

The ITF Railway Workers' Section Steering Committee Meeting held on 24 – 25 June 2009 in London:

NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN the continued and systematic oppression of the independent workers' movement in Iran. More than 100 people were arrested on May Day this year for holding a peaceful rally. Union leaders of the ITF-affiliated Tehran Bus Workers' Union, Mansour Osanloo and Ebrahim Madadi, as well as an education worker, Farzad Kamangar are imprisoned on trumped-up charges;

FURTHER NOTES that nearly two million workers have not been paid in Iran – some for nearly two years, according to the ITUC's Annual Survey of Violation of Trade Union Rights (2008) – where official labor organisations that the Iranian government has set-up have failed to protect the conditions of the working people for many years;

CONDEMNS the heavy repression of peaceful demonstrations and lack of respect for human life and dignity in the wake of the election in Iran, and the disproportionate use of violence that has left tens of people dead and several hundred injured;

EXPRESSES ITS RESPECT to every man and woman in Iran who is standing up against poverty and the oppression against their freedom;

WELCOMES the initiatives taken by the ITF, together with the ITUC, EI and IUF, as well as Amnesty International in supporting workers' rights in Iran, which has culminated in the 'Justice for Iranian Workers' Campaign' with its Global Solidarity Action Day planned on 26 June 2009;

FULLY SUPPORTS the demands of the campaign set as follows:

- * full democratic rights for all Iranians, including freedom of association and freedom of assembly
- * a halt to all violent repression
- * release of all imprisoned trade unionists
- * recognition of all independent workers' organisations in Iran
- * respect for core labour standards and ratification of all fundamental ILO Conventions in particular those relating to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- * a halt to all anti-union repression
- * reinstatement of dismissed workers.