terms of having the forces of actual innovation away from the past practices, and in terms of the equilibriums of the number of members of former governments and the ruling party; in addition to the marginalization of the role of the UGTT representatives. It announces the withdrawal of its representatives from the coalition government, the resignation of the trade unionists from the Chamber of Deputies, the Chamber of Advisers and the municipal councils; and the suspension of the UGTT membership in the Economic and Social Council and the supreme councils
10. Reject all forms of foreign intervention which tries to guide and influence our people. Our people - that managed to overthrow the president who used to suppress all those who uphold the freedom of expression – are qualified enough to determine their own destiny away from any guardianship.
11. Call for the formation of a constituent council which must be elected through free and democratic elections which reflect the will of our people in building a better future.
12. Decided to issue amnesty for the trade unionists who have been suspended sectorally and regionally.

Tunisia, January 18, 2011

Secretary General

Abdessalem Jerad