

March 5, 2008

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei - Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency

We are deeply concerned over the continued violation of trade union rights in Iran, which includes the detention of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

We do not accept the allegations of your judiciary that these men have acted against the national security of your country. It appears to be an excuse to oppress an independent trade union movement in Iran.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), of which Iran is a member, is requesting your government to guarantee freedom of association without any delay. We would also remind you that as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran has agreed in law that: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

We request that Mansour Osanloo, Mahmoud Salehi as well as all other trade unionists are released immediately and unconditionally. We understand that both Osanloo and Salehi have health problems which require proper medical treatment outside of prison. We would further call upon you to ensure that Iran respects the workers and union rights which it has pledged to uphold.

The longer the Iranian government delays this process, the stronger the global protest will become. A swift action by the government will be much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Layton MP
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

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Alex Atamanenko, MP

Catherine Bell, MP

Dennis Bevington, MP

Dawn Black, MP

Hon. Bill Blaikie, MP

Chris Charlton, MP

Olivia Chow, MP

David Christopherson, MP

Joe Comartin, MP

Nathan Cullen, MP

Libby Davies, MP

Yvon Godin, Député

Wayne Marston, MP

Pat Martin, MP

Tony Martin, MP

Brian Masse, MP

Irene Mathysen, MP

Alexa McDonough, MP

Thomas Mulcair, Député

Peggy Nash, MP

Penny Priddy, MP

Denise Savoie, MP

Bill Siksay, MP

Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP
