

Condemn the repressive Regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the arrest of Sherkate Vahed union members!

Dear Comrades,

The repressive regime of the Islamic Republic has intensified its attacks on the labouring masses of Iran.

On 22 December 2005, the terror police of the Islamic Republic raided the residences of the leaders and members of the union of workers of Sherkate Vahed, Tehran and Suburbs transit Bus Company. Mansour Ossanlou, Ebrahim Maddadi, Reza Tarazi, Gholamreza Mirzaei, Ali Zadeh Hossain, Mansour Hayatgheibi, and Abbas Nazhandkoudaki, Naser Gholammi, and Saeid Torabian were among the detained activists. Some of the detainees are the members of the Executive Board of the Sherkate Vahed's Union.

In response to this repression and the arrest of their fellow comrades, the workers of the Bus Company decided to go on strike on 25 December and to ground the busses. The traffic came to a halt in many regions of Tehran and Suburbs. The striking drivers enjoyed the support from many sections of the working class and student activist of Tehran and of the country.

Under the pressure of the strike by the workers of Sherkate Vahed, the regime of the Islamic Republic was forced to retreat. All detainees, except Mansour Ossanlou, were released and the Islamic regime has promised the Union to review its demand. Mr. Ossanlou is taken to notorious Evin prison in north Tehran and his family is not given any permission to visit him. The judicial authorities of the Islamic Republic have put him under interrogation and are busy fabricating document against him. Mansour needs an urgent eye surgery due to the injuries inflicted on him when the thugs of the Islamic Republic raided the office of the Union several months ago.

The capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic is fearful of the formation of independent worker-organisations and of the unity of the workers with other sections of the society. The Islamic regime find itself closer to its grave by united and country-wide strikes and protests and is trying to put a halt to the attempts to build independent and democratic workers' organisations. The Iranian regime has intensified its repression against the labourers, students, and women and is trying to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation with the hope of curbing and overcoming the crisis in the society. But with every repressive act, the regime sinks itself more into a quagmire that takes it one step closer to death.

The demands of the workers of Sherkate Vahed Bus Company to establish their independent union, to get a pay raise, of payment of their overdue wages, etc. are just demands. The regime of the Islamic Republic must meet these demands. Our Party strongly condemns the arrest and mistreatment of the Union members and supports their just demands and calls on the other workers to stand united with the workers of Sherkate Vahed.

The Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan) demands the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Ossanlou. We call upon our fraternal Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations, trade union activists, democratic organisations, and progressive minded individuals to protest the imprisonment of Mr. Ossanlou and to demand his immediate release and to condemn the regime of the Islamic Republic for the suppression of the people of Iran.

The Office of the Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan), Abroad

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