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HTUR/MP

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Dear President Ahmadinejad,

We are writing to you in response to the latest report from the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization. Report No. 357 of the Committee on Freedom of Association refers to the complaint that the ITUC and the ITF submitted to the ILO (Case 2508) and goes on to state that: “the Committee welcomes the efforts by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs to obtain the granting of a pardon for Mr. Osanloo. Noting further that the Head of the Judiciary has accepted the Minister’s request for such a pardon, the Committee expects that these developments will lead to Mr. Osanloo’s imminent release from prison.”

We welcome both the news of this commitment and the commitment itself. In the light of this promise, made by your officials to the ILO, we therefore request your immediate and unconditional intervention on this matter. The promised release of Mansour Osanloo will be an important first step by your government towards rebuilding the confidence of the international trade union community. We must, however, also strongly remind you of the need to address the other cases of those unjustly punished for undertaking legal trade union activities.

We wish to see further steps taken to guarantee the safe release of these other imprisoned trade unionists, believed to number at least 52 people, including representatives of the unions at the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed), the Haft Tapeh Sugar Plantation, and the Teachers’ Trade Union, as well as journalists and lawyers. A list of these 52 people appears below. We should like to highlight the cases of Saeed Torabian and Reza Shahbi of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) whose whereabouts have remained unknown for a month now, following their detention by security forces.

In particular, the ITF once again condemns the continued imprisonment of Ebrahim Madadi - about whom, the ILO report notes, your government has failed to give any information. The ITF would also like to make clear that while it

welcomes Mansour Osanloo's release, it rejects the description of this as a 'pardon', since he has done nothing illegal.

The ITF also wishes to express its horror at reports that Mansour Osanloo's daughter in law has miscarried following beatings by members of your security forces. If correct then this is an appalling occurrence that demands the investigation and prosecution of those responsible.

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) is inviting Mansour Osanloo to take part in its 42nd global congress in Mexico from the 5th to the 12th of August this year. This should give you sufficient time to guarantee Mr. Osanloo's safe release from prison.

As a member of the ILO, Iran has obligations to fulfil, such as respect for freedom of association. We remind you that we have lodged numerous protests with you over the past years and months in response to seeing trade unionists like Farzad Kamangar being executed, and others arrested, harassed and facing the threat of arrest for conducting normal trade union duties. Welcome though the promised release of Mansour Osanloo is, we will not treat it as an excuse to continue to victimise others, and in the light of these events, and recognising the assurance reportedly made to the ILO on Mansour Osanloo, we particularly invite your response to the following questions:

- When will Mansour Osanloo be released?
- When will you return Farzad Kamangar's body to his family for burial?
- When will Iran stop the harassment of trade unionists and begin to respect democratic and independent trade unions?
- Where are the other detainees being held and what possible justification can there be for their arrests?

We remain, yours faithfully,



Sharan Burrow

General Secretary

ITUC



David Cockroft

General Secretary

ITF

Trade unionists in jail – 28 June 2010:

1. **Mansour Osanloo** – Currently at Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj City near Tehran. Osanloo is President of the Executive Committee of the Tehran Bus Workers' union. He has been in prison since 12 July 2007.
2. **Ebrahim Madadi** – Currently at Evin Prison. He is the Vice President of the Tehran Bus Workers' union.
3. **Saeed Torabian** was arrested by the security forces on 9 June 2010 and his whereabouts are currently unknown. He is the spokesperson of the Tehran Bus Workers' union.
4. **Reza Shahbi** was arrested by the security forces on 12 June 2010 and his whereabouts are also unknown. He is the treasurer of the Tehran Bus Workers' union.
5. **Pejman Rahimi**, a union activist in Khuzestan, southern Iran, was sentenced to one year imprisonment and 40 lashes by the Ahwaz Public Court on 17 April 2010 on charges of disrupting public order. The verdict was announced on 31 May. He was previously sentenced to 5 years in prison for supporting the workers at the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Factory and the Ahwaz Tubing Factory.
6. **Mehdi Farahi Shandiz** was arrested and transferred to the notorious Kahrizak prison during a visit to the Revolutionary Court to retrieve his personal belongings on 8 June 2010. He is a 50-year old teacher and a worker activist. His belongings were confiscated last year after he was detained on the anniversary of International Workers' Day (May Day).
7. **Abolfazl Abedini Nasr** was sentenced to 11 years of preemptory confinement on 11 May 2010. He is a journalist and a labour and human rights activist. Abolfazl is a key person who has assisted the Haft Tapeh union in the last 3 years.
8. **Mohammad Olyaiefard**, a lawyer for the Haft Tapeh and Tehran Bus Workers' Union, was arrested on 1 May 2010 and is currently in detention. He has been sentenced to one year in prison in the past.
9. **Alireza Hashemi**, secretary general of the Iranian Teachers' Organization.
10. **Abdolreza Ghanbari**, a school teacher in Pakdasht Varamin and online professor of the Payam e Nour University, was arrested at his home in Pakdasht on 4 January 2010. He was charged with 'Moharebeh' (enmity towards God) for receiving emails from an armed opposition group to which he does not belong. His subsequent death sentence was confirmed by Tehran's Appeal Court, Branch 36. In detention at the Evin Prison, Ghanbari has been interrogated for 25 days in a row under duress. In 2007, he was detained for 120 days and sentenced to a six-month suspension from teaching and exiled from Sari to Pakdasht.
11. **Esmael Abdi**, a school teacher member of the Iranian Teachers' Association of Tehran, was arrested on 19 May 2010. Four officials from the Ministry of Intelligence searched his house and took his computer, notebook and some literature. They cut the wire of his landline phone and told Abdi's partner to keep his detention a secret. Abdi remains in detention in an unknown location. According to his relatives, his arrest is the consequence of an interview he gave to foreign media on National Teachers' Day.

12. **Rasoul Bodaghi** is another member of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association of Tehran who is in detention. He was transferred from the Evin Prison to Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj on 10 May 2010, and was reportedly beaten very severely by two prison officers on 26 May 2010. This experience has caused a dramatic deterioration in his health, and yet there is no report of when his trial might take place.
13. **Hashem Khastar** is a retired teacher suffering from kidney disease who has already served more than a third of his prison sentence, yet he is still not allowed to go on leave and visit his family. This alone is against the governing rules for prisoners in Iran.
14. **Ahmadi Amoe, Bahamn**: freelance journalist, first arrested on 20 June 2009 released on 18 March 2010 and arrested again on 30 May 2010
15. **Eslampour, Mohammadali**: Chief Editor of Navaie Vaght, arrested on 3 February 2010
16. **Bastani, Masoud**: Chief Editor of Jomhouriat website, arrested on 25 June 2009
17. **Bordbar, Babak**: photographer, arrested on 28 December 2009
18. **Beheshti Shirazi, Alireza**: Chief Editor of Kaleme Sabz newspaper, arrested on 28 December 2009
19. **Behavar, Emad**: freelance journalist, arrested on 10 March 2010
20. **Pour Abdollah, Mohammad**: freelance journalist, arrested on 13 February 2010
21. **Saghafi, Alireza**: freelance journalist, arrested on 1 February 2010
22. **Khansari, Mahboobe**: Kargozaran newspaper, arrested on 31 May 2010
23. **Davari, Mohammad**: Chief Editor of Sahamnews website, arrested on 8 September 2009
24. **Derakhshan, Hossein**: freelance journalist, arrested on 1 November 2008
25. **Dormanki, Khalil**: freelance journalist, arrested on 30 December 2009
26. **Dehghan, Mostafa**: freelance journalist, arrested on 1 January 2010
27. **Rafiei Foroushani, Reza**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 26 June 2009
28. **Ronagh Maleki, Seyed Hossein**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 13 December 2009
29. **Zeidabadi, Ahmad**: freelancer journalist, Roozonline columnist, arrested on 13 June 2009
30. **Saharkhiz, Isa**: freelancer journalist with Roozonline website, arrested on 3 July 2009
31. **Salimi, Omid**: freelancer photographer, arrested on 14 June 2009
32. **Shahidi, Hengameh**: freelancer journalist, first arrested on 30 June 2009 and released 1 November 2009 and arrested again on 28 February 2010
33. **Samimi, Keivan**: Chief Editor of Name magazine, arrested on 13 June 2009
34. **Ghasemi Kermanshahi, Kaveh**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 3 February 2010
35. **Karami, Mahboube**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 2 March 2010
36. **Godarzi, Kouhyar**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 20 December 2009
37. **Gahsetooni, Motjaba**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 4 March 2010
38. **Laripour, Niloofar**: Chelcheragh magazine, arrested on 2 February 2010
39. **Lavasani, Seyed Masoud**: freelancer journalist, arrested on 26 September 2009

40. **Mafi, Hamid:** freelancer journalist, arrested on 9 February 2010
41. **Mahzadeh, Javad:** Yas e No newspaper, arrested on 21 October 2009
42. **Matinpour, Saeed:** freelancer journalist, arrested on 11 July 2009
43. **Mahmoodian, Mehdi:** Norooznews website, arrested on 16 September 2009
44. **Malihi, Ali:** Etemad newspaper, arrested on 9 February 2010
45. **Mehrabi, Ehsan:** Etemad Meli newspaper, arrested on 6 February 2010
46. **Nazar Ahari, Shiva:** freelancer journalist, arrested on 14 June 2009 released on 23 September 2009 arrested again on 20 December 2009
47. **Naghi Pour, Nasor:** freelancer journalist, arrested on 2 March 2010
48. **Noorani Nejad, Hossein:** Norooznews website, arrested on 28 August 2009
49. **Nourizad, Mohammad:** freelancer journalist, arrested on 20 December 2009
50. **Visme, Azam:** Parlemannews website, arrested on 31 May 2010
51. **Mirdamadi, Mohsen:** Norooz newspaper, arrested on 11 July 2009
52. **Armin, Mohsen:** Former member of board of the Association of Iranian Journalists, arrested on 10 May 2010