

Solidarity with Iranian workers!

- For the right to join and organise independent trade unions in Iran
- Free jailed trade unionists and all political prisoners
- Free bus workers' leader Mansour Osanloo, currently being held at Rajaei Shahr prison in Karaj, where his life has been threatened and his health is deteriorating.
- The International Labour Organisation should only recognise genuine worker representatives from Iran!

We will be holding monthly protests outside the Iranian Embassy in London to demand these things — up until the next ILO convention in June 2010. Join our campaign and support our protests. Please use the text below to get support for our protest in your trade union, student union or other organisation.

Why are we protesting?

Independent trade unions are banned in Iran.

Workers are allowed to form Islamic Labour Councils (ILCs) in Iran but these cannot defend the terms and conditions of their members. These organisations are controlled by the government and the employers. They are not independent and free. There is nothing Iranian workers can legally do to defend their conditions. When Iranian workers defend themselves, they put their lives at risk.

Workers are not allowed to meet to discuss their conditions.

Anyone organising a general assembly of workers is sacked.

In Iran leading members of trade unions are sacked, arrested, imprisoned and beaten up for their trade union activities.

Mansour Osanloo of the Syndicate of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) is still in prison.

In Iran the authorities repress gatherings by workers, for instance on May Day.

Alireza Saghafy, a member of the Centre for Workers' Rights in Iran, was detained for five hours on 28 April 2009. He was told to try to prevent a May Day rally planned for Tehran.

In Iran millions of workers suffer sweatshop conditions.

Support call for Mansour Osanloo to get urgent medical attention and to be released from jail. Email action organised by Amnesty International

http://amnesty.org.uk/actions_details.asp?ActionID=628

There is no unemployment benefit.

Repressive conditions in Iran have got considerably worse since the events of June 2009.

During the June protests the regime arrested thousands of demonstrators. Many people were killed. Thousands of people are still detained. Leaders of, for instance, the women's rights movement have been detained. Many people have simply disappeared.

The Islamic Republic of Iran violates workers' rights and many other democratic rights. Why then, are the Iranian government appointees recognised by the International Labour Organisation as genuine worker representatives? The ILO is a body which claims to safeguard and uphold basic workers' rights around the world. Iran is signed up to an ILO convention on gender equality, yet women workers suffer blatant sexual discrimination, are even deprived of the right to work. Why does the ILO pretend the government of Iran will treat its workers in accordance with ILO conventions? Which ILO convention calls for the banning of free trade unions?

The international labour movement needs to step up its campaign against the Iranian government's repression of trade unions, to demand the Iranian government allows free trade unions and workers' rights. Until Iran does that, we demand ILO should not, at its meetings and conferences, "do business" with Iranian government stooges. We campaign for these things to show the Iranian workers that we are 100% on their side in their struggle for democracy, justice and the right to organise to defend themselves.

• Supported by:

Emancipated Cinema, No Sweat, Organization of revolutionary Workers of Iran, Solidarity movement with Iranian people in struggle, Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist, Workers' Liberty

• To support this statement and protest email iranworkerssolidarity@yahoo.co.uk

More information: 07951459370

Our next protest at the Iranian Embassy

Thursday 22 October, 5-6.30pm
Princes Gate, London, SW7 1PT.
(Off Kensington Road, opposite Hyde Park/Kensington Barracks. Nearest tube Knightsbridge).

From November the protest will be at the same time on the second Thursday in every month — 12 November, and 10 December.