

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC)

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Iran: Trade unionist in prison for supporting Mansour Osanloo

Brussels, 29 November 2007 (ITUC OnLine): Yet another independent Iranian trade union leader, Reza Dehghan, member of the Founding Committee of Painters Union (Syndica Nagash) was arrested on 18 November 2007. He is now detained in Evin Prison. The ITUC suspects that it is linked to his trade union activities and his vocal support of Mr. Osanloo.

The ITUC and the BWI wrote a letter

http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/2007-11-28_Reza_Deighan.pdf to the authorities to urge the President to order the immediate and unconditional release of Reza Dehghan and all other imprisoned trade unionists, including Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

Mansour Osanloo, the President of the Syndica of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) has had his five-year prison term confirmed by the Tehran Court of Appeal without a proper trial. He has now been detained in the notorious Evin prison in Teheran since July this year, despite his poor health condition.

In a worrying development, the lawyers of Mansour Osanloo and his fellow activists from the Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed have tendered their resignation to the Court on 27 November. The ITUC has not been informed of any tension between the Syndica and their lawyers and fears that they might have been subjected to outside pressure. The ITUC and the ITF have now asked the ILO to intervene with the government to ensure that all Syndica defendants enjoy the full right to legal representation.

Judicial persecution of the Syndica activists is continuing unabated and Ebrahim Madadi, member of the executive board of Syndica Sherkate-Vahed, was convicted on 30 October 2007, and has been detained since 9 August 2007. During his prison stay his health has seriously deteriorated, furthermore he is held in Ghezel Hesar prison, Karaj south of Theran, amongst hardened criminals and drug addicts as a means of moral and psychological pressure. The ITUC and the ITF have today submitted additional information to a longstanding complaint with the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association against the government of Iran concerning all these issues. The ITUC strongly condemns the government of Iran for its continuing repression of fundamental labour rights.

"Legal representation is a fundamental human right" said Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ITUC. "The government of Iran must do all in its power to ensure that all trade unionists have the possibility to freely choose independent legal council in the face of legal persecution". "It is time that Government starts respecting the fundamental right of workers" he concluded.

Fore more information:

Letter to the ILO: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/Iran_CSI_ITF.pdf

The ITUC represents 168 million workers in 153 countries and territories and has 305 national affiliates. Website: <http://www.ituc-csi.org>

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