International Transport Workers' Federation

Dockers' Section Committee

London, 17 & 18 November 2015

STATEMENT: NERMIN AL-SHARIF

The Dockers' Section Committee meeting, in London on 17th & 18th November 2015, sends the following message of solidarity and support to our sister, Nermin Al-Sharif, General Secretary of the Dockers' and Seafarers' Union of Libya, and her union:

The Dockers' Section Committee is appalled to learn of the recent attack on Nermin Al-Sharif, leader of the ITF-affiliated Dockers' and Seafarers' Union of Libya and ITF Dockers' Vice Chair for the Arab World Region, due to her trade union, human and women's rights work.

We are relieved that she managed to escape her pursuers and is recovering from her injuries. Nermin's unwavering commitment to equality and justice in the face of threats and danger to herself – this is the second attempt on her life – is an inspiration to trade unionists everywhere struggling for these same values.

We condemn the violence that has been directed against Libyan women standing up for civil and human rights - human rights lawyer Salwa Bugaighis, politician Fariha Al-Berkawi and human rights activist Initissar al-Hasaari have been assassinated in the past 16 months. We join the entire ITF family in calling on the Libyan Government to take all possible steps to ensure the safety of women trade union and other political leaders and activists whose lives are known to be at risk, including Nermin Al-Sharif.