



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



November 17, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

VIA Email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

RE: Military Coup in Sudan

I am writing today on behalf of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, a regional labour federation representing approximately 60,000 unionized workers in the City of Vancouver and neighbouring municipalities.

As you are no doubt aware, on October 25 the military under General Abdel Fattah Burhan dissolved the transitional government of Sudan, arrested Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and declared martial law.

Our Labour Council condemns the coup in Sudan and the actions of the Sudanese military in the strongest possible terms. We join with the International Trade Union Confederation in expressing our support for the strike action by health, airline, bank, education, oil and other workers resisting the coup.

Now is a crucial moment to stand with the people of Sudan against this anti-democratic seizure of power. We are calling on the Government of Canada to take three important steps to this end;

- Cease all military and diplomatic cooperation with the Sudanese military, including Rapid Support Forces, until the Sudanese state is fully sovereign and free to make economic, political and security decisions without military influence;
- Support the right of workers to form trade unions and engage in strike action, as fundamental to a free society;
- Oppose any western military intervention and instead call on the IMF, national governments, and commercial banks to cancel Sudan's national debts which fuel the economic crisis.

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Canada can play a positive role in this situation if it acts in a manner which respect and upholds the sovereignty of the people of Sudan, workers' rights, peace, diplomacy, and self-determination.

We look forward to hearing more about the Government of Canada's approach.

Thank you.

Yours Truly,



Stephen von Sychowski
President, VDLC

Cc: VDLC Executive Board

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