

IRAN'S WORKERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



FREEDOM AND
JUSTICE FOR TRADE
UNIONISTS IN IRAN

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IRAN'S WORKERS HARASSED FOR DEMANDING THEIR RIGHTS

Iranian workers are fighting for their rights and their livelihoods. Prohibited from organizing freely and independently, they are battling for decent wages, better working conditions and job security during difficult economic times in the country.

State-controlled workers' bodies focus on promoting "Islamic values" rather than on defending the rights of workers and leadership positions in these bodies are subject to discriminatory selection procedures. The two independent unions – The Union of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) and the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company Trade Union – as well as the Iran Teachers' Trade Associations are not allowed to operate freely and their leaders have been imprisoned.

Undaunted, Iranian workers are continuing to demand their rights and are supported by international trade unions and organizations such as Amnesty International. This support is invaluable: it shows Iranian workers that they are not forgotten and reminds the Iranian government that it has international obligations to respect trade union rights, in line with international law.

TAKE ACTION NOW

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

Image: Worker for the city of Greater Tehran watering flowers in Azadi (Freedom) Square, Iran, March 2009.
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Index: MDE 13/025/2011

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Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned that independent trade unions are not permitted in Iran. Workers who are organizing independently to demand decent wages, better working conditions and employment security face harsh repression, including arbitrary arrest, unfair trial and sometimes long prison terms. Some union leaders held as prisoners of conscience are suffering serious health problems as a consequence of poor prison conditions.

I urge you to:

- Immediately allow workers to exercise their right to form and join independent trade unions for the protection of their interests, in accordance with Iran's international obligations.
- Release immediately and unconditionally all trade unionist prisoners of conscience including Rasoul Bodaghi, Gholamreza Gholamhosseini, Ebrahim Maddadi, Mansour Ossanlu, Reza Rakhshan and Reza Shahabi.
- Guarantee meanwhile that those held on account of their trade union activities receive adequate medical treatment, according to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

**Leader of the Islamic Republic
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – end of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran**

Index: MDE 13/025/2011 English

Image: Iranian worker shovelling asphalt at an oil refinery, Tehran, 2007. © Javad Parsa
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