



Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union Construction & General Division

New South Wales Branch

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12 April 2007

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadjinejad
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Dear Mr Ahmadjinejad

Re: The imprisonment of trade union activist, Mahmoud Salehi

I am writing to condemn your government's arrest and imprisonment of Mahmoud Salehi, the former President of the Bakery Workers' Association of the city of Saez and a well-known Iranian labour activist.

The Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union has previously expressed our outrage at your government's decision to prosecute Mr Salehi for his activities organizing a May Day celebration in 2004, however his re-arrest on April 9, before an official verdict or sentence had been handed down following appeal hearings, is an absolute miscarriage of justice.

The CFMEU believes that freedom of association and the right to form an independent trade union are basic human rights, and that Mr Salehi was carrying out legitimate trade union activities. The Union also believes that your failure to provide working people with the right to organise, to strike, and most importantly the right to freedom of political expression is a violation of not only international law, but the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution.

The treatment of Mr Salehi and the three trade union leaders tried along side him degrades your nation's international reputation and highlights an undemocratic culture where peaceful trade union activists and government critics are mistreated.

The CFMEU condemns the treatment of Mr Salehi and urges you to intervene immediately to secure his immediate and unconditional release.

Yours faithfully

ANDREW FERGUSON
State Secretary.

*cc: Ambassador Mohammad Reza Alborzi, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Institutions in Geneva – mission.iran@ties.itu.int
International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran – info@workers-iran.org*