

Support Jailed Workers in Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously aimed to crush the independent and autonomous Iranian labour organizations for many years. Labour activists have been beaten, injured, kidnapped, and have repeatedly been subjected to prosecutions and incarceration by the repressive Islamic Republic of Iran since its establishment 32 years ago.

In recent months, the regime has intensified prosecutions against a long list of labour activists: on the first of December 2010, Reza Rakhshan, the president of board of directors of “Syndicate of Workers of Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company”, was charged with “spreading lies” and sentenced to 6 month imprisonment by the Court of appeal at Ahvaz in Iran.

On 29 November 2010, Ali Akbar Nazari, One of the members of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, was summoned to the public prosecutor’s office and was immediately arrested. He is now in the custody of the notorious Evin prison.

On November 23, 2010, another member of the Syndicate, Morteza Kamsari, was arrested and is now locked in division 8 of Evin prison. Gholamreza Gholamhosseini, another member of the Syndicate, was kidnapped on November 3, 2010 after being savagely beaten and injured by the Iranian security force. He is apparently in the custody of the Islamic intelligence ministry of Iran.

Sadigh Khosravi and Ibrahim Ismaili, two members of the “Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations”, have also been incarcerated by the plain clothes security forces on 8 November in Kurdistan province. They have been taken to an undisclosed location and even their families were not informed of their whereabouts.

The list of the prosecuted and jailed labour activists continues with Reza Shahabi, the Treasurer and board member of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, who was arrested on June 12, 2010, and is still in prison awaiting trial.

Moreover, Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, a member of “The Committee to Pursue the Establishment of Free Workers Organizations”, has been incarcerated in Evin’s division of 350 since June 12, 2010. His Court on November 7, 2010 went into recess as the designated court’s judge did not bother to appear in the courthouse.

Two leaders and elected representatives of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company have been in prison for more than three years now; Mansour Osanloo the Syndicate's president of the board of director (serving a five year jail sentence) and Ebrahim Madadi, Vice-President (serving 3.5 year jail sentence). Furthermore, Mansour Osanloo has been sentenced to an additional year imprisonment by the City of Karaj Islamic Revolutionary Court on August 10, 2010 for "propaganda against the system". Mr. Osanloo has been subject to increasing harassment in prison in recent months.

All these attacks on labour activist and independent labour organizations are taking place while the regime is aggressively implementing its neoliberal policy to cut subsidies to at least 16 basic needs of populations form gas, oil, water, heat to basis food products, which will lead to steep rise to the costs of products and services in the country. The International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran (IASWI) call on all workers’ organizations and labour activists to support labour activists in Iran who are incessantly under attack by the anti-worker government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran (IASWI)

info@workers-iran.org
alliance@workers-iran.org
www.etehadbinalmelali.com
www.workers-iran.org

December 4, 2010