



December 10, 2010

Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street
End of Shahid Keshvar
Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Sent via email to: info@leader.ir

Leader of the Islamic Republic:

As Canadian trade union activist and elected member of CUPE Ontario's International Solidarity Committee, I am extremely concerned about the health and well-being of **Reza Shahabi**, imprisoned worker (the Treasurer and member of the board of directors of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company) who is incarcerated in section 209 of Evin Prison since June 12, 2010. As your government is aware, Mr. Shahabi has gone on dry hunger strike since December 4, 2010 to protest against his unjust incarceration and the refusal of authorities to release him despite the fact that his family had deposited 60 million Toman (about 57,000 US Dollar) as surety. He is refusing consumption of both food and liquids. Mr. Shahabi's health is in imminent danger.

I call on your government to release Reza Shahabi and other jailed workers immediately and unconditionally and to respect workers' rights in Iran. Our union, which has more than 500,000 across Canada, will continue to pressure your government to effectively respect the rights of independent unions or syndicates in Iran; as well, as the human rights of trade union and progressive activists held unjustly in Iran's prisons.

Respectfully,
lian Burbano

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario
International Solidarity Committee