



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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January 23, 2006

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
President
The Republic of Yemen
Sana'a, Yemen

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our support of the efforts of the Yemen Teachers Syndicate and the General Union of Educational Professionals to secure their rights under your government's new Wages and Salaries Law.

The rights of Yemen's teachers to a fair wage, along with decent working conditions and benefits are protected by the Core Labor Standards of the International Labor Organization. The Republic of Yemen, as a member of the ILO, has a responsibility to uphold these standards. The rights and benefits accorded teachers under the Teacher and Educational Professions Law, issued in 1988, should not be undermined by the enactment of new legislation.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Yemen Teachers Syndicate and the General Union of Educational Professionals and urge your government to consult with them prior to making any changes in determining teachers' salaries and benefits.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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