



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
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Bildungsinternationale

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Brussels, 4 November 2010

**Re: Restore the special leaves of National Teachers' Association's officials  
in Taipei County**

Dear President,

I am writing on behalf of Education International the global union federation of teachers representing over 30 million members in 173 countries. Education International (EI) has the National Teachers' Association (NTA) of Taiwan, R.O.C. as one of its 403 member organisations.

EI is concerned about the decision made by the Taipei County Government in August 2010 to abolish the special leaves for the teachers' association officials, guaranteed by the new union law passed on 1st June 2010. According to the new law, the special leaves have to be negotiated between local governments and the teachers' association. EI regrets that the Taipei County government abolished this legitimate right of the the NTA officials before the implementation of the new law.

EI condemns this unfair decision from the Taipei County Government that will seriously impede the functioning of the NTA and urges your government to take all the necessary measures to ensure that the special leaves for the NTA officials are immediately restored and that the rights of the Taiwanese teachers are respected.

As signatory of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, your government should abide by its international obligations and ensure that the rights of the Taiwanese citizens, including teachers and public servants, are fully respected.

In addition, EI also remains concerned that the union law continues to exclude teachers from the fundamental right to form and join trade unions, failing to comply with the international labour mechanisms. The ILO Committee of Experts has repeatedly stressed that *"teachers in public schools should be provided with a legal framework to exercise their right to form trade unions."* EI regrets that your government continues to restrict the rights of those it directly employs.

Education International sincerely trusts that your Government can act swiftly on this issue. In the meantime, EI and its affiliates worldwide will continue to monitor the trade union environment in Taiwan, R.O.C. EI will also inform the International Trade Union



Confederation (ITUC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the UNESCO of the non-respect of the union rights of teachers in Taiwan, R.O.C.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration on this serious matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred van Leeuwen', is positioned below the text 'Sincerely yours,'.

Fred van Leeuwen  
General Secretary

Copies sent to:

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