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Dear Madam,

I kindly ask your assistance to raise the situation of sacked trade unionists Joseph S. Tamba and George Poe Williams, President and General Secretary of the National Health Workers Association of Liberia (NAHWAL), respectively with the Liberian government. EPSU asks for their reinstatement.

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Services Unions and member of ETUC, has joined worldwide protests over the dismissal of the two trade union leaders in Liberia last week. In Sao Paolo, in New York and Washington, in Geneva and other places attention was asked to the unlawful dismissal. Please find a collection of these actions in Europe : <http://www.epsu.org/article/epsu%E2%80%99s-day-action-solidarity-liberian-trade-union>

Health workers in Liberia have been crucial to address the Ebola outbreak crisis in Liberia. Their efforts and the risks they have taken have not been duly recognized. Thousands of volunteer health care workers who have served the nation for years are still working for free.

These professional women and men have no job security, social security, pension scheme, medical or death benefits. Joseph and George have been working to defend their interests. In addition, there has been a generalized and systematic persecution, discrimination and interference of trade unions and several other attacks that are in violation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98, which Liberia has ratified.

EPSU kindly asks for your support. Liberia needs to rebuild its public health system so it can tackle the current problems and confront future ones. The European Commission is an important donor and contributor. This will only be effective if embedded in a democratic society. Respect for trade union rights and developing dialogue and constructive industrial relations and including in health care is an important part of this.

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EPSU is a member
federation of the ETUC
and represents
PSI in Europe

EPSU represents 260 trade unions with 8 million members in all European countries. We are a recognized social partner and engage in the European social dialogue with employers and the European Commission.

The Council and Parliament as well as the Commission have repeatedly underlined the importance of this. Human rights and these include trade union rights are non-negotiable as former Commissioner Piebalgs used to say.

We think it is important for the European Commission to raise these issues with your Liberian counter parts. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you need further information.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary