

STATEMENT

on the Occasion of May 1st – International Workers' Day

The Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces marks International Workers' Day in a context marked by an unprecedented escalation of violations of trade union freedoms in Algeria, alongside the continued implementation of policies aimed at weakening the independent trade union movement and stripping it of its substance.

We express our categorical rejection of the current situation, in which public authorities—foremost among them the Ministry of Labour—continue to obstruct the activities of unions affiliated with COSYFOP through arbitrary administrative measures, sustained pressure, and explicit threats targeting their leadership. These practices constitute blatant violations of fundamental rights and a direct breach of the principle of freedom of association, a fundamental right of the people.

We further denounce the purely formal nature of the so-called “trade union pluralism” presented by the authorities as an achievement on the international stage, while in reality it serves to fragment and weaken the collective power of workers. This strategy relies on the promotion and proliferation of sectoral unions, particularly in public service sectors such as education, health, and the civil service, while preventing the emergence of independent trade union organizations in key economic sectors such as postal services and social security. It systematically results in the repression of any independent voice, including through the judicial dissolution of unions that refuse to comply with lines imposed by the authorities, on the basis of laws tailored within the machinery of a system that fails to comply with the international conventions of the International Labour Organization it has nevertheless ratified.

At the same time, the authorities are pursuing a deliberate policy aimed at forcibly imposing the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) as the sole national trade union confederation. It has effectively been transformed into an instrument for controlling and subjugating workers, rather than a body defending their interests, thereby contributing to the profound weakening of the trade union movement and the erosion of its advocacy function.

Meanwhile, the Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces, as the only independent national trade union confederation standing in contrast to the UGTA—legally registered and offering a credible alternative—has been subjected to systematic attacks precisely because it embodies an autonomous voice and rejects any logic of subordination.

These repressive policies have forced several trade union leaders into exile, while thousands of activists continue their engagement in Algeria under extremely difficult conditions, facing a system that refuses to recognize trade union freedom as a fundamental right and instead treats it as a threat to be neutralized.

In this context, we reiterate our clear and non-negotiable demand for the immediate release of trade union leader Ali Mammeri. We hold the authorities fully responsible for his continued detention and affirm that his case will not be abandoned. The struggle for his release will continue relentlessly, regardless of the pressure.

On this International Day, the Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces recalls that the fight for trade union freedom has gone beyond the realm of demands: it has become a struggle for the very existence of the independent trade union movement in Algeria. Accordingly, we reaffirm our commitment to pursue this struggle by all legitimate means, while rejecting any form of control, domestication, or exclusion.

Long live workers' struggles
No to the monopoly of trade union representation
Yes to genuine trade union freedom

Algiers, May 1st, 2026

Executive Committee

