

January 7, 2009

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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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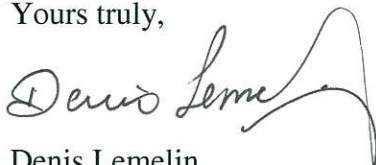
- Mr. Bijan Amiri, who is an auto worker and a member of workers' mountain-climbing board, was arrested by the Iran Khodro Company's security forces on December 22, 2008 in the factory. According to the latest news, he is incarcerated in section 209 of the Evin Prison.
- Mr. Ebrahim Madadi, the vice-president of the board of directors of the Syndicate of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company.
- Mr. Pedram Nasrolahi, who is a member of the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations in Kurdistan, arrested on December 24, 2008.
- Mr. Bakhtiar Rahimi, a labour activist in Kurdistan was arrested on December 23, 2008. Mr. Rahimi had been previously incarcerated and released after a few months.

In addition, many labour activists in Iran are under suspended sentences or are awaiting trials.

A number of other Iranian labour activists are suspended or expelled from their workplace as the result of their labour activities. This includes many members of the Vahed Syndicate in Tehran, as well as five leaders of the Syndicate of Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company Workers' Syndicate who were put on trial on December 20, 2008 and now await their verdict.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers strongly disagrees with these arrests and repression of labour activists and organizations in Iran. We are insisting on the immediate and unconditional freedom of all these incarcerated labour activists. We are asking the Iranian government to respect workers' rights to organize, assemble and strike, put an end to persecution of labour activists and not to interfere in the affairs of independent workers' organizations.

Yours truly,



Denis Lemelin
National President

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