



DATE
2009-06-26

OUR REFERENCE
Int Dept

YOUR DATE

YOUR REFERENCE

To
His Excellency Mr Rasoul Eslami,
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Box 6031
181 06 Lidingö

Your Excellency,

On behalf of 1.6 million members in the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO-Sweden) we have joined the worldwide protest to demand justice for Iranian workers and an immediate stop of the ongoing arrests of trade unionists and the continued denial of the fundamental principles and rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of jailed trade union members and leaders including Mr. Mansour Osanloo, Mr. Ebrahim Madadi, Mr. Farzad Kamangar, and the annulment of the one year prison sentences recently handed down against the five leaders of the Haft Tapeh Sugarworkers' Union as well as the release of all trade unionists arrested in Teheran on the 1st of May.

We also strongly request the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take action as a matter of urgency on the recommendations adopted by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the 19th of June 2009 in relation to the serious and urgent cases dealt with by the Committee on Freedom of Association (cases 2323, 2508 and 2567). In this regard the question of excessive violence by the police when controlling demonstrations has been a concern for the ILO for several years. The recent brutal violence and killings launched by the authorities against civilians protesting against fraud in the recent elections and calling for respect for democracy shows that the Government apparently has no intention to stop this totally unacceptable practice – a fact that LO-Sweden deeply deplors.

The denial of free trade union rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a major concern for us for many years. LO-Sweden will continue to act until

POSTAL ADDRESS 105 53 Stockholm
OFFICE ADDRESS Barnhusgatan 18
TELEPHONE +46 8 796 25 00 TELEFAX +46 8 24 52 28
E-MAIL mailbox@lo.se HOMEPAGE www.lo.se

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

all Iranian workers have their fundamental human rights at work guaranteed in line with the commitment which the Government has in relation to the United Nations and through its membership in the ILO. We also call on the Government to respond rapidly to the request of the ILO to ratify ILO Conventions no. 87 and 98 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining.

Yours sincerely,
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)

Ulf Edström
Director of International Affairs

PS. For your information we enclose a joint letter of solidarity with the Iranian workers signed by several international workers' organisations sent to Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei