February 16, 2021

H.E. Dr Tayseer Al Noaimi
Minister of Education, Jordan
moecs@moe.gov.jo

CC: His Excellency Dr. Maen Al-Qatamin
Minister of Labour of Jordan
Email: info@mol.gov.jo

Subject: Dissolution of the Jordanian Teacher Association and detention of its leaders

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you as the President of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF/FEO), to denounce the detention of the leaders of the Jordanian Teacher Association and the suspension of all union work on behalf of teachers and education workers.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation deplores that the Jordanian government has been using emergency laws enacted in the context of COVID to limit civil and political rights. Many union activists have been arrested for expressing opinions on social media. The JTA leaders have acted within the guidelines of international labour standards and the Jordanian constitution.

In the latest act against the education association, the Amman magistrate court ordered on 31 December the full dissolution of the JTA and sentenced all 13 JTA board members to one year imprisonment.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation strongly condemns the criminalization of legitimate trade union activities. The Ontario Teachers' Federation therefore urges the Government of Jordan:

- to halt the suspension of union work by the JTA;
- to guarantee the fundamental rights and democratic freedoms of educators and all workers, including freedom of opinion, expression, assembly and association;
- to further reform national laws to bring them further in line with international standards.

As part of the global community of educators, The Ontario Teachers' Federation 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,

Parker Robinson
President
Ontario Teachers' Federation