

# American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 637-5000  
www.aflcio.org

**JOHN J. SWEENEY**  
PRESIDENT

Gerald W. McEntee  
Patricia Friend  
Robert A. Scardelletti  
Michael J. Sullivan  
Joseph J. Hunt  
Edward C. Sullivan  
Edward J. McElroy Jr.  
Baxter M. Atkinson  
Vincent Giblin  
Larry Cohen  
Thomas C. Short

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**RICHARD L. TRUMKA**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Gene Upshaw  
Michael Goodwin  
John M. Bowers  
Capt. Duane Woerth  
Cheryl Johnson, R.N.  
William Burrus  
Ron Gattelfinger  
John Gage  
William Hite  
Warren George  
Robbie Sparks

**LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Sacco  
William Lucy  
R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
Harold Schaitberger  
Clyde Rivers  
Leo W. Gerard  
James Williams  
William H. Young  
Michael T. O'Brien  
Gregory J. Junemann  
Nancy Wohlforth  
Frank Hurt  
Leon Lynch  
Elizabeth Bunn  
Edwin D. Hill  
Cecil Roberts  
Melissa Gilbert  
John J. Flynn  
Nat LaCour  
Andrea E. Brooks  
Laura Rico

January 5, 2006

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,  
Tehran

VIA FACSIMILE: 98.21.6648.06.65/98.21.649.5880

Dear President Ahmadinejad:

On behalf of the nine million working men and women of the American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO) I strongly protest the arrests of the trade union leaders of the Tehran and Suburb Bus Company –Vahed in Tehran on December 22, 2005.

According to our information, the trade union called for a bus transport strike on Sunday, December 25 due to the arrests of their union leader and ten executive board members of the union. It has since been reported that most of those detained on December 22 have been released, although Mr. Mansour Osanloo, the leader of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (“*Sherkat-e Vahed*”), remains in detention.


The AFL-CIO recalls that the trade union has already suffered several attacks. On May 9, 2005, Mansour Osanloo was severely injured and required hospital treatment, after which he was taken into custody for questioning. Between March and June 2005, at least 17 workers, including Mansour Osanloo were fired. Furthermore, on September 7, 2005 seven leaders and members of the union were arrested, including three of those detained in the last two weeks. They had been arrested during a protest against unpaid wages.

Letter to Mahmoud Ahmadjinehad  
Page Two  
January 5, 2006

The AFL-CIO joins the rest of the independent, free and democratic trade union movements worldwide to strongly condemn the harassment of members of the Sherkat-e Vahed trade union. The right to be a member of a trade union and the right to organize an independent labor organization are fundamental workers' rights, protected under the relevant Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The AFL-CIO strongly condemns the arrest of workers exercising their legitimate, internationally-recognized trade union rights and demands the immediate release of all detained trade unionists, whether in Tehran or elsewhere in Iran.

I look forward to your immediate and decisive action.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Sweeney  
President

Cc: Mr. Juan Somavia, ILO  
H.E. Manoutchehr Motaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Mohammad Jahromi, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs  
Ambassador Mohammad Reza Alborzi  
Mr. Guy Ryder, ICFTU