

December 20, 2012

By email: info@leader.ir

Reza Shahabi must be immediately released and promptly treated

On behalf of 620,000 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we are writing to protest the continued persecution of labour activists and the gross violation of workers' rights in Iran. We continue to witness many labour activists brutally persecuted and unjustly imprisoned in Iran.

In particular, we are seriously concerned about the health and well being of Reza Shahabi, the executive board member and treasurer of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran Bus Workers' Company. Reza Shahabi has been incarcerated for more than two and half years and was severely beaten during his interrogation in detention. He underwent cervical spine operation on July 24, 2012 and medical doctors have been recommending treatment of his back as well. Contrary to doctors' recommendations, Shahabi was sent back to Ward 350 of Evin prison on August 14, 2012; since then his health has drastically deteriorated. On December 17th, 2012, Reza Shahabi went on a hunger strike to protest intimidating behaviour from his jail guard as well as the continued lack of proper medical treatment. He has also refused to take any medication.

We strongly condemn the unjust arrest and sentence against Reza Shahabi and other labour activists. We also denounce ongoing persecution and arrests of labour activists in Iran. We demand the immediate and unconditional freedom of Reza Shahabi and all detained labour activists in Iran.

Yours truly,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

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cc: info@workers-iran.org; info@judiciary.ir; dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir; iran@un.int; ijpr@iranjudiciary.org; info@dadiran.ir; office@justice.ir; support@irimlsa.ir; info@humanrights-iran.ir; avaei@Dadgostary-tehran.ir; bia.judi@yahoo.com; info@mlsa.ir; S. Marshall; P. Beattie; M. Butler; K. Cameron

