

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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December 30, 2005

President Mahmood Ahmadinejad  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Tehran  
IRAN

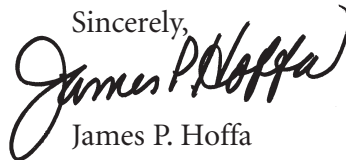
Dear President Ahmadinejad:

On behalf of the 1.4 million men and women of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I write to denounce the arrest of fourteen members of the Union of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sandikaye Kargarane Sherkate Vahed Autobus Raniehn Tehran Va Hoomeh).

A recent union meeting was disrupted by plainclothes members of the Ansar Hezbollah who badly beat up many union members. Your government took no action against the aggressors. On December 22, agents from the Office of the Prosecutor arrested and detained at least fourteen members of the union.

These arrests clearly violate international labor standards regarding freedom of association and freedom of expression. They also contradict your campaign pledges to encourage justice and assist working people in your country.

We call upon your government to immediately release the union leaders and members and negotiate in good faith with the Union of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, whose members have not had a wage increase in over four years. The Union has a forty year history of supporting its members and efficient urban transport in Tehran; they fully deserve respect from all governmental authorities in Iran.

Sincerely,  
  
James P. Hoffa  
General President

cc: Dr. Javad Zarif, Permanent Representative of the I.R. of Iran to the United Nations  
Interest Section of the I.R. of Iran to the United States  
David Cockroft, General Secretary, International Transport Workers Federation  
Patrick Del Vecchio, Director, DRL/IL, U.S. Department of State