



July 11, 2007

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Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei,
The Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Jamaran
Tehran, Iran

Re: Mansour Osanloo's Abduction

Dear Sayyid Ali Khamenei:

On behalf of the more than three million working men and women affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), I am writing to condemn the abduction of Mansour Osanloo, the President of the Sandikaye Kargarane Sherkate Vahed (Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company) in the strongest terms possible.

We have been informed by the Sherkate Vahed that its President, Mr. Mansour Osanloo, was abducted on July 10 at around 19:00 by unidentified plain clothed assailants while he was inside a bus near his home. Witnesses on the bus stated that Mr. Osanloo was severely beaten, and forced into an unmarked metallic grey Peugeot car which then drove away to an undisclosed location.

Mr. Osanloo was trying to obtain help from the bus passengers and other onlookers by identifying himself as a trade union president, but the assailants yelled that they were arresting a thief, that the passengers should stay away and that the person they were about to arrest was a "hoodlum and a thug". Nevertheless the onlookers reported the incident to a local police station. Mr. Osanloo was reportedly attacked in a similar manner before, but was saved by people who came to his assistance.

Mr. Osanloo's wife and family members went to the 128th Branch Police Station in Narmak near their home. However, the police refused to confirm whether he was arrested or abducted. The family also visited the Board of Citizenship Rights, the Public Prosecutor's office, the Court of Justice and the Ministry of Justice, but were not able to obtain any information on Mr. Osanloo's whereabouts.

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On the morning of July 11, 2007 Mr. Saeed Mortazavi, a Revolutionary Court Judge told Osanloo's lawyers that his office had not issued any order to arrest Mr. Osanloo. Since the authorities deny their connection with Mr. Osanloo's disappearance the CLC fears that his life and physical integrity may be endangered at this time.

During the week of June 11 to June 18, 2007 I and other trade union leaders from all regions of the world welcomed Mr. Osanloo at meetings in London and Brussels. We all pledged support to the Sherkat-e-Vahed Trade Union and Mr. Osanloo himself. We therefore believe that this abduction is connected with Mr. Osanloo's trade union activities, including his work on pursuing international solidarity for the Iranian trade union movement.

We raise our voices together with other trade unionists around the world to protest against this blatant violation of human and trade union rights.

We will continue to work with the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) and others to monitor the situation regarding workers' rights in Iran.

We demand and urge the Iranian government to take every possible measure to ensure the safety of Mr. Osanloo and do all in their power to secure his immediate release, as well as to identify and prosecute those responsible.

Yours sincerely,



Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

cc. CLC Officers and Executive Assistants
CLC Executive Committee
Guy Ryder, General Secretary, ITUC
David Cockroft General Secretary, ITF
The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour
Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, Iran