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Internationale des travailleurs du bâtiment et du bois - IBB
Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera - ICM

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadjinejad,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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Geneva, 15 April 2007

Mr President,

The Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) condemns the verdict passed against Mahoud Salehi the former President of the Bakery Workers' Association of the city of Saez by the Kurdistan Court of Appeal. According to the latest information, Bro. Salehi arrested on 9 April 2007 was sentenced to one year imprisonment and a three year suspended prison sentence.

It is very clear that Salehi has been sentenced for his labour activities, particularly given the fact that the initial arrests and the final charges were made in connection with his attempts to participate in a May Day 2004 celebration in Saez. This verdict shows that your Government disregards workers' fundamental rights enshrined in ILO Conventions, such as freedom of association and the right to celebrate the International Workers' Day.

We urge you to put an end to all the sentences passed against Mahmoud Salehi and release him immediately and unconditionally.

Anita Normark
BWI General Secretary

CC: Ambassador Mohammad Reza Alborzi, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN Geneva
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