



Ms. Christine Blower
Acting General Secretary
National Union of Teachers

Dear Christine:

It is with profound sadness that I write this letter to the National Union of Teachers. I, like everyone in the NUT and across the globe, are stunned by the sudden loss of Steve.

For me personally, Steve will be held always in my memory for all his work on human rights and his vehement and vocal protestations of those violations. In some of my darkest moments while in prison, I knew I could think of Steve and know how hard he was working for my release. His visits with me while I was in prison helped sustain me through some very difficult times.

When I came to the NUT meeting in April 2003, it was a joy to be with Steve and all the NUT leaders, knowing what he and they had done to expedite my release. His passion and commitment never wavered. At the three NUT Conference I attended, Steve's excitement around the progress made, albeit limited, and his enthusiasm for keeping the struggle for human rights going was a high standard for everyone.

We will all miss Steve enormously, and I especially so. I know you, the leadership and membership will find the strength to move on and to use the April 24 strike day to honor Steve's memory and legacy, and I have no doubt that you will prevail.

With much sympathy, I remain in solidarity, your friend and colleague,,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taye Woldeemiate".

Dr. Taye Woldeemiate

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