

Egyptian universities on the frontline of repression



After the 25 January Revolution in 2011 staff and students managed to expand democracy and independence on many Egyptian university campuses.

However, since the ouster of former president, Mohammed Morsi, in July 2013, many of these gains have been reversed in the name of combating the Muslim Brotherhood.

Long before the bombings which struck Cairo University in April 2014, the Egyptian security forces had turned Egyptian campuses into war zones: storming university buildings to arrest hundreds and shooting students dead during protests birdshot and live bullets.

According to Egyptian and international human rights organisations, it is the security forces who bear prime responsibility for the violence.

An Amnesty International report released in January 2014 highlighted the crackdown on students as a key example of what the organisation calls “state violence on an unprecedented scale”.

The Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE), an Egyptian NGO, has documented almost daily occurrences of violent attacks by the police on students and harsh jail sentences given to student protesters.

Take action now

- Pass a resolution through your union condemning the crackdown on student protests. Model motion available at www.egyptsolidarityinitiative.org/academicfreedoms
- Organise a protest, stall or vigil on campus highlighting the cases of those arrested, injured and killed.
- Organise a speaker meeting or film showing – get in touch for help and advice.
- Order copies of our new briefing on repression on Egyptian university campuses from our website.

Sign our founding statement:

“Egypt Solidarity is an international initiative which endorses freedoms secured since the 25 January Revolution of 2011. We call on all those who agree with our principles and demands to work with us in building global solidarity for Egyptians under threat from the military regime.

We support:

- The right to freedom of expression and of assembly, including public protest.
- The right to freedom of association, including the right to form political parties and independent trade unions, and to establish NGOs.
- The right to strike.
- The right to live without fear of sexual violence.
- Freedom from religious or sectarian persecution.
- Freedom of the media.
- Free elections.
- Fair trials.

We call for:

- Immediate and unconditional release of those imprisoned for exercising rights to freedom of expression and of assembly.
- Repeal of Law 107 of 2013, restricting rights to public assembly.
- Independent investigation into state violence and criminality, including assaults on those exercising any of the rights and freedoms above.
- An immediate end to trials of civilians in military and State Security courts.

We call on our governments to suspend all financial, military or other support to the Egyptian authorities that may be used to violate the rights of Egyptian citizens.

In particular we demand immediate cessation of all sales and transfers to the Egyptian government of weapons, ammunition, vehicles, cyber-surveillance technology and other materials for use against those who exercise their right to protest.”

To add your name please go to: <http://wp.me/p4kK99-c>

Founding signatories*

Dr Maha Abdel-Rahman, University of Cambridge, UK
• Prof Gilbert, Achcar, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK • Anne Alexander, MENA Solidarity Network, UK • Hüseyin Aydin, political secretary of Industrial Trade Union of Metal Workers (Germany)
• Jim Barbour, Vice President, Fire Brigades Union, UK • Chris Baugh, Assistant General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), UK • Prof Asef Bayat, University of Illinois, USA • Olivier Besancenot, former presidential candidate, member of the National Executive of NPA (Nouveau parti anticapitaliste), France • Sue Bond, Vice-President, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), UK • Prof Bill Bowring, Birkbeck, University of London, (President, European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights) • Richard Boyd Barrett, TD, People before Profit, Ireland • Christine Buchholz, MP, German parliament • Katy Clark, MP, UK • Sarah-Jayne Clifton, Director, Jubilee Debt Campaign, UK • Mary Compton, Past President, National Union of Teachers (NUT) and editor, Teachersolidarity.com, UK • Bob Crow, General Secretary, Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), UK • Nick Dearden, Director, World Development Movement • Richard, Harvey, QC, UK • Ian Hodson, National President, Bakers', Food & Allied Workers Union, UK • Sally Hunt, General Secretary, University and College Union (UCU), UK • Jimmy Kelly, Regional Secretary, Unite the Union, Ireland • Prof Laleh Khalili, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK • Jane Loftus, President, Communication Workers Union (CWU), UK • Eamonn McCann, National Executive Committee, National Union of Journalists (UK & Ireland) • John McDonnell, MP, UK Parliament • Wonsuk Park, Member of the National Assembly for the Justice Party, Korea • Dr Nicola Pratt, Warwick University, UK • Seung-chul Shin, President, Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, Korea • Andonis Stamatopoulos, president, SELMA (trade union of Athens Metro workers) • Ufuk Uras, former MP for Istanbul, Turkey

* Read the full list of signatories online at www.egyptsolidarityinitiative.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Pass a resolution through your student union or trade union condemning the repression in Egypt and inviting a speaker from the campaign
- Organise a film-showing or speaker meeting – get in touch with us for help and advice
- Check our website for information about protests and events where you can get involved

www.egyptsolidarityinitiative.org

for news and updates from Egypt and campaign resources. Twitter: @Egy_Solidarity