



February 9, 2006

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadjinejad  
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Islamic Republic of Iran

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Dear President Ahmadjinejad:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our support for Mansoor Osanloo, president of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat-e Vahed) and several hundred of the union's membership who are being unjustly imprisoned by your government.

We have been informed that President Osanloo was arrested late last year and that five hundred union members were arrested in late January while planning a strike to protest the jailing of their union's president and to demand that the Iranian government recognize their union. While we understand that many of the union members have been released, they have not been allowed to return to their jobs and several hundred others still remain behind bars.

As a member of the International Labor Organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran made a commitment to comply with the principles of freedom of association, including the right to form and join unions, the right to bargain collectively, and the right to strike. Moreover, the Iranian constitution permits "the formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations," and Iran's labor law recognizes the right to strike. Your government's treatment of President Osanloo and the members of Sherkat-e Vahed is in clear violation of Iranian law and of your responsibilities as a member of the ILO.

We urge you to take immediate steps to release President Osanloo and all of the members of Sherkat-e Vahed who are currently incarcerated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy  
President

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American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

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