

# International Alliance in Support of workers in Iran

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## **Open Letter To ICFTU, Re: Urgent Action on Killing of Workes in Iran**

January 31, 2004

Guy Ryder  
General Secretary  
**ICFTU**  
5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, Bte 1  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium  
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Dear Mr. Ryder:

This is a follow up to our statement sent to your office on January 27, 2004 regarding the killing of at least four copper smelter workers in the City of Babak, Province of Kerman on January 23, 2004, after Iranian security forces and Kerman Province's special guards brutally attacked protesting workers at the Nazkhaton's Copper Smeltery. The actual number of those killed and injured on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and the subsequent days in the City of Babak has been reported ranging from 7 to 15 dead and approximately 300 injured. (Please refer to the attached statement)

ICFTU is well aware that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the past 25 years has imposed the most unbearable political, economic, legal and social conditions on the Iranian working class and deprived masses. According to a report verified by ICFTU about one million workers in various industries in Iran have not received their wages for months or even years. A very large number of workforce in Iran are now in precarious – temporary and contract- jobs with little or no legal protections. All employers' groups, the government of khatami and various parliamentary and political factions within the Islamic Republic are supporting and aggressively engaged in implementing this anti-worker neo-liberal agenda. Although workers have been fighting back against all these

attacks on their rights, having no rights to organize freely or to strike, their protests and walkouts have relentlessly been repressed by security and intelligent forces. Iranian labour movement needs international labour solidarity and support to fight back against these offensives by the ruling class and its oppressive regime in Iran.

As we have declared in the attached statement, we are urging ICFTU and other workers' organizations to express their strongest outrage and condemnation at this brutal act of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Furthermore, *we are asking ICFTU to take any steps necessary to facilitate a mission of labour delegates and human rights advocates to be dispatched to Iran to directly investigate the circumstances that led to the shooting, killing and injuring of workers and their families and identify all those responsible for this atrocity.* We are prepared to assist you in any way we possibly can to realize this mission as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact us at the above address.

In solidarity,

Mehdi Kouhestaninejad  
President, CUPE Toronto District Council  
On Behalf of the International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran

Yadullah Khosroshahi,  
Former Secretary/Representative of All-Iran Council of Oil Workers  
On Behalf of International Section, Labour Foundation-Iran

cc: ICFTU Affiliates