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國際運輸勞連

International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération Internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
الاتحاد الدولي لعمال النقل

Dr Hassan Rouhani
Honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Presidency
Pasteur Street
Pasteur Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Via email: rouhani@csr.ir, media@rouhani.ir

Our ref: OGS/SMC/sz

25 January 2019

Dear President Rouhani,

On behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation's 20 million members in unions working in the worldwide transport industry, I am writing to express deep concern over the Iranian authorities' targeting of trade union members and activists.

I understand that on Saturday, 19 January 2019 the national broadcasting company showed a documentary entitled "Tarahi Soukhteh", which falsely aimed to connect the legitimate struggles of Haft Tapeh Sugar workers and other workers in Iran not only to opposition parties outside Iran, but also to the interests of the United States and Israel. The latter accusation is as outrageous as it is damaging to the trade unions.

I understand that some of the information used may have been connected to the forced confessions of well-known detained workers such as Ali Nejati and Esmail Bakhshi. Credible information exists to show that such confessions have been obtained through threats, beatings and torture. Such violations of basic human rights must cease immediately; I call on you both to stop such torture, and to immediately release these detainees.

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is extremely concerned for all members of the ITF's affiliated Tehran bus workers' union (Vahed Syndicate) and especially for Reza Shahabi and Hassan Saedi, who, we understand, were incorrectly named in this so-called documentary as part of a "failed plot" behind the strike action. We urge you to make immediate assurances as to their ongoing liberty and safety and look forward to receiving said assurances from you.

The ITF continues to monitor the ongoing denial of workers' rights in Iran and reminds the Iranian Government that, as a member of the governing body of the ILO, it has a responsibility to guarantee freedom of association and protection for trade unionists and workers, in accordance with the International Labour Organisation's core conventions.

The use of torture and forced confessions against trade unions is clearly contrary not only to basic human rights, but violates the ILO's fundamental principles. In addition to the assurances I request above, I would be very grateful to receive your comments in this regard.

Thanking you for your attention, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Cotton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Cotton
General Secretary

cc.

His Excellency Ayatullah Haajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
contact@leader.ir

His Excellency Mr Hamid Baeidinejad, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, iranemb.lon@mfa.gov.ir

The Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran – High Council of Human Rights, info@humanrights-iran.ir

Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, iran@un.int

Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), ryder@ilo.org