

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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

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Dear President Ahmadinejad:

On behalf of the nearly nine million working men and women of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and in solidarity with the International Transport Federation (ITF) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), I am writing to protest the re-arrest of Mr. Mansoor Osanloo on the morning of November 19, 2006. The AFL-CIO has independently confirmed this incident, and corroborated from various sources the circumstances surrounding Mr. Osanloo's arrest.

As you are well aware, the ITF and the ITUC jointly submitted a complaint to the ILO Freedom of Association Committee on the repression of the Tehran and Suburb Bus Drivers' Syndicate (Sherkat-e-Vahed) in July 2006 (Case No. 2508). Mr. Osanloo was in prison from December 22, 2005 until his release on bail on August 9, 2006. On November 8, ten executive board members of the union were detained for five hours at the police station in Tabriz on their way to participate in an ILO meeting. This action and Mr. Osanloo's re-arrest represent a pronounced setback to Iran's resolution of this complaint.

Mr. Osanloo, and his Union Vice President Mr. Ebrahim Madadi, were on their way to the Tehran Labor Department to follow up on 52 members of the Syndicate whose work status has remained undetermined. Mr. Osanloo stopped at a newsstand when he was approached by five plainclothesmen at gunpoint. Osanloo and Madadi inquired as to the reason for their arrest and received no clear reply. Instead, the security forces opened fire into the air and violently threw Osanloo into a waiting vehicle and drove away. No one, including his family or attorneys has heard from him since. Mr. Osanloo was recuperating from serious eye surgery and at the time of his arrest his eye was heavily bandaged. We are deeply concerned about Mr. Osanloo's immediate safety, health and the need for him to recuperate after eye surgery to regain his health.


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The AFL-CIO joins with the rest of the independent free and democratic trade union movements worldwide to strongly condemn the re-arrest of the President of the Tehran and Suburban Vahed Bus Drivers' Syndicate and demand his immediate and unconditional release. As a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO), your government has an obligation to conform to the core ILO conventions by reinstating dismissed workers, recognizing the Shekat-e-Vahed union, permitting a collective bargaining agreement, and permitting freedom of association and trade union rights. We also ask that you safeguard other Shekat-e-Vahed workers from possible arrests.

I look forward to your immediate and decisive action.

Sincerely,



John J. Spweeney
President

JJS/jc

cc:

H. E. Mohammad Jahromi, Iranian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
H. E. Manouchehr Motaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mohammad Reza Alborzi, Ambassador
Mr. Juan Somavia, ILO
Mr. Guy Ryder, ITUC
Mr. David Cockroft, ITF