

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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

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July 11, 2007

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President
The Islamic Republic of Iran
Palestin Ave., Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Iran

VIA FACSIMILE: 98.21.649.58.80

Dear President Ahmadinejad:

On behalf of the nearly ten million working men and women of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), I am writing to strongly condemn the abduction of Mansour Osanloo, the President of the Sandikaye Kargarane Sherkate Vahed (Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company).

We have been informed that Mr. Osanloo was abducted by unidentified assailants as he was leaving a Vahed Company bus near his home at around 7 p.m. on July 10. Witnesses on the bus stated that they beat him severely, and continued to beat him as they took him away in a metallic grey Peugeot to an undisclosed location. Mr. Osanloo had apparently been followed all day by the unmarked Peugeot car. Such vehicles are well known as being associated with the Iranian Security Forces.

The AFL-CIO is deeply concerned for the safety of Mr. Osanloo. Security forces have mistreated Mr. Osanloo in the past, which gives us reason to believe that they are responsible for this attack. We believe that this attack is directly linked to his trade union activities. As a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) the Islamic Republic of Iran is legally bound to respect its core principles including freedom of association.

We urge your government to take every possible step to ensure the safety of Mr. Osanloo, secure his immediate release and identify those responsible.

We will continue to monitor these events, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John J. Sweeney
President

JJS/jc

