



A•S•U

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**Assistant National Secretary
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File/Our Ref: 26.4

14th August, 2008

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Presidency,
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

By Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Dear Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,

On behalf of Australian Services Union (ASU), we are writing to express our outrage over the recent whipping sentences and jail terms against labour activists in Iran. The ASU have been informed that Ms. Sousan Razani and Ms. Shiva Kheirabadi each were sentenced to 4 months imprisonment and 15 lashes; Mr. Abdullah Khani was sentenced to 91 days prison and 40 lashes and Mr. Seyed Qaleb Hosseini was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and 50 lashes. The verdict was issued by the Criminal Court of Sanandaj – branch 101. The above labour activists are sentenced so severely only because of their participation in 2008 May Day celebration in Sanandaj. In addition, Mr. Khaled Hosseini, a worker activist, was sentenced to 91 days suspended jail and 30 lashes because of his efforts in support of Mahmoud Salehi who was imprisoned at the time.

More shockingly, the ASU were informed that on July 20, 2008, Mr. Farzad Kamangar was sentenced to death after having a seven minutes trial. Farzad Kamangar is a teacher, who has been tortured gravely for allegations such as collaborating with Pejak Party, membership with PKK, transporting explosives and etc. Various individuals, progressive forces and organizations from Iran and abroad have protested his detention and the recent death sentence against him but your government has disregarded all these pleas.

Another activist, Mr. Afshin Shams, was arrested in July 2008. Mr. Shams is a labour activist, a member of "Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' organizations", a member of the "Committee in Dense of Mahmoud Salehi" and a member of "Caricaturists Society". Moreover, there have been other arrests and charges against labour and social activists in Iran as well as dismissal of labour activists, including the recent dismissal verdict against nine members of the bus workers syndicate.

All the above arrests and repressive measures are clear indications of intensified offensives against the entire labour movement in Iran. The ASU call on your government to unconditionally and immediately release all prisoners of conscious and repeal all charges and sentences against labour activists in Iran. We also call for the freedom of Mansour Osanloo, the president of Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, who has been imprisoned since July 2007 and is serving a five year jail term. We also demand the immediate recognition and realization of human and workers' rights to all workers in Iran, including the rights to organize freely and to strike.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McLean
Assistant National Secretary &
Head of Public Services Divisions

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Copy of Protest Letters to:

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The Office of the Supreme Leader
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Email: info@leader.ir OR istiftaa@wilayah.org

Head of the Judiciary:
Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi
Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Justice Building
Panzdah-Khordad Square
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
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Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Institutions in Geneva, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland, E-mail: mission.iran@ties.itu.int

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