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HTUR/MP

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Harassment of independent trade unions in Iran

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC, which represents 176 million workers around the world, to protest in the strongest possible terms against the ongoing harassment of the independent trade union movement in Iran.

The ITUC has been informed that on Monday 23 November, Morteza Komsari, member of the Vahed Syndicate, was detained. He received a summon letter from the court and was arrested upon appearance.

On Monday 17/11 the court of Shush issued six months sentences for three Haft Tapeh workers, Alireza Saeedi, Behrooz Mollah Zadeh and Behrooz Nikoofar for “insulting the leader”. The accusation is ridiculous and obviously made up to prevent them from exercising their legitimate trade union rights.

On 9 November, Homayoun Jabari was held at branch four of the Rajai Shahr prison for eleven days. He was arrested on Tuesday when he accompanied the wife of Gholamreza Gholamhosseini to the Intelligence Office to try and discover her husband’s whereabouts. Security agents went to his home, took his computer and books, and warned his wife that if he didn’t cooperate with them, he would be staying in custody ‘for a long time’. On 20 November he was released against a bail of 30 000 USD.

On 3 November, Saeed Torabian, communications director of the bus workers’ union and fellow trade unionist Gholamreza Gholamhosseini in Vahed Syndicate were attacked in a Karaj internet café. Shortly after their arrival, six men entered behind them and beat them up. They were then dragged out and taken to prison. After being interrogated and threatened, Saeed Torabian was released on bail, but as yet nothing is known about Gholamreza Gholamhosseini – except that he is still being held.

I urge you to halt any further harassment and abuses of trade union members. I also urge you to immediately release Mansour Osanloo and all other imprisoned trade unionist being held on false grounds and allow them to exercise their legitimate trade union activities. The ITUC will call on all its affiliates around the world to denounce these acts,

and show solidarity with our Iranian brothers and sisters. I remind you that Iran, as a member of the ILO, is under an obligation to respect the fundamental rights of trade unionists.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary