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Our ref.  
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## **Harassment of independent trade unions in Iran**

We are writing to you on behalf of the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, which represents 865.573 workers, to protest in the strongest possible terms against the ongoing harassment of the independent trade union movement in Iran.

The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions has been informed by the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) that on Monday 23 November, Morteza Komsari, member of the Vahed Syndicate, was detained. He received a summon letter from the court and was arrested upon appearance.

On Monday 17/11 the court of Shush issued six months sentences for three Haft Tapeh workers, Alireza Saeedi, Behrooz Mollah Zadeh and Behrooz Nikoofar for “insulting the leader”. The accusation is ridiculous and obviously made up to prevent them from exercising their legitimate trade union rights.

On 9 November, Hodayoun Jabari was held at branch four of the Rajai Shahr prison for eleven days. He was arrested on Tuesday when he accompanied the wife of Gholamreza Gholamhosseini to the Intelligence Office to try and discover her husband’s whereabouts.

Security agents went to his home, took his computer and books, and warned his wife that if he didn’t cooperate with them, he would be staying in custody ‘for a long time’. On 20 November he was released against a bail of 30 000 USD.

On 3 November, Saeed Torabian, communications director of the bus workers’ union and fellow trade unionist Gholamreza Gholamhosseini in Vahed Syndicate were attacked in a Karaj internet café.

Shortly after their arrival, six men entered behind them and beat them up. They were then dragged out and taken to prison. After being interrogated and threatened, Saeed Torabian was released on bail, but as yet nothing is known about Gholamreza Gholamhosseini – except that he is still being held.

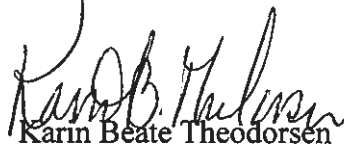
We urge you to halt any further harassment and abuses of trade union members. We also urge you to immediately release Mansour Osanloo and all other imprisoned trade unionist being held on false grounds and allow them to exercise their legitimate trade union activities.

We would like to remind you of the obligations of Iran under ICCPR Article 22 (1) and ILO conventions 87 and 98, which provide for the right to form and join trade unions, and hence urge you to release the trade unionists immediately and unconditionally. As a member of the ILO, Iran is under an obligation to respect the fundamental rights of trade unionists.


We trust that you will pay attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely

**THE NORWEGIAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS**



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Head of International department



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Cc.:  
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Iranian Embassy to Norway  
The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
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