

Date: May 11, 2011

To: Ms. Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary

Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5, Bte 1; 1210 Brussels, Belgium

Re: Arrests of labour activists in Iran

From: Mahmoud Salehi, Saghez, Iran

Sent via email

Dear Ms. Sharan Burrow,

With warm greetings,

On May Day 2011, some of the labour activists in cities of Sanandaj and Saghez were summoned and subsequently arrested. In Saghez, Ali Hosseini and Hossein Moradi and I were arrested. I got arrested while I was very ill; a few days prior to the arrest I had a surgery performed on me by Dr. Mansour Alizadeh for the purpose of dialysis. About 35 centimeters of artificial vessels were implanted through my body's left side. Despite such serious health conditions, the authorities arrested me at 1:30 pm on May 1, 2011 and detained me in a very cold room without any charges. This room was so cold that I developed pain and discomfort.

Iranian security Forces arrested Messrs Wafa Ghaderi, Khaled Hosseini, Ghaleb Hosseini and Yadullah Ghotbi, all of whom labour activists and members of the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations, on April 30, 2011 in City of Sanandaj. *

The authorities have intensified pressures on these incarcerated labour activists without any charges against them; they have been trying to coerce them into depositing huge amount of money as their bails. The family of detained workers cannot afford such heavy bails. These arrested labour activists have also been pressured to resign from the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations in spite of the fact that the "Coordinating Committee" is an open organization of labour activists.

The Iranian government, even with its membership in the International Labour Organization, and despite commitments made to respect Conventions 87 and 98 of the ILO, has banned commemoration of the International Workers' Day by workers and have been arresting and incarcerating workers and labour activists by reason of participating at May Day events.

The Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations is an independent labour organization. The "Coordinating Committee, in partnership with other labour organizations, endeavoured to organize May Day rallies this year, but ended up being oppressed by security and intelligent forces. By uttering threats against workers and members of the Coordinating Committee, the security forces made attempts to stop the whole event.

Hereby, I, Mahmoud Salehi, as a retired worker and a member of the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations, ask you to protest against these unjust treatments of workers in Iran, and demand immediate and unconditional freedom of all jailed labour activists and members of the Coordinating Committee to help Form Workers' Organizations. The Coordinating Committee also would like to follow up on a complaint against the Iranian government for the violation of the rights of workers' organizations which was submitted to the ILO in 2010 but it appears that it has not yet been addressed.

Thank you

Mahmoud Salehi

May 11, 2011 (21 Ordibehesht 1390)

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cc: to workers' rights and trade union organizations internationally

P.S. Grievance dated June 30, 2010 concerning the Iranian government's non-compliance with ILO's conventions # 87 and 98 is attached

* According to the latest report by the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations, Wafa Ghaderi was released on 50 million Toman bail (about 48,000 US\$) and Yadullah Ghotbi was released on 30 million Toman bails on May 11, 2011; and Khaled Hosseini and Ghaleb Hosseini were released on 50 Toman bail on May 12, 2011. According to this report, the security forces released these labour activists outside the City to avert any gathering of their family, friends and supporters outside the prison.

Link to the original letter in Farsi:

http://www.komitteyehamahangi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=147:1390-02-21-12-26-39&catid=11:1389-12-23-23-55-51&Itemid=30