

ATU Local 1005 Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

The protests in Iran have dominated headlines internationally for the past week. While they have focused on the recent electoral fraud, Iranian workers have faced attacks on their basic rights and working conditions since long before the elections.

In recent years, Iranian workers have faced attacks on their most basic democratic rights to form unions and hold demonstrations, and have been victims of severe repression from the Ahmadinejad regime. Workers were prevented from holding an International Workers' Day rally on May 1st. After a brutal attack that involved severe and indiscriminate beatings, around 150 workers, activists, and even other people who happened to be in the park, were arrested, and many still remain in prison.

In particular, the bus drivers of Tehran have suffered extreme acts of repression. Mansour Osanloo, the leader of their union, the Trade Union of the Vahed Bus Company of Tehran and Suburbs, is currently serving a 5-year prison sentence for "attempts to jeopardize national security" and "propaganda against the state," when his only crime is standing up for workers' democratic rights in Iran. As a result of his work, Osanloo has been beaten, arrested, and had his tongue sliced as a warning against speaking out.

The International Transport Workers' Federation and Amnesty International have declared this Friday, June 26th a day of global solidarity actions with Iranian workers. Workers in Iran face many of the same conditions as workers here in the U.S., and are bearing the brunt of the economic crisis while the rich continue to live comfortably.

Therefore, be it resolved that ATU Local 1005 supports the Iranian workers and especially the Tehran bus drivers' union for standing up for their democratic rights under a brutal regime, and supports all those struggling in Iran for workers' rights and political liberty. An we ask that the ATU international support the Iranian workers.

We call on the Iranian authorities to release all jailed trade union activists and to respect workers' rights in Iran. Union activists should no longer face arrest for exercising their internationally recognized right to form and join trade unions, or for trying to organize demonstrations in support of workers' rights.

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