

Workers in Iran

News & views from the labour movement in Iran



Special "August 9th" Issue - Thursday, August 9 2007



International Day of Action for the release of Mansur Osanlu and Mahmud Salehi from the notorious prisons of Islamic Republic of Iran

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) released a joint statement yesterday, July 24, 2007, expressing their demand for the release of imprisoned worker activists Mansur Osanlu and Mahmud Salehi in Iran. The statement determines August 9 as both a deadline for the Islamic regime to release the two activists and proposes it as an International Day of Action by ITUC and ITF affiliates as well as Global Union Federations, if their demand will not have been met in full by the set date. It calls for "urgent and determined action" and cites "the suc-

cessful Action Day on 15 February 2006" (the international solidarity day with Tehran Bus Workers' strike last year). In yesterday's joint statement, ITUC and ITF request their affiliates around the world to hold different forms of protest action on August 9, starting with visiting the Iranian diplomatic mission in their country "with protest letters and/or hard copies of petitions collected by the ITF." The said statement is attached in full below.

Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) strongly supports the proposed international action for the release of Mansur Osanlu and Mahmud Salehi.

Just as WPI's branches in different countries took active part in 15 February 2006 International Action Day, this year too they will participate as best as they can, in co-ordination with trade unions, in 9 August Day of Action.

WPI ceaselessly exposes the crimes of the Islamic regime in Iran against both the workers as well as the people at large, and struggles for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Iran, including Mahmud Salehi and Mansur Osanlu.

Worker-communist Party of Iran
July 25, 2007

Let's protest against medieval orders of lashes

Workers! Freedom Lovers!

Today, August 4th, 2007, 11 workers who were arrested in the events of May First in Sanandaj heard their verdicts. Based on these orders Khaled Savari, Eghbal Latifi, Yadollah Moradi, Tayeb Malayi, Fars Govilian, Sadigh Amjadi, Habibollah Kani, Moheyoddin Rajabi, Tayeb Chatani, Sadigh Sobhani and Abbas Andaryari, each will spend 91 days in the jail and receive 10 strikes of lashes.

Issuing such orders for workers arrested at the events of May Day, while the whole world is protesting against detainment of Mahmood Salehi and Mansoor Osanlo, is a blow to the faces of millions of workers around the world who are asking the freedom of these two individuals and are decided to put an end to persecution, arrest and

detainment of workers' leaders.

For workers whose share from the wealth of the society is nothing but poverty and endless misery, such situations, such medieval orders and imprisonments only tell one thing: This is slavery and it is being imposed to the workers by the Iranian capitalism.

Barbaric repression of the workers with pepper gas, beating them with sticks and throwing them into prison for 10 days was not enough for these enemies of worker's class. They are planning to execute medieval orders of lashes and imprisonment, put chains around the neck of the wealth-producing workers and make us revisit the slavery era.

Workers! Freedom Lovers!

We should not accept this situation. We should not let Mahmood and

Mansoor remain in prison and orders concerning those 11 workers of Sanandaj being executed. Sanandaj's workers and their families have been living under the poverty line for all these years, suffering from expulsion *Continues P. 3*

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Kermanshah Electrical and Iron Workers Join the Day of Action to free Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi

We have always been relying on the unlimited support of our fellow international working class, and having this support enables us to insist on demands for our basic rights. We owe the many fulfillments we had to international solidarity of

workers' class and insist that our future success depends on more extended support.

We strongly support the joined call from ITUC and ITF to free Mahmoud Salehi and Mansour Osanloo on August 9th and recognize this

action as another fundamental progress to support workers in Iran with their demands.

The Craft Union of Electrical and Iron Workers of Kermanshah
July 29, 2007

Labour Activists in Petrochemical Plants of Mahshahr Join the Struggle against Imprisonment of Labour Activists

Letter from some of workers of Petrochemical Plants of special economic region of Mahshahr: Petrochemistry of Bandar Imam, Petrochemistry of Fann-avarán, Petrochemistry of Arvand, Petrochemistry of Maroon, Petrochemistry of Fajr, Petrochemistry of Karoon, Petrochemistry of Qadir

To: International Confederation of Workers' Union (ITCU) and International Federation of Transit Workers (ITF)

Dear Friends

We, a number of workers in aforementioned plants sincerely appreciate your international action to free Mansoor Osanlu and Mahmood Salehi which in reality is an impor-

tant part of defense of civilized world of people in Iran. The workers in Iran are subjected to outmost discriminations and economic pressures of capitalism and horizon of life becomes narrower and narrower day by day.

The protest by workers of United Bus Company and thousands of other rightful workers' protests are only a small part of social protest in today's Iranian society. All these protests are aimed for achieving a humane condition and your support for Mansoor Osanlu and Mahmood Salehi is an important part of international movement in helping to free leaders of workers' protests from prison in Iran.

We took your supportive press release to workers in the factories

where we work and discussed it. It was received magnificently and your action got unanimous appreciation and praise.

We hope that the two workers' leaders, Mansoor and Mahmood, are released from prison by 9th of August. We also hope, under international pressure, the imprisoned students of Amir Kabir (Polytechnique) are freed from prison. This will be the biggest achievement of your valuable movement, and more valuable still for us.

**WITH THE HOPE OF CONTINUATION OF SUCH MOVEMENTS
LONG LIVE CLASS UNITY OF THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD
LONG LIVE THE FREEDOM OF WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS**

From page 4 mented an unofficial marshal law against students of Tehran University and Polytechnique. 16 students are reported to have been arrested, including the following: Mohammad Hashemi, Mehdi Arabshahi, Ali Nikonesbati, Bahareh Hedayat, Hanif Yazdani, Ali Vefghi, Abdollah Momeni, Bahram Faiazi, Habib Hajheidari, Mojtaba Bayat, Saeed Hossein Nia, Masoud Habibi, Morteza Eslahchi and Ezzate Ghandari.

- On the same day, more people were arrested in the capital Tehran, including a number of young motorists, whose families later gathered outside the police station where they were being held. A number of

women's rights activists were also summoned to face various charges.

The above are just a few examples of the atrocities taking place in Iran right now. We call on all labour and human rights organisations around the world to protest in every way they can against this barbarity of the Islamic Republic regime to secure the release of Mansoor Ossanlou, Mahmood Salehi and other activists, unconditionally and immediately, and to put an end to the executions, stonings and trial of workers, teachers and women's rights activists.

Shahla Daneshfar

International Labour Solidarity Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran

18 July 2007

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Let's protest ... and wages that have not been paid by the anti-human capitalistic system. The enemy has the whip in hand and is planning to beat the workers with cruelty.

The National Union of Expulsed and Laid off Workers (NUELW) will not allow these enemies of the worker's class to beat our people in Sanandaj.

We, the workers of the National Union of Expulsed and Laid off Workers (NUELW) will not allow the afflicted Mahmood Salehi lose his life in prison. Workers of Shahoo, Par-ris and Kurdistan's textile

have not forgotten how Mahmood was trying to reach Sanandaj to support them.

We, the workers of the National Union of Expulsed and Laid off Workers (NUELW) will not abandon Mahmood, Mansoor and the 11 other workers in front of the enemy and its prisons and lashes.

You and us, we are from the same social class. We are asking you and all the freedom lovers in Iran and around the world to protest against continuation of detainment of Mahmood and Mansoor and against medieval orders against workers. Join us in the worldwide protest of

workers on Mordad the 18th to show the power of our unity. We should not let the right to live of workers and the general public being ignored.

Viva worker's unity

Workers of the

National Union of Expelled and Unemployed Workers

14/5/1386

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CC: International Transportation Union Confederation (ITUC)

International Transportation Federation (ITF)

And all worker organization around the world

Tabriz Workers Condemn Imprisonment and Show Trials of Labour Activists

From: **A group of workers in The Tabriz Machinist Industries, Tabriz Tractor making industries, Tabriz refinery and Tabriz Petrochemical industries.**

To: **International Labor Solidarity Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran and other organizations and political parties, around the world**

With respect,

As a group of workers, employed in the above industries; we strongly object to the imprisonment and "trials" of activists in the labour, student and women's movement, by the Islamic regime in Iran.

We condemn the verdicts of stoning deaths, executions, especially children and juvenile executions, by Islamic judiciary system in Iran. These verdicts are the most inhumane actions of the judicial system in the world.

The present situation for the people, workers, youth and women of Iran, is a fight for survival. Our protest is a basic step to defend our lives, which is responded by arrests, imprisonment and oppression by the Islamic regime.

These acts of the regime should be condemned and we request your support and cooperation. In our struggle to have a humanistic life, we are relying on all humanity.

While, Mahmood Salehi, the labour activist and leader of the Bakery Union in Sanandaj city, in spite of his poor health condition is arrested and put in the jail and his situation is completely ignored by authorities, Mansour Osanloo, the leader of the Tehran -bus transportation union (Vahed) is kidnapped and put to jail and tens of leaders of students, labour and women movements are arrested and their lives are in danger and some are threatened with execution.

The above are examples of acts we oppose and demand you to do so and help us.

We shake all your hands.

**Long lives the international solidarity of all workers around the world.
Long live the international solidarity of civilized and free humanity**

July 22, 2007

Solidarity with "World day of action for the release of Mansour Osanlou and Mahmoud Salehi

From: **The National Union of Expelled and Unemployed Workers**

To: **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)**

Re: Solidarity with "World day of action for the release of Mansour Osanlou and Mahmoud Salehi

With highest respects,

Dear friends,

We are glad and grateful to see your call for an international day of action for the

release of Mansour Osanlou and Mahmoud Salehi, which is an important sign of support for workers in Iran.

While, the Islamic regime is holding Mahmoud Salehi in custody, in spite of his grave health condition and putting Mansour Osanlou in jail, Shis Amani, the head of directorate, Khales Savari, deputy of directorate and Sadigh Karimi the member of directorate of our union in Sanandaj, are sent to trial and their verdicts are pending. Their "crime" is just participation in May Day celebration!

The call for an international day of action to

support workers in Iran is very important gesture in this critical moment, when the Islamic government, based on all above facts has been intensifying its oppression against leaders and labor activists.

We shake your hands and appreciate your strong support.

We announce the world to stand next to you and workers around the world, on August 9th, to protest against imprisonment of Mahmoud Salehi and Mansour Osanlou, in case, the Islamic regime wouldn't release them till August 9th, 2007.

With the highest respects,

The National Union of unemployed and expelled workers

July 27, 2007

Worker-communist Party of Iran's open letter to ITUC and ITF

August 9th: world day of action for the release of Mansoor Ossanlou and Mahmoud Salehi

Dear

Guy Ryder

General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

David Cockroft

General Secretary, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

On behalf of the Worker-communist Party of Iran, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and the millions of members of your affiliated unions for your call for an international day of action for the release of Mansoor Ossanlou and Mahmoud Salehi. We strongly support your call for the August 9th day of action.

This is a crucial initiative, which comes in the wake of the February 15th action last year in support of the striking workers of Vahed Bus Company.

While the Islamic regime in Iran has been conducting a massive wave of executions, stoning and arrest of labour, student and women's rights activists in the past few weeks, this action is not just another manifestation of workers' international unity and solidarity; it is not just an important step forward for workers in Iran. It is indeed solidarity with all the people in Iran in their confrontation with the Islamic regime; a regime which has no other means for survival but flogging, veiling, stoning, executing and imprisoning.

We shall actively take part in the August 9th action for the release of Ossanlou and Salehi - just as our party did last year in the February 15th day of action both in Iran and in Europe, North America and Australia. This time too, along with the bus workers of Tehran, the workers of Saqez and Sanandaj and all workers throughout Iran who are fighting for the release of their jailed colleagues, as well as students and peo-

ple in Iran, who we are certain will respond positively to this call, we are calling on all to join the protests on August 9th outside the Islamic Republic embassies and representations abroad. We shall try to mobilise as many people as possible for these demonstrations, in particular from among the Iranians living abroad, so as to raise ever louder the call for the release of Ossanlou, Salehi and all political prisoners in Iran.

Our party has always informed workers of the world about the lack of rights of workers and people in Iran, and called for international support for their struggles and for isolating the Islamic Republic regime. We regard your initiative as a step in this direction, and will, for our part, try to ensure that the world solidarity with the workers and people in Iran is as great as possible. Once again I extend our gratitude and kindly request that you forward this letter to your affiliated organisations and members.

Asqar Karimi

Head of the Secretariat Board, Worker-communist Party of Iran

26 July 2007

To: International labour and human rights organisations

Dear Friends,

The Islamic regime in Iran has launched a campaign of arrests, kidnapping, executions and stoning deaths in an attempt to drive back the ongoing protests, strikes and demonstrations in Iran by creating a climate of terror and fear. We are calling on all labour and human rights organisations around the world to raise their voice in protest against this barbarity of the Islamic regime.

The following are just a few examples of the Islamic regime's ongoing atrocities:

- On the evening of July 10th Mansoor Ossanlou, the president of the Union of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat e Vahed), was abducted by the regime's plain clothes security agents as he was getting off the bus. He was beaten up and taken into custody. He is now being held at the high-security Evin Prison.

- Mahmoud Salehi, well known labour activist, long persecuted for organising May Day rallies and for his labour activities, and who has been in jail since April 2007, is reported to have slipped into a coma due to kidney failure following denial of medical care by the authorities. He lost his other kidney in previous years of imprisonment under the Islamic regime.

- On July 10th, workers arrested on May Day this year in the city of Sanandaj were put to trial on the charge of "disturbing the peace". They are: Khaled Savari, Eghbal Latifi, Yadollah Moradi, Taieb Molaei, Fars Gavilian, Sedigh Amjadi, Abbas Andaryari, Habibollah Kalkani, Moheiedin Rajabi, Taieb Chatani and Sedigh Sobhani.

- On July 14th, labour activists Shais Amani, the head of the executive board, and Sedigh Karimi, member of the board, of the Na-

tional Union of Dismissed and Unemployed Workers, appeared in court. Their charges include "disturbing the peace", "acting against national security", collecting donations for the family of Mahmoud Salehi, membership in their union and in a workers' committee working to set up free labour organisations, as well as "contacts with opposition organisations".

- On July 10th, the judiciary's spokesman announced that death sentences against 20 people had been upheld and a further 15 had been sentenced to death. It was also announced that around 100 people had been arrested in connection with the recent protests against petrol rationing.

- The stoning to death of a man in the city of Takestan was confirmed by the judiciary, following earlier denials.

On July 9th the regime imple-

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