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Verzonden: vrijdag 8 februari 2013 10:11
Aan: Veerle Solia
Onderwerp: ETUC press release

ETUC Press release

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The European Trade Union Confederation supports the call for a general strike by

the General Tunisian Workers' Union in reaction to the assassination of Chokri

Belaïd

8 February 2013

The cowardly assassination of Chokri Belaïd, General Secretary and co-founder of the Popular Front, came as a profound shock to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). This assassination is undoubtedly the work of a counter-revolutionary milieu. It is also an attack against the achievements of the democratic revolution and against Tunisian civil society which, day after day, is endeavouring to build a new Tunisia, based on freedom, human rights and equality.

Just a few days before his death, Chokri Belaïd had denounced attempts to destabilise the State through violence and the machinations of obscure militias. The State did nothing to protect his life, although it should have done so, because Chokri Belaïd had been receiving threats for a long time. It was no secret to anyone.

Chokri Belaïd was one of those who fought, without compromise, against the dictatorship and for democratic renewal. The country has lost a peerless and emblematic personality. He paid for it with his life. He will forever remain in the collective memory of Tunisians as a man who devoted himself fully to the defence of human rights and democracy.

ETUC reiterates its full solidarity with its sister organisation, the General Tunisian Workers' Union (known by the French initials UGTT) and with all the elements of

democratic society engaged in the struggle for democracy.

Through its call for a general strike, the UGTT has assumed its role at the forefront of the fight for democracy, human rights and a non-violent transition.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is also on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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