

January 11, 2006

The Honorable Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Embassy of Pakistan  
2209 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
*By fax (202-965-1073) and express mail*

Dear President Ahmadinejad:

As trade unionists who represent tens of thousands of transit workers in New York, we write to you with grave concern about the fate of our brother, Mansour Osanlou, the principal officer of the Teheran bus drivers union, and others of his colleagues who may also still be in custody. Our information is that Brother Osanlou is still being held by your government. No one knows if he is dead or alive. The December 25 strike is over. Reportedly, some other union leaders arrested with him have been released. The physical attack on the bus drivers' union, which triggered this alarming chain of events, was violent and unprovoked, unless one considers normal worker demands for better working conditions and higher wages to be a "provocation." Arrested on December 22, 2005, Mansour Osanlou is being held without any charges in Evin Prison.

We request the immediate release of Mansour Osanlou. We see this as strictly a matter of international trade union rights and normal due process of law. We have no other political agenda. We want nothing but peace and good relations between our two countries. Unfortunately, as you know, there are voices in the US all too eager to see a deterioration of relations between America and Iran. The release of Mansour Osanlou would be a democratic gesture by your government that could help to still the voices of those in our country seeking a return to confrontation and misunderstanding.

Ltr to Hon. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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Yours respectfully,

Roger Toussaint, President, Local 100, Transport Workers Union (TWU)

Ed Watt, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 100, TWU

LARRY HANLEY, International Vice President, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)

NORMAN BROWN, International Association of Machinists

JOSEPH JAMISON, Director, Transportation Union Division, NYS AFL-CIO

cc: John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO