STATEMENT BY

NAHWAL, NPSHWUL, NTUPAW, LUNAST, RIAWU, NTAL, CTIL:

PROTEST AGAINST THE ATTACKS ON WORKERS
AND UNION RIGHTS BY THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT

We, affiliates of PSI in Liberia in collaboration with other workers and human rights organisations, are protesting against the anti-union behaviour of the Liberian government, more specifically the dismissal of union leaders George Poe Williams and Joseph Tamba of NAHWAL and Meillish P.G. Weh and Jayce W. Garniah of the RIAWU, the refusal to grant NAHWAL its union certificate of recognition and the suspension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement of the RIA workers union.

Contrary to the fact that the government has ratified the ILO conventions C87 and C98, it refuses to put these international regulations into practice and has made it illegal for public servants to get organised and form or join a union who represents their rights.

Although the constitution guarantees the right to association and specifically refers to trade unions, the government had instituted two different labour laws, the Decent Work Act for private and the Civil Service Standing Order for the public sector, denying public servants the international and constitutional right to organise themselves into unions.

Therefore we call for the amendment of the Civil Service Standing Order, the inclusion of civil servants and Maritime workers in the Decent Work Act and for the reinstatement of the dismissed union leaders. All workers, including those working for the government, should have the right to organise and no union member should face dismissal, be threatened or displaced, just for defending worker’s rights and fighting for better working conditions.

Therefore we demand:

- Domestication of ILO conventions 87 and 98
- The inclusion of Civil servants and Maritime workers in the Decent work act
- The reinstatement of union leaders of NAHWAL and RIA and all other union and workers’ leaders who have been illegally dismissed by the Liberian government.
- Union certification for NAHWAL and other public servants associations.
- Restoration of the CBA of RIAWU

NAHWAL NPSHWUL NTUPAW LUNAST RIAWU NTAL CTIL

- NAHWAL: National Health Workers’ Association of Liberia
- NPSHWUL: National Private Sector Health Workers Union of Liberia
- LUNAST: Liberian Union of Non Academic Staff and Teachers
- NTUPAW: National Trade Union of Public Service and Allied Workers
- RIAWU: Roberts International Airport Workers’ Union
- NTAL: National Teachers’ Association of Liberia
- CTIL: Civil Society and Trade Union Institutions of Liberia

Reinstate our union leaders! Equal rights for ALL workers!
Stop illegal dismissal of union leaders! RESPECT our CBA!
Stop attacks against unions! Unions for public servants!
Domesticate C87 and C98 NOW! Right to unionize