

# WORLDWIDE UPDATE - IRAN ACTION DAY, 6 March 2008

Date: 5 March 2008

## ASIA/PACIFIC

### **New Zealand**

Affiliates of NZCTU, led by the ITF unions, will hold a rally outside the Iranian Embassy on 6 March. Letters signed by the head of each ITF affiliate in New Zealand will be submitted to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and copies sent to the leaders of all New Zealand political parties, the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, media, press and other interested groups.

### **Australia**

A rally in support of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi will be held at Hyde Park in Sydney at 12:30 on 6 March. The activity is led by the ACTU, MUA, RTBU and ASU and is supported by a number of Australian affiliates. Representatives from IUF and Amnesty International are expected to attend the event. The issue has been raised at the ACTU International Committee where it received full support and flyers have been distributed to all affiliates. The ACTU will contact the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister to make a comment on behalf of the Australian Federal Government. On the same day in Melbourne, an ACTU rally in solidarity with the Colombian workers will be held.

ITF inspectors in the ports of Bunbury and Gladstone are visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Japan**

Members of the ITF affiliates will be visiting the Iranian Embassy on 6 March. They will also visit the Burmese and Guatemalan Embassies during the day. Rail unions will be distributing leaflets at stations nationwide.

### **Korea**

The Korean Transport Unions' Federation (KTF) plans to mobilise a large delegation to visit the Iranian Embassy on 6 March and organise a rally in the central station in Seoul, which will be joined by representatives from Amnesty Korea. A letter has been sent to the Iranian Ambassador requesting a meeting. The Federation will work together with the national labour centre FKTU and also plans to contact local groups in the Iranian community in Seoul. The Federation has prepared materials including leaflets and a banner in Korean and will contact local and national media.

The ITF inspector in the port of Incheon is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Taiwan**

The ITF inspector in the port of Kaohsiung is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Hong Kong**

HKCTU is planning a protest action at the Embassy of Iran on 6 March. Unionists from the bus union will deliver leaflets at one of the major terminals.

### **Indonesia**

Led by the seafarers union, KPI, 500 participants from the ITF affiliates in the road transport, railway and aviation sectors are expected to attend activities on 6 March.

Between 09:00-11:00 a rally will be held in front of the Iranian Embassy. At 11:00-11:30, the rally will move to the Indonesian Presidential Palace. At 13:00 a press conference will be held in the KPI Head Office.

### **Thailand**

ITF affiliates will visit the Iranian Embassy on 6 March in the morning to deliver a protest letter. In the afternoon, the unions will organise a Railway Action Day exhibition at the Hua Lumpang station in Bangkok, which will include information about the situation in Iran and the global campaign in solidarity with workers in Iran.

### **Philippines**

The railway workers' union will meet early next week to confirm their activity for 6 March.

### **India**

A delegation from AIRF will visit the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi on 6 March to present a memorandum demanding Osanloo's immediate release.

The Paradip Port Workers will hold a General Meeting in the union's training hall at Nishmani Bhawan in Paradip Port on 4 March to discuss the campaign. A public meeting will be held in front of the bus stand in Paradip Port on 6 March. A letter in support of trade unionists in Iranian will be sent to the Iranian Government.

The Transport & Dock Workers' Union will distribute leaflets and display campaign posters in order to raise public awareness about the campaign. A public meeting will also be held. The union also hopes to hold a demonstration at the Iranian consulate and submit a memorandum demanding medical treatment for and the release of Mansour Osanloo.

The Tuticorin Port Mariners & General Staff Union will hold a press meeting on 6 March in order to publicise the Action Day in Tamil Nadu and will also hold meetings with other unions about the campaign.

The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen will observe the Action day on 6 March by holding meetings in different cities. Representatives from the union will also visit the Iranian Embassy/Consulate in Delhi and Hyderabad.

The ITF inspector in the port of Cochin is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Pakistan**

The Pakistan Transport Workers' Federation will organise a rally from the Federation office to the Press Club Lahore on 6 March.

## **ARAB WORLD**

### **Iraq**

Iraqi transport unions participating in ITF education seminars held in Amman have pledged to support the campaign by visiting and handing out a letter to the Iranian council in Basra, Southern Iraq. The unions, together with the oil workers, will distribute the campaign stickers in both Arabic and Farsi.

Members of the Iraqi dockers' union from Basra and the petrochemical workers' union from Basra and Kurdistan resolve to support the Action Day at its ITF-ICEM meeting in Amman by sending protest letters to the Iranian government.

### **Palestine**

Transport workers unions in the West Bank will organise a mass demonstration to express their solidarity with the Iranian workers (no diplomatic mission is located in Palestine).

### **Lebanon**

The ITF unions will send a message to their members explaining the Free Osanloo campaign and will send a letter of protest to the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

### **Jordan**

An Embassy visit is confirmed by the Jordanian unions and campaign stickers have been distributed widely.

### **Tunisia**

The Fédération Nationale des Transports will visit the Iranian Embassy in Tunis to deliver the message of protest.

### **Morocco**

Transport unions affiliated to the ITF will visit the Iranian Embassy in Casablanca and hand out a message of protest. They are widely distributing the campaign stickers to their members.

### **Yemen**

Members of the General Union of Telecommunication & Transport Workers will join forces with members of the Yemenia Aviation Engineering Syndicate to support Mansour Osanloo by gathering workers and demonstrating against the Iranian government's violation of workers' rights in Iran. A delegation from the two unions will also visit the Iranian Embassy to deliver a protest letter.

### **Bahrain**

Members of the General Federation of Workers in Bahrain will write a protest letter to the Iranian government and send it to the Embassy by fax.

### **Kuwait**

Members of the Workers' Union of Kuwait Airways & Subsidiaries will sign a petition and send it to the Iranian Embassy.

## **AFRICA**

### **Ethiopia**

The Transport & Communications Workers' Trade Unions Industrial Federation launched its campaign activities on 6 February. The union will send a protest letter to several international bodies in order to demand the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi and is calling upon the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to play a role in lobbying the diplomatic communities. A protest letter signed by all affiliated unions will be sent to the Iranian Embassy in Ethiopia. Information about the campaign including a union newsletter will be circulated to members. On 8 March, International Women's Day, the union will ask its women members to sign the union's petition and protest letter.

### **South Africa**

SATAWU confirms that 100 shop stewards have been signed-off to participate in a demonstration in Pretoria where a rally will be held in front of the Iranian Embassy. Between 200 and 300 workers are expected to participate. A memorandum will be submitted to the Iranian Embassy authorities. On 7 March, a solidarity march involving

representatives from COSATU, social movements and political organisations will be held in Pretoria on the issues of democracy and free and fair elections in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. The situation in Iran will also be highlighted.

### **Guinea-Conakry**

FENATRAMP.G will organise awareness activity on 6 March to highlight anti-union actions in Iran. A solidarity march will take place with participants holding placards with slogans such as "Free Mansour Osanloo!", "Stop anti-union activity", "Respect ILO Conventions 87 and 98".

## **EUROPE**

### **Turkey**

On 6 March, HAVA-IS is planning a protest action in front of the Iranian Consulate in Istanbul. Campaign materials in Turkish will be distributed and an electronic petition will be launched in conjunction with the Action Day. Articles about the campaign are being published in the union magazine. The union has been showing the ITF "Free Osanloo" film at its educational activities and has said that it will continue to do so in the coming months.

### **Russia**

Leaders of the transport unions, together with the ITF representative, will visit the Iranian Embassy in Moscow to deliver their message of protest.

### **Ukraine**

The train drivers' union will organise a picket in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kiev.

### **Romania**

Federatia Sindicala Transloc will participate in the Action Day on 6 March under the slogan "I Wear the Badge". The union plans to bring together at least 100 unionists in front of the Iranian Embassy and to offer the "Free Osanloo" badges to all local transport drivers whose buses pass the Embassy. A letter of protest will also be sent to the Iranian authorities.

### **Hungary**

The rail union, VDSzSz is planning awareness activities by publicising information about the campaign on its webpage and asking members to sign the online petition.

### **Lithuania**

The Lithuanian Transport Workers' Federation will be raising public awareness about the situation in Iran. An appeal has been sent to the Lithuanian trade union confederations, to the Parliament and to the government. A picket is planned at the Lithuanian government on 6 March. Information about the campaign will be distributed.

### **Estonia**

The Estonian Seafarers' Independent Union will resolve to support the Iranian Campaign at its annual conference on 6 March.

The ITF inspector in the port of Muuga is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Sweden**

The transport workers' union will deliver the ITF/ITUC/Amnesty message to the Iranian Embassy in Stockholm.

### **Norway**

Transport workers unions will organise a demonstration outside the Iranian Embassy in Oslo on 6 March from 14:00. All ITF affiliates in Norway will participate in this event.

### **Austria**

A joint press conference is planned by Gewerkschaft VIDA in the national Parliament, together with representatives from the Human Rights Committee. The ITF "Free Osanloo" film will be shown in the entrance hall of Parliament before the press conference. The union will contact the representatives from local Iranian groups in the community to attend the activities.

### **Germany**

TRANSNET is planning information activities throughout the country. Articles about the campaign will be published in its union magazine and the union will send protest letters to the Iranian Embassy.

Ver.di now confirms that a group of unionists will hold a protest rally in front of the Iranian Embassy in Berlin on 6 March. The union will also send protest letters to the government in Iran and will send a solidarity letter to the Tehran Bus Workers' Union in Iran.

The ITF inspector in the port of Nordenham has sent the ITF message to an Iranian vessel due to visit the port.

### **Switzerland**

The ITUC's Geneva office, together with the representatives of BWI, IUF, IMF and PSI will visit the Iranian Mission.

### **Italy**

FILT-CGIL, FIT-CISL and UILTRASPORTI are working together on activities at the border points of Ventimiglia (France), Modane (France), Domodossola (Switzerland), Chiasso (Switzerland), Brennero (Austria) and Villa Opicina (Slovenia) where meetings will be held between unions on both sides of the border. These activities are part of the ITF's Railway Action Day.

The ITF inspector in the port of Genoa is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Netherlands**

The FNV Mondiaal and FNV Bondgenoten will be visiting the Iranian Embassy in The Hague on 6 March. More activities are planned in Amsterdam in the afternoon.

### **Luxembourg**

The ITF "Free Osanloo" film will be shown at the Luxembourg station as part of activities organised by FNCTTFEL for the ITF International Railway Workers' Action Day.

### **Belgium**

The ETF and the ITUC, together with members of the Belgian unions, GUFs and Amnesty will hold a demonstration in front of the Iranian Embassy in Brussels on 6 March at 11:00. The ITF "Free Osanloo" film will be shown at 10:00 at the ETF Head Office.

ITF inspectors in the port of Antwerp are visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

BTB is calling on its members to sign a petition and to send protest letters to the Iranian Embassy. The union has published an article in its union magazine about the campaign and distributed the "Free Osanloo" badges to its members.

CGSP has also published an article about the Action Day in its union magazine.

### **France**

CGT Cheminots and FO Cheminots will organise press conferences at five border points around France to highlight the Free Osanloo campaign and the importance of union freedom around the world and in particular in Iran. The five border points are: Hendaye (Spain), Cerbère (Spain), Modane (Italy), Luxembourg (together with colleagues from Luxembourg and Germany) and Calais (together with colleagues from the UK). These activities are part of the ITF's Railway Action Day.

CGT Transports will send letters to Members of Parliament (Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Transport) and also distribute campaign leaflets on the Action Day.

The ITF inspector in the port of Le Havre is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

### **Spain**

CC.OO and UGT will distribute leaflets to workers and passengers at train stations and on the buses throughout Spain. Workers will wear the badge on 6 March. At the planned border activity in Irun-Hendaye together with colleagues from Portugal and France, a solidarity message will be read. These activities are part of the ITF's Railway Action Day.

ELA-Hainbat is also planning to distribute information on 6 March. A press release will be sent to the media.

### **Portugal**

Cabin crew union, SNPVAC will send a protest letter to the Iranian Government.

### **Great Britain**

ASLEF, GMB, RMT, TSSA, UNISON and UNITE, together with the ITF, TUC and Amnesty International will organise a one-day event in London. A bus decorated with campaign messages will travel from Parliament to the Iranian Embassy where a rally will be held between 12:30-13:30. Union visitors from Colombia and Indonesia are expected to join the programme.

The ITF unions will also distribute thousands of leaflets at railway stations and city centres throughout the country including in Aberdeen, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Cardiff and London.

T&G Section of Unite in Bradford (8/9-8 Branch) will be leafleting at the West Bowling Mosque this Friday, 7 March to raise awareness of the local Muslim community on workers' rights in Iran. They have done so several times already and the general reception has been very positive.

The ITF inspector in the port of Felixstowe is visiting Iranian ships to deliver the ITF message.

## AMERICAS

### **Canada**

The Canadian Labor Congress is planning a rally at Queens Park (at College and University) in Toronto between 17:00 and 19:30 on 6 March to promote basic human rights and trade union rights in Iran.

The Teamsters Canada has reported that a letter is being circulated in Parliament for MPs and Senators to sign, calling on the Canadian Government to intervene and get the Iranian union leaders out of jail.

### **Mexico**

The ITF National Coordinating Committee in Mexico has an appointment with the Iranian Ambassador on 6 March to discuss the international campaign and workers' rights issues in Iran.

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Unions in Belgium, France, Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, Austria, Russia, Turkey, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Mali, South Africa, Zambia, Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand are planning activities including leaflet distribution, border actions, meetings, panel discussions, marches and rallies to mark the ITF International Railway Workers' Action Day on 6 March.