

Statement by the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company:



Against the Continued Presence of Iranian Government Appointed Representatives at the ILO Conference – Only the True Representatives of Workers Must Be Recognized!

Every year, during the International Labour Organization (ILO) conference, international labour unions and supporters of the Iranian working class abroad hold protest rally in solidarity with imprisoned workers and ongoing labour struggles in Iran. Our syndicate sincerely appreciates their continued efforts and all those who support the Iranian labour movement. We hope that this year, too -with the support of more than twenty-five labour unions from France, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, and other international labour organizations- we will witness even broader solidarity from our fellow workers around the world with the struggles of Iranian workers. We also hope that the complaints filed at ILO regarding the suppression of independent labour organizations and activists in Iran will be pursued with greater urgency and seriousness, leading to effective outcomes in favour of Iranian workers.

In recent years, hundreds of labour, teachers', students', and women's movements activists have been dismissed, arrested, or imprisoned solely for their union and civil activities defending their own and their colleagues' rights. The few remaining independent organizations, including our own syndicate—formed despite intense pressure from repressive institutions—are under constant surveillance and harassment by security forces and are denied the ability to operate openly and freely.

Currently, dozens of workers, teachers, students, and defenders of women's and children's rights are imprisoned in the country. Among them are: Ebrahim Madadi and Davood Razavi (members of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran Bus Company), Reyhaneh Ansarinejad, Anisha Asadollahi, Esmail Gerami, Sharifeh Mohammadi, Verisheh Moradi and Pakhshan Azizi (all three unjustly sentenced to death), Golrokh Iraee, Nasrin Jowadi, Nahid Khodajo, Mehran Raouf, as well as two imprisoned members of French trade union activists, Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris and many others held in prison on baseless charges.

Also, four longtime members of our syndicate—Hassan Saeedi, Reza Shahabi, Naser Moharramzadeh, and Hossein Karimi Sabzevar—have been dismissed from work for over 13 years due to union activities, and their efforts to return to their jobs have yet to yield results.

Once again, this year, as in previous years, government-affiliated individuals under the guise of members of the "Supreme Centre of Islamic Labor Councils" and other state-controlled organizations—entities entirely tied to the government and employers—are heading to Geneva to attend the ILO conference as so-called representatives of Iranian workers delegations. These individuals, who benefit from full financial and logistical support and the backing of security forces, the Ministry of Labor, and employers, have played a major role in suppressing and controlling the labour movement and silencing fundamental worker demands. What they entirely lack, however, is any true legitimacy as representatives of Iranian workers.

As we have repeatedly stated, it is deeply regrettable that, despite years of reliable and extensive reports by independent Iranian labour organizations including our syndicate, the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations, the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers' Syndicate and its independent representatives, retired workers' organizations, and reports by international labour federations such as the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), - of which our syndicate is a member-the ILO has taken no meaningful or effective action, not even within the framework of its own core conventions that all members are obligated to "respect, promote, and realize." On the contrary, the ILO continues to invite government-appointed figures as representatives of Iranian workers to its annual conference and, in many cases, even grants them seats on boards and committees.

Iran is a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO). According to the organization's statutes, no government may imprison or detain any worker for union or professional activities. Workers must be allowed to march freely on International Workers' Day and other occasions and defend their rights through protest and strikes. Yet today we witness how the nationwide strike of truck drivers—protesting the worsening of their working conditions—is being both ignored by officials and violently suppressed by the Revolutionary Guards and security forces.

Only the true representatives of workers should be present at the ILO's annual conference—those who can genuinely and accurately represent the interests of workers and the oppressed, not state agents or fabricated organizations loyal to the regime.

We emphasize that no regime-affiliated individuals should be invited to ILO conference under the label of "worker delegations."

All imprisoned workers, teachers, students, and civil rights activists must be released, and all death sentences must be immediately and unconditionally revoked.

Long live workers' solidarity across the world.

The solution for workers lies in unity and organization.

Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company

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