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April 24, 2007.

File: 1305-A-700

BY EMAIL: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Mr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President
Islamic Republic of Iran
Tehran, IRAN

Dear President Ahmadinejad:

Re: Imprisonment of Trade Union Leader Mahmoud Salehi

On behalf of the 55,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), I am writing to express our condemnation of the arrest and re-imprisonment of Mahmoud Salehi, the well-known former President of the Bakery Workers Association in Saqez.

This is by no means the first time CUPW has made our grave concerns known to Islamic Republic leaders about the regime's anti-democratic and anti-union treatment of Mr. Salehi. CUPW previously denounced his prosecution for organizing a May Day celebration in 2004, as well as his subsequent unacceptable treatment by Iranian authorities.

His current re-arrest on April 9, prior to handing down the official verdict, continues the shameful behaviour characterizing the Islamic Republic's suppression of basic trade union rights. There simply is no doubt that Mr. Salehi was engaging in legitimate trade union activities when he was arrested in 2004. His imprisonment now serves to underscore your regime's contempt for the right to association and the right to form independent trade unions and is in violation of international law. CUPW continues to insist that the right to organize and to free collective bargaining for workers is fundamental, without which no country can claim the mantle of democracy and legitimacy.

CUPW urges you to quickly intervene in this matter to secure Mr. Salehi's unconditional release.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bourque,
National President.

DB/jh
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c.c.: National Executive Committee
International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran (info@workers-iran.org)

