



FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA METALMECCANICI

CISL - Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori

industriAll European Trade Union

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We are writing on behalf of the Italian Metalworkers' Federation FIM-CISL, which represents the interest of more than 225 mil workers employed in the metal industry in Italy, expressing our solidarity with 26 workers from the shipyards of Alexandria, prisoners awaiting the judgment of a military judge, with the lock on charges of work and incitement to strike.

FIM-CISL

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The process lacks many basic rights that a civilian court warrants in Egypt. Workers, held from May 24, have not committed any crime under military law. In addition, the actions that led to their detention are described as peaceful protests and strike with the demand for higher wages, the development and improvement of production in shipyards and increased safety measures at work, such as protection from injuries.

The Company of the shipyards of Alexandria cannot be considered military structure, and the workers cannot be considered military workers. These are civilian workers, entered the company years ago, when this was part of the public sector, which is a civil sector. Therefore, workers are subject to the civil laws governing labor relations.

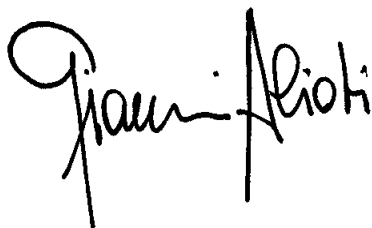
The ownership of the company has changed from the days of its founding in 1960, through the Organization of Industries and Maritime service, part of the Armed Forces. So, everything that happens in the company, according to military law, has now become subject, and falls under the jurisdiction of military courts.

Bring the shipyard workers of Alexandria on trial in a military court is a pure violation of international conventions, to which Egypt is a signatory. These conventions affirm the right of workers to protest peacefully, in addition to freedom of expression and the right to negotiate to realize their legitimate demands for fair wages and decent working conditions.

For these reasons we are demanding the immediate release of 26 workers from the shipyards of Alexandria.

Gianni Alioti
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