**To**: Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

President of Liberia

ebfasama@emansion.gov.lr

etoles@emansion.gov.lr

**cc**: Mrs. Bernice Dahn

Minister of Health and Social Welfare

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Mr. Neto Zarzar Lighe

Minister of Labour

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George K. Werner

Minister of Education

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[*insert date*]

Dear Mrs. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of [*insert the name of your trade union*], an organisation affiliated with [*insert GUF name*], which represents more than [*xxxx*] workers around the world, in [*xxxx*] countries, including Liberia.

We want to express concerns over the situation of workers in the health sector in Liberia, and more in particular the dismissals of [**Joseph S. Tamba** and **George Poe Williams**](http://www.world-psi.org/SolidarityLiberia), President and General Secretary of the National Health Workers Association of Liberia (NAHWAL), respectively.

Joseph S. Tamba and George Poe Williams were dismissed in February 2014 following a nationwide strike in protest against the bad working conditions in the health sector. These poor working conditions had fatal consequences: the lack of protective equipment, the long working hours and the lack of medication in the fight against Ebola caused hundreds of deaths amongst health workers. On top of this, workers who continued risking their lives did not always get their salary and risk allowance and there was no consequent support system for Ebola survivor health workers or for the families of the deceased workers.

The case of Tamba and Williams does not stand alone. It is one extreme example of the lack of respect for trade union rights and the right to organize by your government. In addition:

* In contradiction with ILO conventions 87 and 98, and although the right to organise is recognised by the Liberian constitution, your government has made it illegal for public servants to organise and form or join a union by excluding these rights from the Civil Service Standing Orders, the lesser labour law for public servants;
* Union leaders are dismissed, displaced to faraway regions, denied their salary, and workers intimidated;
* At the Roberts International airport, a collective bargaining agreement was unilaterally cancelled and the union leaders dismissed;
* You have called for the mass dismissal of teachers who participated in actions against Public-Private partnerships.

[*your union*] strongly condemns these attacks on NAHWAL and other unions, and urges the Liberian government to address this conflict and find a solution, making possible the recognition of NAHWAL and the realization of the right to freedom of association and guaranteeing the protection of all workers and trade unionists in the country.

[*your union*] also demands that **Joseph S. Tamba** and **George Poe Williams** be reinstated in their jobs and that the government respect and recognize the work they have done for the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

[*Your name]*

*[Your position]*

*[Your union/organisation*]