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Dear Mr. Somavia,

I am writing to request your urgent personal intervention in respect of Mr. Mansour Osanloo, President of the Vahed Bus Workers' Syndicate of Teheran.

Mr. Osanloo is a prominent independent trade union leader in Iran who has previously been the subject of serious reprisals by the Government, including imprisonment. His union is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation and he personally addressed the General Council of the ITUC in Brussels last month.

We are informed that Mr. Osanloo was abducted near his home at about 7pm last night, 10 July, by unidentified plain-clothed assailants. He was beaten severely, and taken away in a metallic grey Peugeot vehicle to an unknown destination.

Mr. Osanloo's wife, with other family members, went to the 128th Branch Police Station in Narmak near her home where the Deputy Information Officer told them that he was a spy who received money from abroad but would not acknowledge any police involvement in his abduction.

The ITUC and the ITF are deeply concerned about these events, which come just one week after the abduction and subsequent release of the Vice-President of the same union, Mr. Ebrahim Madadi in similar circumstances. We would ask you to intervene urgently with the Iranian authorities urging them to take all necessary action to ensure Mr. Osanloo's unconditional release, and that he and his colleagues are able to undertake their legitimate trade union work freely, and to put an end to all acts of intimidation and harassment of independent trade unionists.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary