



MANSOUR OSSANLU
IRAN

'When I was in prison and heard of all the support my spirits rose. In this struggle it is very valuable to get so much support from so many thousands of miles away. This campaigning has also disclosed the repression and made sure that the authorities know that they are being watched by the outside world.'

Mansour Ossanlu, speaking to
Amnesty International in July 2007

To: The Leader of The Islamic Republic of Iran



Your Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei

I am writing to express my deep concern over the continuing imprisonment of Mansour Ossanlu. It seems he is being held solely for his peaceful trade union activities, in denial of his rights to freedom of expression and association, as part of a concerted campaign of repression waged against him and his union, Sherkat-e Vahed.

I would remind you that as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran has agreed that: 'Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.' Moreover, under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions, Iran is obliged to comply with freedom of association and the right to organise, as a condition of ILO membership.

I therefore call upon the Iranian authorities to:

- immediately release Mansour Ossanlu
- pending his release, ensure that he has immediate access to his lawyers, family and medical treatment
- allow Sherkat-e Vahed to continue its legal activities without further harassment
- free all others jailed for legitimate trade union activities
- ensure that Iran respects the workers' and union rights it has pledged to uphold.

Yours sincerely

Signed _____

Name _____

Town _____



TRADE UNIONIST PERSECUTED

Trade union activist and human rights defender Mansour Ossanlu has suffered a long history of persecution by the Iranian authorities, including several stints in prison. He is in prison now: detained for trying to build a strong, independent trade union movement capable of defending the human rights of workers against the discriminatory laws and practices.

Mansour Ossanlu, head of the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Sherkat-e Vahed, was detained on 10 July 2007 on his return from meetings with international trade union colleagues in Europe.

Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience and is calling for his immediate, unconditional release.

Despite eye surgery in October 2007, Mansour Ossanlu continues to suffer ill-health in detention and Amnesty International fears that the appropriate medical attention may be delayed or denied.

The freedoms of expression and association are restricted in Iran, amid arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, minority rights activists, journalists and others. Independent trade unions are not recognised. The election of workers' representatives is subject to discriminatory legislation and practices that enable oversight bodies to select the candidates.

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