



Education International
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Bildungsinternationale

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President

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Mr. Michael Dunkley
Premier
Government of Bermuda
105 Front Street
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BERMUDA

BY EMAIL: cbhayward@gov.bm

Brussels, 19 November 2015

Re: Legal action against the Bermuda Union of Teachers

Dear Premier Dunkley,

Education International (EI), the Global Union Federation representing more than 32 million teachers and education workers worldwide, expresses serious concerns about the actions of your government as concerns the Bermuda Union of Teachers (BUT), EI's affiliate in Bermuda.

It has come to our knowledge that the Minister of Home Affairs will be seeking from the court next week an injunction that will make it unlawful for the BUT and four other public service unions to engage in any type of industrial action.

Last January, the BUT showed good faith in working with the government to address budget shortfalls. Budgetary solutions were mutually agreed upon. However your government preferred to ignore them and is now initiating questionable legal action to attack union rights.

By ratifying ILO conventions 87 and 98, Bermuda committed to respecting the rights of workers and civil servants to freedom of association and to collective bargaining. We hope that your government will keep honouring this commitment. Should it not be the case, EI and the BUT will bring the case to the International Labour Organisation.

Education International is calling on the Government of Bermuda to:

- Withdraw the legal action against the BUT and the other public service unions;
- Maintain a meaningful dialogue with BUT, and respect collective agreements;
- Respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of teachers in accordance with international labour standards.

I trust that your government will act swiftly to address this important matter. In the meantime, Education International, and the teaching community worldwide, will continue to monitor the situation of Bermudian teachers closely.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary