

French trade unions call for a demonstration in support of workers in Iran

When: Thursday June 9, 2011, 11 am

**Location: ILO Headquarters, Place des Nations
Geneva- Switzerland**

Four French Trade Union federations, CGT, FSU, Solidaires and UNSA have released a joint statement (see below) in support of the workers activists currently jailed in Iran. Condemning the attacks on workers' basic rights, they will demonstrate outside the headquarters of the International Labour Organization, ILO, on June 9th 2011, whilst its annual conference is underway. This call out has since seen been supported by two Swiss trade unions, UNIA and CGAS.

The International Labour Conference is held every year and delegates representing governments, employers and workers from 183 countries gather to discuss matters relating to work and labour standards within a framework of ILO Conventions. The delegates from the Islamic Regime of Iran also will participate. The entire delegates from Iran are made of the mercenaries of the Iranian government. Those so-called "worker's representatives" among Iranian delegates are representatives of government-sponsored organizations like the "Islamic Councils" and "Workers' house", which have a direct role in the suppression of the labour activists and workers' struggles in Iran.

With respect to the fact that in previous years complaints have been launched with the ILO against the Islamic Republic of Iran's violation of workers' rights, it is important to note that this regime spins obvious lies, in attempts to create a false picture of the situation of workers in Iran. With these empty and unfounded positions it seeks, like many other repressive regimes, to hide its essentially oppressive and anti-workers and pro capitalist aims and practices. Moreover, it is unacceptable that representatives of the Iranian regime are chairing ILO's Committee on Employment and Social policy and sitting at the ILO's Governing Body as deputy members.

The right to set up independent workers organizations by the workers themselves, the right of workers to collective bargaining, a proper wage paid on time, the right to a discrimination-free workplace and employment and the banning of child labour are foundational rights of working people. These rights also have been clearly stipulated in ILO conventions and agreed upon by all ILO member countries. Yet the Islamic regime has a long and dark history of violating these rights. Whilst the regime takes part in this conference, workers' activists remain in Iranian jails for the "crime" of seeking to build independent workers organizations. The right of Iranian workers to hold collective bargaining is trampled underfoot. Workers' wage has fallen to one third of the poverty line and, in many cases, workers have not been paid for months and in some cases for years. Discrimination based on gender, religion and nationality and against Afghan workers is widespread in the workplaces and society at large. Child labour and the exploitation of children is normal practice. All these are just a few examples of the way the regime rides roughshod over the basic and foundational rights of working Iranians.

The revealing of the anti-worker and inhuman essence of this reactionary regime and the defence of basic rights for Iranian workers is not only the duty of Iranian labour activists, but it is also a struggle to which workers' activists around the world and international labour organizations can play an important and indeed fundamental role.

The demonstration organised by French trade unions, on June 9th 2011, in defence of worker's rights in Iran and imprisoned labour activists, shows once more that Iranian workers are not alone.

We consider international solidarity amongst workers to be our key priority. We wholeheartedly support and will take part in this important solidarity demonstration. We invite all labour activists and organizations and progressive parties, along with all those who strive for freedom, to take part in this demonstration if they can, and to support the working class and activists in Iran. Let's expose the inhuman and anti-worker and oppressive essence of the capitalist Islamic regime of Iran to the world.

Long live international workers' Solidarity

International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran

May 30, 2011

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Paris, le 27 mai 2011

Soutien aux libertés syndicales en IRAN

En solidarité avec les syndicalistes iraniens emprisonnés, les syndicats français appellent à un rassemblement devant le siège de l'OIT à Genève le 9 juin.

Les mesures de répression à l'encontre des militants syndicaux iraniens ce 1^{er} mai et l'arrestation de militants syndicaux au Kurdistan constituent des violations des droits fondamentaux.

Nous syndicats français, avec le mouvement syndical international nous exprimons notre solidarité envers les femmes et les hommes iraniens qui, malgré les risques que comporte l'activité syndicale en Iran, se sont engagés dans le combat en faveur de la défense des travailleurs.

Nous pensons à tous les militants emprisonnés depuis des mois et des années, coupables d'avoir exercé le droit fondamental qu'est de mener une activité syndicale. Ce combat vaut admiration et respect, pour eux et leurs familles qui les soutiennent.

Plus que jamais, il faut prendre au mot les pays qui ratifient sur le papier les conventions de l'OIT et qui en réalité les bafouent dans la réalité. C'est le cas de l'Iran.

Il appartient aux organisations syndicales dans le monde d'affirmer leur solidarité et de mettre en œuvre les moyens dont elles disposent pour faire cesser la répression à l'encontre des travailleurs iraniens qui veulent créer des organisations syndicales indépendantes.

C'est pour cette raison que nous appelons à un rassemblement le 9 juin 2011 à Genève devant le siège de l'OIT à l'occasion de sa conférence annuelle.

9 Juin 2011 à partir de 11h Place des Nations à Genève

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