

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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March 20, 2006

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

VIA FACSIMILE: 98.21.66.93.83.38

Dear President Ahmadinejad:

Approximately one month has passed since the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) joined the international labor movement to protest the mass arrests of Tehran bus workers during an International Day of Trade Union Action on February 15, 2006.

On February 15th, 2006 the American labor movement demonstrated our support of the demands of the Sherkat-e Vahed Tehran Bus Drivers' Syndicate, including recognition of their union, payment of back wages, collective bargaining rights, and the return to work of all unjustly fired workers. These demands are fully legitimate and are the rights of all workers.

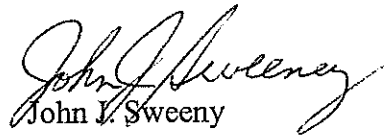
On behalf of the nine million working men and women of the AFL-CIO, we were heartened by news of the release of the many arrested bus drivers. However, it is unacceptable that the union's president, Mansoor Osanloo, and other union officials remain in detention. We have also learned that up to 1000 Sherkat-e Vahed workers who took part in the strike have still not been able to return to their jobs.

Letter to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Page Two
March 20, 2006

The AFL-CIO with independent, free and democratic trade union movements worldwide strongly condemn the continued detention and demand the return to work of all unjustly fired union members. As a member of the International Labor Organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran has an obligation to respect the fundamental right of workers to freedom of association and organize and collectively bargain.

I look forward to your immediate and decisive action in these matters.

Sincerely,


John J. Sweeney
President

JJS/jhl

cc: Mr. Juan Somavia, ILO ✓
H.E. Manouchehr Motaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Mohammad Jahromi, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs ✓
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