

Call for the reinstatement of Salah Lamrani, expelled from the CGT for his stance on Gaza

Salah Lamrani, a Literature teacher elected to the Bureau and Executive Committee of the CGT Education of the Puy-de-Dôme department (Auvergne, France), [who also blogs under the pseudonym Alain Marshal](#) (an anagram of his name), was expelled from the Union for denouncing the CGT Confederation's positions following the events of October 7. An internal letter he initiated, which became an open letter published [on his Mediapart blog](#) and [on change.org](#), denounced the pro-Israeli bias of several Confederation statements and press releases, and recalled the right of a colonized people to armed resistance. To date, it has been signed by hundreds of CGT members, representatives and sympathizers, as well as by 6 CGT Union sections and 2 Palestine solidarity groups.

An abusive exclusion procedure was launched against Salah, without the accusations made against him being the subject of a written document based on clearly established facts and constituting misconduct. His definitive exclusion was pronounced on April 12 by the Departmental Trade Union Council, a body where the rights of defence were not respected, [any open debate having been forbidden](#). This summary process was designed to conceal the irregularities in the procedure and the real grievances levelled against him, which have constantly changed, and are matters of opinion or minor points that do not withstand scrutiny. Although this "trial" was held in the presence of observers from the Puy-de-Dôme CGT Departmental Union and the National Union of National Education Unions (UNSEN-CGT), they did not take part in the exclusion process, which was the sole responsibility of the CGT Education 63 (Puy-de-Dôme). Nor has the Confederation been implicated to date in this decision, which is contrary to the fundamental principles of the CGT that all Unions must respect.

While [Salah's views on October 7](#) were the main reason for his exclusion, as demonstrated by the chronology of events and the solid file he has compiled (available on demand), he has also been criticized for other "minority" opinions, whether on the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), because he supports the return of the CGT to its fold, on the war in Ukraine or on societal matters such as abortion or LGBT issues, which he considers to be outside the scope of trade union activism. His religious convictions and practices have also been stigmatized, in particular his defence of the right of private denominational schools to exist, an opinion which was deemed contrary to the principle of secularism ("laïcité"). Citing "conflicting values", the Bureau sidelined him, despite his proven track record in defending employees' rights. And when he refused to resign, Salah was the victim of slanderous accusations, in particular that he had [called a fellow employee a "miscreant"](#) during a Bureau meeting, which made him look like a religious extremist. Because he distributed a recording of the meeting internally, [via an unlisted YouTube link](#), demonstrating that this accusation was a slander, the lawyer for the CGT Education 63 sent him a [formal notice](#) threatening him with a police summons and a penalty of "one year's

imprisonment and a €45,000 fine”. As well as exonerating him, the recording includes [explicit admissions](#) by several key Bureau members, who describe his views on the situation in Palestine as the “[most salient point](#)” and the “[most serious](#)” grievance justifying his exclusion, particularly because they would [cause the union to lose members](#).

It is unacceptable, at a time when the number of indictments and convictions against defenders of the Palestinian cause for alleged “apology for terrorism” is multiplying (our comrade Jean-Paul Delescaut, General Secretary of the UD CGT Nord, is one of the latest victims), at the instigation of a political power subservient to Washington and its unwavering support for Israel, that a trade unionist and activist should be endangered by his own comrades for having called for genuine support for the Palestinian people in their hour of truth.

It is unacceptable, at a time when the situation is worsening for workers, and when the overall struggles and the construction of a strategy for conquest seem to be at a standstill, to threaten the cohesion of the CGT by opening up such conflicts within it, and by implementing measures as drastic as exclusion following a political trial of another age, which discredits the union and deprives it of goodwill.

It is unacceptable, at a time when society and even the political forces of the left are tearing themselves apart, providing a breeding ground for the extreme right, of which the so-called “republican arc” has adopted the systemic racism and Islamophobia and hate speech, to forget that *“The CGT is open to all employees [...] whatever their social and professional status, nationality, political, philosophical and religious opinions. It strives for a democratic society, free from capitalist exploitation and other forms of exploitation and domination, against discrimination of all kinds, racism, xenophobia and all forms of exclusion. [...] Trade union democracy guarantees each employee the right, within the trade union, to freely defend his or her point of view on all matters concerning the life and development of the organization.”* (Preamble to the CGT Statutes).

We call on the CGT Confederation to intervene to shed full light on this affair, which should lead to the cancellation of this anti-statutory exclusion measure, the main cause of which is Salah's refusal to treat Israel and the entire Palestinian Resistance in the same way: Hamas is one of its fundamental components, alongside other Islamic, secular or Marxist groups. Salah is being targeted because of his public support for the Palestinian people, victims of fascist genocide with the complicity of Western capitals. All political, ideological and personal differences must be resolved internally in accordance with the rule of law and the CGT's traditions of dialogue, free debate and open camaraderie, which would be dishonoured by a Confederal confirmation of this arbitrary exclusion.

Contact for signature: petitioncgtpalestine@gmail.com

25 FIRST SIGNATORIES

- 1. Laurent DE WANGEN**, CGT Educ'75
- 2. Yassine KHALED**, CGT Educ'75
- 3. Mohsen CHOUAIKIA**, CGT Educ'75
- 4. Yassine CHABANE**, CGT Educ'75
- 5. Laure GUERARD**, CGT Educ'02
- 6. Dominique NATANSON**, CGT Educ' 02, spokesperson for the French Jewish Union for Peace (UJFP)
- 7. Pierre-Olivier POYARD**, CGT Educ' 88, member of the National Bureau of the Peace Movement
- 8. Jacqueline LAVY**, retired from National Education, member UL-CGT Annecy (74)
- 9. Bruno DRWESKI**, University Professor, CGT FERC Sup (75)
- 10. Victoire BECH**, member of the CNTPEP-CGT, IDF Committees
- 11. Berthe POGGIALE AVIDOR**, retired from the Territorial Civil Service category B, former member of the CGT and UGICT within the municipality of Nîmes, daughter of a deportee who died in Mauthausen (number 124147) on April 4, 1945
- 12. Naïma KIFALE**, retired from the Ministry of Labor, member and activist of the UL CGT Bordeaux
- 13. Jean-Pierre PAGE**, former member of the Confederal Executive Commission of the CGT and former head of its International Department
- 14. Jean GRIMAL**, member of the UD CGT 02 Bureau
- 15. Valérian ROBERT**, Treasurer of the CGT Public Finance Local Section 10
- 16. Guy PERBET**, retired, former CGT staff representative at France Télécom (69100)
- 17. André FADDA**, former Secretary General of the CGT multi-professional union in the Saint-Nazaire shipyards, former National Secretary of the CGT Interim
- 18. Peter DONTZOW**, Secretary of UD 44 from 1984 to 2000, defender of undocumented immigrants from Nantes 1995/2000, ANC 44 activist
- 19. Nadia ZAIMEDDINE**, CGT social action 13
- 20. Mohammed BEN YAKHLEF**, CGT ML IDF union delegate, member of Conex CGT Mission Locale et Insertion Île de France
- 21. Sylvette ROUGIER**, retired CGT Santé et Action Sociale de la Vienne, president of Poitiers Palestine
- 22. Jean Claude LACOMBE**, retired railway worker CGT Montauban (82)
- 23. Samir KHAZAZ**, CGT IGN union member
- 24. Pierre MANTOVANI**, Secretary of the CGT Committee of Precarious and Deprived of Employment Workers of Toulon and its surroundings (UL of Toulon) and of the Palestine Toulon association – FTP (Federation of Football Tournaments for Palestine), editor of the La Sartan Roujo review
- 25. Pauline DETUNCQ**, CGT Santé Social USD 75