



# Solidarity Center

## Helping Workers Worldwide

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathy Feingold (202-974-8331)

## Iranian Bus Drivers Union Leader Kidnapped

### *Mansour Osanloo Beaten and Abducted by Plainclothes Assailants*

Washington, DC, July 11--The Solidarity Center joins the global labor movement in condemning the kidnapping of Iranian union leader Mansour Osanloo. Osanloo, president of the Vahed Bus Drivers Union in Tehran, was kidnapped on July 10, two weeks after participating in global labor meetings in Brussels and London.

Witnesses reported that assailants boarded the bus Osanloo rode home from work and assaulted and beat him. The assailants warned the other passengers to stay away and called Osanloo a "hoodlum and a thug." Osanloo was severely beaten and continued to receive beatings even after he was shoved into a gray Peugeot, a car characteristic of Iran's intelligence and security forces.

"Talking with Mansour, it is easy to see why he is such a force for labor and for working people in his country," said Solidarity Center Executive Director Ellie Larson, who met with Osanloo in Brussels. "He is a warm, charismatic, humble individual, with great spirit, quiet confidence, and a fierce determination. We are very anxious for his safe return to his family."

Osanloo recently returned from a trip to London and Brussels, where he spoke at the meetings of the International Transport Workers Federation and the International Trade Union Confederation. Osanloo's Vahed Bus Drivers Union is a member of both of these global organizations. Osanloo shared with global labor leaders the challenges facing his union and all Iranian workers.

This latest attack on a union leader appears to be part of an orchestrated and brutal crackdown on Iranian unions. Vahed Vice-President Ebrahim Madadi was arrested on July 3 but released two days later as a result of protests from unions around the world. Imprisoned Mahmoud Salehi of the Bakery Workers Union is near death because his captors deny him crucial medical treatment.

Founded in 1997, the Solidarity Center supports programs and projects to advance worker rights and promote broad-based, sustainable economic development. For more information, please visit [www.solidaritycenter.org](http://www.solidaritycenter.org).

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