



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants
de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario (FEEO)

136 Isabella Street, Toronto, ON, M4Y 0B5
Tel: 416-962-3836 Toll Free: 1-888-838-3836 etfo.ca

November 1, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

H.E Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh
Prime Minister of Jordan
info@pm.gov.jo

Copy
H.E. Dr T Wajih Mosa Owais
Minister of Education, Jordan
moecs@moe.gov.jo

Dear Prime Minister,

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario stands in solidarity with the Jordanian Teachers' Association

On behalf of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and our 83,000 members, I am writing to condemn the dissolution of the Jordanian Teachers' Association (JTA) and the massive dismissals of teachers including 14 JTA leaders.

We have been informed that leading members of the JTA have been arrested in connection with the recent World Teachers Day demonstrations. We wish to emphasise that the right to freedom of association is an international human right protected by the Constitution of Jordan and international treaties of which Jordan is a signatory.

ETFO also deplores that the Government of Jordan unilaterally changed the employment regulations for civil servants by making it easier to terminate teachers' employment without compensation or force teachers to retire early. We know the entire elected leadership of the JTA was summarily dismissed last year.

This is a gross violation of JTA members' rights to govern their own organization. Their greatest crime has been pressuring the government to follow through with their commitments to teachers following the month-long strike in 2019. We stand in solidarity with the teachers of Jordan and their commitment to their students and communities in the face of International Monetary Fund backed austerity policies.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario therefore urges the Government of Jordan:

- to unconditionally reinstate the dismissed leaders of the Jordanian Teachers' Association and the 65 teachers who were forced to retire early;
- to lift the suspension of JTA union activities;
- to guarantee the fundamental rights and democratic freedoms of educators and all workers, including freedoms of expression and of association and the right to assembly, which are essential to the functioning of independent trade unions; and
- to further reform national laws to bring them in line with international standards.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario stands in solidarity with our sister organisations in Jordan and will continue to closely monitor the human and trade union rights situation in the country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Brown
President
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

KB:JT:KK