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HTUR/MG

7 November 2017

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the ITUC, representing 181 million workers in 163 countries across 340 trade union centres to condemn the ongoing harassment against independent trade unions and labour activists in Iran.

On 28 October 2017, Mahmoud Salehi was arrested by four plainclothes security forces immediately after his kidney dialysis in a hospital in Saqez, Kurdistan province. The public prosecutor of the Saqez informed Mahmoud Salehi that previously they had sentenced him to 9-year prison, but his jail term has been reduced to one year with immediate effect. We are deeply concerned for his life, as he suffers from heart disease and needs weekly care. We have been informed that Mahmoud Saleh has been transferred from Saghez prison to cardiac care section of the Khomeini hospital since last night. We insist that he should not be returned to prison and that all charges against him are dropped.

Moreover, harassment of trade unionists Ebrahim Madadi and Davood Razavi continue. Mr. Davood Razavi, a member of the board of directors of Tehran bus workers' union, appeared in the Appeals Court of the Islamic Revolutionary court on November 4, 2017, without the presence of his lawyer. Ebrahim Madadi, a member, and vice-president, of the Board of Directors of Tehran bus workers' union (Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company), has been summoned to appear at Branch 36 of the Revolutionary Court's Appeals Court of the Islamic Revolutionary court on December 3, 2017.

Ebrahim Madadi and Davood Razavi were arrested by the intelligence forces at their homes at the same time, on 29 April 2015 for their legitimate trade union activity. In this regard, we insist that the Committee on Freedom of Association considers that "the frequent arrest and sentencing of trade unionists to long periods of imprisonment under such general charges (...) is likely to severely hinder the exercise of legitimate trade union activities", and that therefore the "Committee firmly urges the Government to bring its conclusions to the attention of the Iranian judiciary with a view to ensuring that peaceful trade union activists are not sentenced to prison on vague charges of acting against national security and propaganda against the State".

On November 1, Security forces went to Alireza Saghafi's house to arrest him on 3 years imprisonment verdict for organising May Day gathering in Laleh Park on International Labour Day 2009. Around 150 workers and labour rights activist were arrested on May Day 2009. In his verdict, he has been charged for participating with families of massacre 1988 at Khavaran cemetery. Saghafi is

chair of the Workers' Rights Defenders Association and is also a member of the Iranian Writers' Association.

We strongly denounce the ongoing harassment against independent trade unionists in Iran, and we call on the Iranian highest authorities to take urgent measures to that all charges against Mahmoud Saleh, Ebrahim Madadi, Davood Razavi, and Alireza Saghafi are immediately and unconditionally dropped.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. R.', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary