



اتحاد عمال مصر الديمقراطي
Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress

Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) raises a note of protest to the Ministry of Manpower
Union confirms his refusal to accept what Egyptian workers revolted against before
And decides to retain the right to take all legal actions by the ministry

Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) raised a letter on Sunday 02/02/2014 issued by the General Council on the first of February in protest to a previous note dated 30.01.2014 issued by the Office of the President of the Central Administration of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration to Bank of Egypt. It contained a request to freeze the account of Democratic Egyptian Labour Congress (EDLC).

Congress expressed its rejection of this action and demanded the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration at the end of its (note) book to withdraw the book No. 68 of 30.01.2014 issued by and directed to the Director of Bank of Egypt Kasr Al Ainy branch , with all the subsequent actions, and the receipt of all the resolutions issued on 07.01.2014 by the General Council including the election of a president and a new secretary general and modification of the composition of the executive board accordingly . In addition, Congress demanded the delivery of a receipt for these documents , as well as all the necessary correspondence accordingly. Finally , Congress requested an urgent and transparent investigation in the matter :of the facts of the intervention, and deliberate stalling by the practices of some of the parties in the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration with confirmation of the Congress on retaining all legal rights

The General Council of the Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) notified the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration on 1/16/2014 of the decisions issued by its emergency meeting held on Tuesday, 01.07.2014 to withdraw confidence from Mr. Marouf and isolate him from the presidency position and membership of the executive body of the General Council , and the election of Mr. Saad Shaaban as acting President of the Congress and Mr. Hani Mohammed Afifi as an acting Secretary General of the Congress . A notification is attached to a copy of the minutes of the emergency meeting , which included a detailed presentation of the discussions of its attending members. Reasons and regulatory decisions were also presented , as well as the course of the vote on these decisions.

Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC)

Egypt / Cairo: Down Town -88 Al Kasr Al Ainy street, 2nd floor, App. No. 7

Tel/Fax: 02 27962564 Mobile: +2 01211972240

Alexandria: 89 Gamal Abdel Naser St. – Seidy Beshr- 1st floor / Tel: +2 (03) 3592609

Official E-mail: EDLC.Labourcongress.eg@gmail.com

Official Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/edlc.edlc.1>



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Although representatives of the Congress - Commissioners of the General Council of the fulfillment of the conditions of formal union after the dismissal of the former president and elected acting president and legal representative of his - have confronted procrastination along ten days by the President of the Central Administration of labor relations and affairs bargaining and the supervisor for contact of the trade union. However, they preferred to assume good intentions of those in charge of in the ministry in particular . It was difficult for them to return to the assumption that the ministry abuses its rights and powers granted to it regarding data recording data reception and recording of changes and amendments . These unions aimed at practicing their legal rights granted to them including opening an bank accounts under the name of those unions.

However, the subsequent fallout has proven beyond any doubt that the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration obvious and direct intervention of the Ministry regarding to direct intervention in decisions made by the General Council is taking and as was assumed by some that the Ministry followed formal procedures. Representatives of the Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) received a document from the Ministry of Manpower - after a long strive - No. 59 dated 01/28/2014 addressed to Bank of Egypt at the request of adoption of signatures of representatives of Congress in accordance with the resolutions of the General Council on 07.01.2014 [signing all of Saad Shaban, Acting President and treasurer Suhair Hamdy

However, they were surprised by the book(note/ document) No. 68 dated 30/01/2914 addressed to the bank with a request to freeze the bank account the of Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) until a decision is concluded by the General Assembly which held an emergency session on 01/02/2014 .

The Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) expressed its surprise at this arbitrary action and raised in his note to the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration all basis of the objections in the following regarding this procedure :

The General Council of the Union of EDLC - according to the Constitution of the Union - is the body which has the right to elect members of the executive branch, including the president ,vice president ,the secretary general ,the treasurer and other positions.Consequently , it is has an inherent right to withdraw the confidence of those they elected

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The failure of the administrative body to recognize decision of the General Council is neither justified nor impossible ,especially after a direct assault on the right of the General Council as the source of jurisdiction in the withdrawal of confidence and another assault on the right of EDLC its members in the development of their list on their own without government interference. On top comes the rude assault on the rights and freedoms of association.

Officials of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration failed understand Congress constitution and philosophy embraced by its members ,giving these officials the benefit of doubt. Moreover, they failed to perceive that there is not a single formula for regulations and systems of syndicates and unions .These officials go in accordance to inherited and inadequate knowledge which assumes no alternatives or multiple structures of association, and are unaware of the broader debate that circulates in the international labor forums on the development of the trade union structures in a way that makes them more democratic and more effective. Nonetheless their failure doesn't justify their interference in the Congress affairs.

What the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration carried under this book, which bears the number 68, is a decision to suspend the decision of the General Council of the EDLC until the emergency general assembly .In addition, the Ministry has added an article that did not exist before ,without the slightest right, and has applied . According to the text, the validity of the decisions of the General Council at its executive body would be annulled until the meeting of the general assembly . From where did the ministry get this text ? What does EDLC has to do with the Ministry and its article?

The Ministry of Manpower and Immigration and the article No. 68 that mentioned news about the existence of differences and divisions within the EDLC clearly revealed the reasons for severe procrastination which the representatives of EDLC assumed previously were unintentional. However, the decisions of the General Council of EDLC could not have included differences and divisions for those who read the facts objectively:

- A president who was elected by a majority of 22 members of the General Council ;has confidence has been withdrawn from him by a majority of 31 members, by consensus of those present members of the General Council and the approval and authorization of eight members who could not attend
- confidence has not been withdrawn from the executive board which was elected by the General Council on 26.04.2014. It was only the president and the members of the

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Bureau are staying in full number without the president and all that happened was the election of the Secretary-General to carry out the tasks of the former President, and Secretary-General to carry out the duties of the Secretary-General

- Then, there are no differences or divisions .It is only a president whom the Congress rejected his general way in performance ,leadership and individuality in decision making; consequently EDCL decides to change him . A decision not welcomed by the Ministry for unknown reasons.
- The intervention of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration in the affairs of EDLC, and the attempt to impose rules for unknown reasons contradicts with Laws stipulated in the Constitution and differs completely from ILO Convention No. 87 with the Provisions of the rights and freedoms of association ,and it represents a gross violation and direct these rights and freedoms.

Finally , EDLC has the right to know who decided convening an emergency session of its General Assembly on 02.01.2014 . Who are the members who asked for this meeting , which did not take place? !

The decision of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration decision to freeze a union account without the will of the bodies and its members – as emphasized by EDLC - represents an explicit interference in the affairs of trade unions on the part of the administrative body and was perhaps the first of its kind in the history of government interference that Egyptian workers suffered from .

The Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress (EDLC) Workers is committed to core labor standards , trade union freedoms and the principles of democracy , and is fully biased to the interests and rights of Egyptian workers in the formation of unions without tutelage independent of business and political parties , and struggles to achieve those rights undiminished and to drop and cancel all legal restrictions imposed upon workers along the past decades EDLC removed all obstacles that shackle exercise of these rights .EDLC cannot afford to give up anything of these principles and standards , and cannot accept anything that was now rejected by Egyptian workers and the labor movement for democracy three years ago.

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4/2/2014

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