

# IRAN'S WORKERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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# FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR TRADE UNIONISTS IN IRAN

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# IRAN'S WORKERS HARASSED FOR DEMANDING THEIR RIGHTS

Iranian workers are fighting for their rights and their livelihoods. They are battling for decent wages, better working conditions and job security during difficult economic times in the country.

State-controlled workers' bodies focus on promoting "Islamic values" rather than on defending the rights of workers, and leadership positions in these bodies are subject to discriminatory selection procedures. Independent unions and associations have been crushed by the Iranian government. Those who try to unionize pay a heavy price.

Trade unionist Reza Shahabi (Zakaria), detained in Tehran's Evin prison since June 2010, has been sentenced to six years in prison on vaguely worded charges related to his trade union activities. He is in poor health as a result of numerous hunger strikes in protest of his prison conditions. Teachers' Association activist Rasoul Bodaghi has also been sentenced to six years for "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding against national security" for his peaceful activism.

Iran has been elected to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) yet Iranian workers are not free to organize. Help Amnesty International and its international trade union partners remind the Iranian government that it has international obligations to respect trade union rights, in line with international law.

## TAKE ACTION NOW

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

*Image:* Worker for the city of Greater Tehran watering flowers in Azadi (Freedom) Square, Iran, March 2009.  
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**Your Excellency,**

I am deeply concerned that independent trade unions are not permitted in Iran. Workers who are organizing independently to demand decent wages, better working conditions and employment security face harsh repression, including arbitrary arrest, unfair trial and sometimes long prison terms. Some union leaders held as prisoners of conscience are suffering serious health problems as a consequence of poor prison conditions.

I urge you to:

- Immediately allow workers to exercise their right to form and join independent trade unions for the protection of their interests, in accordance with Iran's international obligations and in conformity with the International Labour Organization core conventions.
- Release immediately and unconditionally all trade unionist prisoners of conscience including Rasoul Bodaghi and Reza Shahabi (Zakaria).
- Guarantee meanwhile that those held on account of their trade union activities receive adequate medical treatment, according to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Leader of the Islamic Republic  
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
The Office of the Supreme Leader  
Islamic Republic Street – end of Shahid  
Keshvar Doust Street  
Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran**

*Image:* Iranian worker shovelling asphalt at an oil refinery, Tehran, 2007. © Javad Parsa  
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