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Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the 56,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, I am writing to strongly protest against a new wave of arrests and repression of labour activists in Iran. I am aware that the labour activists who are known to be in jails across Iran include but are not limited to the following:

- ➔ Mr. Mansour Osanloo, the president of the board of directors of the Syndicate of Tehran and Suburb Bus Company, sentenced to five years imprisonment, incarcerated since July 2007. Osanloo has been beaten numerous times by security forces. He has some serious health problems.
- ➔ Mr. Afshin Shams, a member of “Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers’ organizations”, a member of the “Committee in Defence of Mahmoud Salehi” and a member of Caricaturists. Afshan Shams has been sentenced to one year imprisonment. The verdict was given without the presence of Afshin’s lawyer.
- ➔ Mr. Farzad Kamangar, a 33 year old teacher and union and human rights activist from Kurdistan province. He has been sentenced to death by the Iranian government and has been severely tortured.
- ➔ Mr. Mohsen Hakimi, a member of the Coordinating Committee to Form Workers’ Organization and a member of the Iranian Writers’ Association, was arrested by the plain-clothes security agents near midnight on December 22, 2008 in Tehran. According to the latest news, he is incarcerated in section 209 of the Evin Prison.

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