

6 March 2008

His Excellency Mr Mahmoud MOVAHHEDI
Ambassador to Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
25 Culgoa Circuit
O'Malley ACT 2606

Fax: (02) 6290 2825

Dear Mr. Movahhedi,

Re: Detention of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi

On behalf the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), our affiliates and two million union members around Australia, I write to draw your attention to the following:

The ACTU has on a number of occasions in the past requested to meet with your Excellency or a representative of the Ambassador to express serious concerns regarding the detention of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, two prominent trade union leaders in Iran. Our requests were denied so we are therefore writing to you once again to express our continued and serious concerns as to the deterioration in the situation of trade union and other fundamental human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran is a longstanding member of the International Labour Organisation and is therefore requested to adhere to the *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* which guarantees the freedom of association and right to collective bargaining. In addition, Rule 22(2) of the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which stipulates that sick prisoners who require specialist treatment shall be transferred to specialised institutions or to civil hospitals, is also applicable in both the abovementioned cases. These rights apply to trade unions as well as to professional associations. Both Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi have been imprisoned on charges that, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) directly relate to their trade union activities.

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The ACTU once again raises our serious concerns about the physical and psychological wellbeing of these trade union leaders, given the history of their previous imprisonment, conditions of detention and state of health. We also have serious concerns regarding recent sentences handed down to a large number of teachers for engaging in legitimate trade union activities.

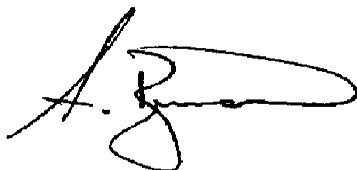
Thousands of workers and citizens are again raising their voices today worldwide to say ***"We want Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi out of jail immediately and unconditionally. We want workers' rights respected in Iran without any delay"***. Organised by The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), with the full support of Amnesty International, many events are taking place simultaneously around the world to back our demands, including in Wellington, Sydney, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Jakarta, New Delhi, Istanbul, Basra, Amman, the West Bank, Tunis, Casablanca, Geneva, Brussels, Oslo, London and Toronto, all to deliver our strong message, that the Iranian authorities cannot continue to obstruct the genuine workers' movement and gaol these unionists for their activities.

As the imprisonment of Mr. Osanloo and Mr. Salehi is clearly related to their activities performed in their capacity as trade union leaders. We ask that your Excellency draws this matter to the urgent attention of your Minister of Foreign Affairs and work to obtain the immediate release of both men.

This week we have sought the Australian Government's intervention on this matter and the Australian Foreign Minister has, through the Embassy in Tehran, protested the arrest and detention of Mansour Osanloo. Australian maritime workers have boarded Iranian ships in Australian ports to express their solidarity and deliver the message to defend workers rights in Iran.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions requests your urgent reply to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burrow', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sharan Burrow
PRESIDENT