

João Antonio Felicio

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

His Excellency Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Shoahada Street
Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: info_leader@leader.ir

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Excellency,

The ITUC, representing 181 million members in 162 countries, expresses our serious concerns about the renewed attempt by the Iranian judiciary and intelligence to force Reza Shahabi back to prison.

Reza Shahabi is currently on bail. He is at the risk of arrest and imprisonment at any time to serve the remainder of his 6-year sentence (he has three months left according to the claims made by the authorities). Reza Shahabi's surety has also been threatened that she would lose her home if Reza Shahabi is not returned to prison. A new imprisonment would endanger his health in view of the serious illnesses he is suffering from.

Mr. Reza Shahabi, a board member of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, was arrested in June 2010 while he was on the job, driving a bus; he was violently assaulted in front of bus riders and incarcerated in Evin prison's ward 209. After spending nineteen months in solitary confinement he was given six years of jail sentence, banned from any union activities for five years and a financial fine of seven million Tomans by branch 15 of the revolutionary court. Due to extensive physical stress and tortures during interrogations, Mr. Shahabi suffered from back, neck dislocation, and had to go under surgery twice. After enduring prison for five years he has been under medical leave of absence based on coroner's recommendation.

A return to detention of Reza Shahabi, unjustly convicted for his trade union activity, would be only a further violation of international conventions and a violation of human rights.

Reza Shahabi must not return to prison! We are calling for an end to persecution and jail sentences against Reza Shahabi and for his immediate and unconditional freedom. We are also calling on the Iranian government authorities to put an end to persecution of labour activists in Iran and withdrawal of all charges against other members of Tehran bus workers' union including Ebrahim Madadi and Davood Razavi.

Yours Sincerely,



General Secretary