

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)

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Sacked Iranian workers celebrate victory following successful compensation campaign

Brussels, 11th January 2005: Following last week's industrial action (<http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991221121&Language=EN>) at the Kurdistan Textile Factory in Sanandaj City (Kurdistan Province, Iran), when hundreds of workers staged a strike to demonstrate against the unfair dismissal of workers, the ICFTU today welcomed the employer's decision to compensate the 6 sacked workers.

Operating in a climate of intimidation by the employer and security forces, 350 workers had held a strike to protest against the employer's continued policy of replacing permanent employees with temporary workers who are unprotected by the country's labour legislation. The striking workers had also demanded better severance pay for the dismissed senior workers or their reinstatement, an end to temporary contracts, better working conditions and improved health and safety in the workplace.

The victory, secured by trade union action at local, national and international level, means that the 6 sacked workers will now receive a compensation package which will be based on the length of employment at the factory - for every year that they have worked there, they will receive 3 months' wages. In addition, temporary contracts will now be 6 months in length, replacing previous short-term contracts which only offered workers a 3 month guarantee of employment.

Whilst the ICFTU greeted the news, it pointed out that the real test is whether the employer will actually respect the compensation agreement now in place. Workers have demanded that the agreement be implemented within the next month. Previous compensation agreements, such as those made in November, have not been honoured and have solely remained rhetoric, to the detriment of unfairly dismissed workers.

The ICFTU represents 148 million workers in 234 affiliated organisations in 152 countries and territories. ICFTU is also a partner in Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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