

Mohammad Khatami, President
Islamic Republic of Iran
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Dear President Khatami:

Once again I am writing to you to express the outrage of 3.2 million organized Canadian workers at the killing of workers in Iran. On Friday January 23, 2004 your security forces attacked a peaceful sit-in of copper mine protesters and their families in the city of Babak, province of Kerman. Reports of this inhumane incident give the numbers of those killed as between 7 and 15 and those injured approximately 300.

Canadians are all too well aware of the brutal actions of your regime which has targeted a Canadian journalist as well as Iranian workers. Reliable reports show that as many as one million Iranian workers have not received their wages for many months. Nevertheless, workers in your country are not allowed to organize independent unions, are denied the right to protest peacefully or to strike, in violation of internationally recognized ILO conventions.

We urge you to launch an independent investigation into the killing and injuring of workers in Babak and to bring the perpetrators of this violence to justice. We are also requesting the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to more closely monitor the conditions of workers in Iran and to bring more pressure on your regime through complaints to the ILO and other U.N. bodies. We will not stand by idly while our brothers and sisters are mistreated, injured, and killed.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

cc. ICFTU
Exec. Committee and Assistants aka bad faith negotiators
President CUPE Toronto District Council
Embassy of Iran, Ottawa