

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadjinejad,
President of the Republic
The Presidency,
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

11 July 2007

Abduction of Mansour Osanloo

Dear President,

On behalf of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association representing 30,000 workers in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland I wish to condemn the abduction of Mansour Osanloo, the President of the Sandikaye Kargarane Sherkate Vahed (Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company).

I understand that Mansour Osanloo was abducted by unidentified assailants as he was leaving a Vahed Company bus near his home at around 7pm on 10 July. Witnesses on the bus stated that he was beaten severely, and continually even as he was taken away in a metallic grey Peugeot to a yet unknown location. Mr. Osanloo had apparently been followed all day by the unmarked Peugeot car. Such vehicles are well known as being associated with the Iranian Security Forces.

We understand that Mansour Osanloo's family and his union colleagues do not know the identity of the assailants, but they believe that a direct order has been issued by your Labour Minister, demanding the immediate seizure of Mr Osanloo. We further understand that when Mr Osanloo's wife and family members went to the 128th Branch Police Station in Narmak near their home, the Deputy Information Officer at the police station made unwarranted accusations, telling them that Mr Osanloo was a spy who received money from abroad, but the police would not acknowledge whether they had arrested or abducted him.

The TSSA is deeply concerned for the safety of Mr. Osanloo. Given the past history of Mr. Osanloo's treatment by the security forces there is strong reason to believe that they are indeed responsible for this attack, which we believe is directly linked to his trade union activities.

By virtue of its membership of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) the Islamic Republic of Iran is legally bound to respect its core principles including the principle of the freedom of association.

We would therefore urge your government to take every possible step to ensure the safety of Mr. Osanloo and do all in your power to secure his immediate release, as well as identifying those responsible.

Yours sincerely

Frank Ward
Business & Campaigns Manager