

# BUILDING WORKERS' POWER

4<sup>TH</sup> ITUC WORLD CONGRESS - COPENHAGEN, 2-7 DECEMBER 2018

UNIONS AT WORK

WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT WIN 2014 - 2018?

You and your affiliated unions have been on the frontlines of many struggles since we met in Berlin in 2014.

We want to document and share with all Congress delegations to the ITUC World Congress 2018 the most significant victories of trade unions during the period 2014 to 2018.

Can you describe the struggle and the outcome using the template we have prepared and provide a photo and quote from a union leader and trade union member? Send your most significant win to [congress@ituc-csi.org](mailto:congress@ituc-csi.org)

**Name of national trade union centre or union:**

Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU)

**Country:**

Somalia

**Most significant union victory [Headline in 6 words]:**

ILO & European Parliament back Somali Unions

**Description of the issue or dispute [200 words]:**

In November 2015, the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU), and its affiliated union, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) dragged the Somalia government to Supreme Court of Somalia over violations of freedom of association and trade union rights. On 4 February 2016, the Supreme Court of Somalia handed down a res judicata verdict (a matter that has been adjudicated by a competent and highest court of the country and therefore cannot be pursued further by the same parties). The court found

Somali government guilty of violations and confirmed the trade union's legitimacy and invalidated the government created bogus union leadership.

In December 2014, FESTU and NUSOJ with the help of ITUC filed a freedom of association case at the ILO. Again, the ILO was convinced that Somali government is guilty ridden in terms of representing and de-legitimising trade unions, and ILO specifically reaffirmed legitimacy of NUSOJ and FESTU and demanded the government to stop interferences in trade union affairs.

On 5 July 2018, the European Parliament had unanimously passed a resolution condemning human and trade union rights violations in Somalia and endorsed the ILO decisions which recognise and support the legitimate trade union leadership of NUSOJ and FESTU.

**Detail of the campaign or strategy [100 words]:**

FESTU has adopted multiprong strategy:

- 1) Mobilising member unions and wider membership to put pressure on political forces.
- 2) Countering political campaigns against trade unions with tenacious advocacy work and effective litigation strategy – both nationally and internationally.
- 3) Public campaigning to expose human and labour rights abuses and violations to galvanise national and international support.

**Photo and quote from union leader [20 words]:**

“We have doggedly rejected our unions to be stolen under government cover. Our unions are confident & tenacious advocates of rights” Omar Faruk Osman, FESTU General Secretary.