

## CHRONOLOGY

2005

<b>Jun</b>	The Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) is formed, despite brutal attacks by secret police and government thugs, including the stabbing of Mansour Osanloo.
<b>Dec</b>	The union's leaders are arrested. Bus workers protest. All but Osanloo are released.

2006

<b>Jan</b>	The union announces a one-day strike. It is crushed by the authorities. More than 1000 workers are detained in Evin Prison.
<b>Feb</b>	ITF and ITUC organise a global protest day. Most of the detainees are released.
<b>Mar</b>	The bus company dismisses 46 workers who took part in the strike.
<b>Apr</b>	The union joins the ITF.
<b>May</b>	Union members are attacked for taking part in a May Day event.
<b>July</b>	The ITF and ITUC submit a joint complaint to the ILO (Case 2508).
<b>Aug</b>	Osanloo is released from Evin Prison.
<b>Nov</b>	Osanloo is violently detained by plainclothes police.
<b>Dec</b>	Osanloo is released again after global protests. His family pays a huge bail on both occasions.

2007

<b>Feb</b>	The court says Osanloo's charges are "attempts to jeopardize national security" but no further legal action is taken in the following months.
<b>May</b>	Secret police try to kidnap Osanloo, but fail.
<b>Jun</b>	Osanloo attends ITF and ITUC meetings in London and Brussels. International union support grows. The ILO reports on Case 2508.
<b>July</b>	Osanloo is kidnapped again. Global protests begin immediately.
<b>Aug</b>	ITF and ITUC organise a worldwide action day, supported by Amnesty International. Police arrest more trade unionists in Tehran. Ebrahim Madadi is held in jail.
<b>Sep</b>	Osanloo sees his family for the first time since the arrest.
<b>Oct</b>	Indonesian trade unionists visit Tehran in solidarity with the union. Osanloo receives long overdue eye surgery after massive international pressure, but is back in Evin Prison within days. Sentences for Osanloo and Madadi are announced.



**ITF**

49/60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DR, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7403 2733. Email: [mail@itf.org.uk](mailto:mail@itf.org.uk). Website: [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org)



**ITUC**

5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, Bte 1, 1210 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 224 0211. Email: [info@ituc-csi.org](mailto:info@ituc-csi.org). Website: [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)



**Amnesty International UK Section**

17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7033 1569. Email: [shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:shane.enright@amnesty.org.uk). Website: [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

# FREE OSANLOO



## WHO IS THIS MAN?

His name is Mansour Osanloo, leader of the Tehran Bus Workers' Union and the focus of an international campaign that aims to get him released from jail.



## WHY IS HE IMPRISONED?

In October 2007 Osanloo was sentenced to five years in prison on trumped up charges of endangering Iran's national security and criticising the regime. However, the real reason that he has been targeted is as a member of a free trade union not controlled by the government.

## HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN IN JAIL?

Since the union was formed in June 2005, he has been arrested three times and spent more time in the notorious Evin Prison than out.

## WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO HELP HIM?

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) and the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation), backed by their member unions, have campaigned ceaselessly on his behalf. They have carried their protests to the Iranian authorities and the International Labour Organization (ILO), and demonstrated at Iranian embassies worldwide.

## IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INVOLVED?

Yes. They regard Osanloo as a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the exercise of his trade union rights. Amnesty has been working closely with the ITF on this case and more widely in defence of human rights in Iran.

## WHAT ABOUT THE ILO?

In June 2007, the ILO's Freedom of Association Committee upheld the joint complaint submitted by the ITF and the ITUC and urged the Iranian Government to drop charges against Osanloo and grant full trade union rights.

## WHAT'S BEEN THE REACTION OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT?

They continue to ignore worldwide opinion.

## IS THIS AN ISOLATED CASE?

No. Osanloo's deputy, Ebrahim Madadi, has been sentenced to two years in jail while Mahmoud Salehi, a union activist in Kurdistan, has been sentenced to five years in prison for distributing leaflets on May Day in 2004. Recently another activist, Majid Hamidi, was shot by masked men in Sanandaj.

## ARE IRANIAN WORKERS HAPPY WITH THEIR CONDITIONS?

No, and they don't believe that government founded work associations are representing their interests. In recent months teachers, workers in car manufacturing, sugar production and the Tehran metro system, as well as women and unemployed people, have all staged protests.

## WHAT IS THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT OSANLOO?

A huge campaign for his release is ongoing. In October, after months of international pressure he finally received emergency medical treatment for optical problems associated with the ill treatment he has received.

## WAS THE SURGERY SUCCESSFUL?

It is hoped so, but unconfirmed because he was ordered back to prison within a week, despite medical advice that he needed three months to recuperate.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

These are some of the things you can do as an individual or member of an organisation.

- Visit [www.freeosanloo.org](http://www.freeosanloo.org) and learn more about the case. You can watch our film Freedom Will Come there and find other campaign materials.
- Sign the petitions set up by the ITF, Amnesty International and LabourStart. You can also write to the Iranian government.
- Wear a Free Osanloo badge. It is available from the ITF.
- Lobby your local MP.
- If you're a member of an organisation you could hold a meeting and publish an article (available free from the ITF) in its journal.
- And of course, you can spread the word by talking about the case and by distributing leaflets

## WHO ARE THE ITF AND ITUC?

Two global trade union federations. The ITF represents transport workers unions including bus workers' unions worldwide while the ITUC is a forum of national labour centres.

## WHAT IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

An organisation that defends human rights.

If you have more questions about Mansour Osanloo and want to defend the rights of Iranian workers to belong to a trade union see [www.freeosanloo.org](http://www.freeosanloo.org) There you'll find the film, petitions and other campaign materials in several languages.