



EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FEDERATION

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadjinejad,
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TUR/JS-JK/fw

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Dear Mr. President,

**Continued detention of the leadership of the Syndicate of Workers at Sherkat e Vahed
 (Tehran Bus Company)**

Exactly one month has passed since Global Unions called upon its member organisations around the world to protest the mass arrests of Tehran bus workers during an International Day of Trade Union Action, on 15th February 2006. Unions from all over the world supported this initiative on or around that date in countries across five continents, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Since then, road transport workers' unions in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen have also joined this international trade union action.

We are pleased to see that the vast majority of those arrested are now released. It is, nevertheless, unacceptable that the union's chairperson, **Mansour Osanloo**, as well as Executive Committee members and union officials **Ebrahim Madadi**, **Mansour Haiat Gaibi**, **Yusseff Moradi**, **Yagoub Salimi**, **Ali Zat Hosseini** and **Mohammad Ebrahim Zat Gohari** are still under detention. Furthermore, according to our sources, the union's spokesperson, **Golam Reza Mirzaie**, was arrested at the beginning of March. In addition, it is reported that up to 1,000 Sherkat e Vahed workers who took part in the strike have still not been able to return to their jobs. According to some reports, the company's management has already on 9th March issued formal dismissal orders against 46 of the striking workers and is reviewing hundreds more cases with a similar intent. Up to 1000 workers may end up being dismissed for having participated in the strike.

With their strong participation in the International Action Day on 15 February, trade unions around the world have shown their strong support for the Sherkate e Vahed bus drivers and their demands for recognition of their union, payment of back wages and the right to collective bargaining. These demands are fully legitimate and are the fundamental rights of all workers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has acknowledged these fundamental rights when it became a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and by virtue of this membership it is under a strict obligation to respect the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Global Unions, which represents the ICFTU, the Global Union Federations and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC-OECD), therefore urges you to call on the appropriate judicial officials to order the immediate and unconditional release of the leadership of the union.

Furthermore, we demand that Sherkat e Vahed, now operated by the City of Teheran, reinstate all arrested and arbitrarily dismissed workers back in their jobs.

Finally, it has also been reported that **Afshin Bahrami**, member of the Metalworkers' Syndicate and **Sattar Amini**, an auto worker from the Iran Khodro car plant, have also been arrested. We similarly demand that they be released.

We and our affiliates will continue to monitor these developments closely. The ICFTU has already had meetings with European Union institutions about the arrests and continued detention of the Sherkat e Vahed union leaders and will update them on further developments, should your government fail to release all detained workers. It will also in due course report these issues to the relevant supervisory bodies and mechanisms of the International Labour Organisation.

In the meantime, we look forward to your immediate and decisive action in these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Ryder
General Secretary
ICFTU



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General Secretary
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