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BY E-MAIL ONLY

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Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Leader of the Islamic Republic

Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran – High Council of Human Rights

Re: Unjust Detention and Trial of May Day Arrestees

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we are writing to express our concern regarding the re-arrest and detention of Ms. Anisha Asadollahi, and the continued detention of three other women, Atefeh Rangriz, Neda Najji and Marzieh Amiri. We further demand the immediate and unconditional release of all detained members of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company and other workers, teachers, and social activists facing detention and persecution for participating in May Day mobilizations in 2019.

Ms. Anisha Asadollahi had been arrested at a May 1st rally in Tehran and was temporarily released on bail after three days. She was unfortunately re-arrested on June 18, 2019, after leaving work, and security forces seized her laptop computer and some other belongings after searching her home and her brother's residence. She was transferred to ward 209 of Evin Prison.

Atefeh Rangriz, Neda Najji and Marzieh Amiri were also arrested during the violent crackdown on the May Day rally, and although their interrogation procedure ended more than one month ago they remain in prison. These women are workers' rights' defenders whose only "crime" is attending a peaceful May Day mobilization. Efforts by their families to follow-up with the security and judicial authorities have so far been unsuccessful. It is apparent that they are targets of systemic harassment and intimidation by the judiciary and intelligence forces.

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MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CHARLES FLEURY

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorier national

DENIS BOLDUC, PAUL FAORO, FRED HAHN, JUDY HENLEY, DANIEL LÉGÈRE

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

We understand that 50 people were arrested on May 1 in Tehran. The majority have been released on bail and have since been summoned to court, while other workers and labour activists have been prosecuted or remain imprisoned. They require urgent attention.

Members of the Tehran Bus Workers' Syndicate who require immediate support include Seyed Rasool Taleb Moghadam, Vahid Fereydouni, Hasan Saeidi, and Reza Shahabi. Esmail Bakhshi, a worker representative and member of the Haft Tapeh Sugarcane Workers' Syndicate, as well as independent journalists and workers' rights defenders Sepideh Gholian, Sanaz Elahyari, Amir Amirgholi and Amir Hossein Mohammadifard, have all been detained in connection with the Haft Tapeh sugarcane workers' strikes and protests.

It is evident that the only purpose of these illegal arrests and incarcerations is to intimidate activists of the workers' movement and curb workers' demands in various workplaces. CUPE echo's the calls of trade unions and other concerned organizations around the world to condemn these arrests and demand the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees. Persecution and prosecution of workers in Iran for exercising their most basic and internationally recognized workers' rights must be stopped.

Sincerely,



MARK HANCOCK
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

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cc: T. Jarzebiak; M. Butler; R. Lamoureux; K. Cameron; Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company;
International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran