

# International Appeal in Defence of Workers' Rights in Iran!

WHEREAS the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), for the last 24 years, has imposed deplorable political, economic and social conditions on workers and impoverished strata of society;

WHEREAS the IRI dismantled workers' councils and organizations, which were set up democratically and freely by workers in various sectors and industries after the 1979 revolution, and identified activists of such organizations, tried them for framed up unfounded charges in sham courts, expelled many from their workplace, and arrested and executed others;

WHEREAS the government created "Islamic Labour Councils" in order to suppress other workers' organizations and appointed its own agents to lead them;

WHEREAS the IRI's labour law officially deprives Iranian workers of the right to set up free and independent organizations and of the right to strike, and workers' protests and work stoppages are being oppressed by security and intelligence forces;

WHEREAS the bill legislated on February 27, 2000, by the fifth Majlis (Iranian Parliament), exempts workshops employing five or less than five workers from the Labour legislation and thus depriving close to three million workers of the minimal rights stipulated in this legislation;

WHEREAS, the sixth Majles approved the 'Reorganization and Restructuring of the Textile Industries', leaving tens of thousands of workers out of work, and furthermore exempted workers in carpet weaving workshops from the provisions of the labour law;

WHEREAS, according to the ICFTU 2002 Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights, over one million workers in Iran have been suffering from the outrageous withholding of wages, ranging from several months to over three years;

WHEREAS, In January 2003, the "Iranian Supreme Council of Labour", composed of representatives of Islamic labour councils, employers and the government, approved the exemption of workshops of 10 employees or less from the Labour Legislation- according to Iran's Minister of Labour, from 450,000 workshops in Iran, 402,000 would be classified as workshops employing 10 workers or less;

WHEREAS, as the result of many years of systematic gender discrimination, women constitute only eight percent of the total Iranian labour force, and all together ninety five percent of women workers across Iran are employed in workshops of 10 employees or less;

WHEREAS, accordingly an overwhelming majority of Iranian workers would be deprived of any basic human and employment rights;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the signatories of this petition, in support of workers rights in Iran, call on all free workers' organizations and global trade unions and the International Labour Organization to:\*

- 1- Press the Iranian government to stop the aforementioned anti-worker laws, policies and practices, including the exemption of workshops of ten and five employees or less from the labour code.
- 2- Refuse any recognition of the "Islamic Labour councils", "Workers' House" and the so-called guild associations, which are set up and backed by the government authorities/personalities and employers, as the representatives of Iranian workers.
- 3- Strive for establishment of direct observation of the free international worker organizations and trade unions in the struggles for the development and formation of independent workers' and other democratic organizations in Iran, free from any government's interference and oppression.

## **Organizational and Individual Endorsements:**

Canadian Labour Congress  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Canadian Union of Public Employees-Ontario  
Committee in Defense of Freedom and Democracy in Iran  
Committee in Defense of Iranian Political Prisoners-Berlin  
CUPE Toronto District Council  
CUPW Metro Toronto region  
Farhangsaraye Andishe Guttenberg  
International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran;  
Iranians' Left Unity-Washington  
Left Block of Iranians in Montreal, Quebec;  
Miscarriage of Justice UK (MOJUK)  
National Garments Workers' Federation, Bangladesh  
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, Canada,  
Organization of Iranian People's Fedayee Gurrillas;  
Organization of Revolutionary Workers of Iran, North America Branch  
The Committee in Defence of Freedom and Democracy in Iran-Austria;  
The Coordinating Committee of Labour Foundation-Iran;  
The Iranian refugees and Immigrants Association of British Colombia, Canada;  
The Labour Association of Jamal Cheragh Vaissy;  
The Organization of Iranian people's Fedaiian Majority Labour Commission,  
The Union of People's Fedaiian of Iran Labour Commission;  
Thinking Together Association, Gaza City, Palestine,  
Woman's Voice, Farsi Radio in Vancouver; Canada;  
Worker-Left Unity-Iran;  
Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International;  
Workers Left Unity-Iran, Canada Branch;  
Darcy, Judy, National President, Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Genereux, Claude, National Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Ryan, Sid, President, CUPE Ontario  
Gomes, Anna Gomes, President, CUPE Local 2497;  
Haque Amin, Amirul, General Secretary, National Garment Workers' Federation,  
Bangladesh;  
Pam Frache, President, CUPE 1281;

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Abdolahi, Iraj, Cnd.  
Abdulahi,Faranak,  
Abdullah Mohammad,Mirwan  
Abdullahi, Jamile  
Abedi, Ali, UK  
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Abubakri, Ali,  
Adonica Huggins, Cad  
Affasi, bahram  
Afif, Bahman, Cnd.

Afrazi, Reza, USA  
Afshar, Kamyar, Iran  
Afshari, Morteza, Cnd  
Aghajani,Reza, Sweden  
Ahmad, Waheed, Pakistan  
Ahmadi, Feridoo  
Ahmadi, Naser, Canada  
Ahmadi, Nasrin,  
Ahmadi, Rahman  
Ahmadian, Halmat,  
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Alizadeh, Ebrahim  
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Almas, Azad,  
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Amber Harion-Cad  
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Amiri, Mehran  
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Anahita, Alex, France  
Angela Fleary, Cad  
Ansari, Poyan, Sweden  
Antoniades, Elsa, Switzerland  
Anvari, Sadegh,  
Aram, Daiush, Germany  
Araz, Sima  
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Arjmandi, Dariush,  
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Arshadzade, Yousef,  
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Azami, Mahamad,  
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Azimi, Karveh, USA  
Aziz, Azizi,  
Azmi, Setare, Canada  
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Noshadi, Hamid  
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Novin, Ahmad,  
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Parnia, Ziba, Cnd.  
Partovi., Farid, Cnd.  
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Paul Hles-Cad  
Paul Maegoualer-Cad  
Paul Norris-CUPE-  
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Rahimi, Abubakr,  
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Rahimi, Kaveh,  
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Rahmanpanah, Hassan,  
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Riahi, Habib  
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Ritch Whgmar-I.S.-Cad  
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Roger Louell-Cad  
Roger R, Cad  
Rojin Sharifi-Cad  
Rokni, Forozandeh, Canada  
Roohi, Najaf  
Roxane Bitlem-Cad  
Russ Armstrong-Cad  
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Sabeti, Jahan, Cnd.  
Sabouri, Fereidoun, Cnd.  
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Safari, Reza-Cad  
Safavi, Mohammad, Cnd.  
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Saneae, Reza,  
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\*This appeal has been sent to ICFTU, Global Unions Federations, Affiliates and ILO's Workers' Group on March 24, 2003.

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