

His Excellency Hassan Rohani

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Pasteur Square, Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Re: Release all teacher unionists

Excellency,

I have been informed by the German Education Union (GEW) about the continuous harassment of education unionists and the recent wave of arrest and detention for false motives. Actually at least six members of the Iranian Teacher Trade Association are in Iran in jail:

- **Alireza Hashemi**, detained since 2007;
- **Abdolreza Ghanbari**, detained since January 2010. Firstly sentenced to death for enmity against God, a Revolutionary Court commuted his sentence to a 15 year-imprisonment In June 2013;
- **Rasoul Bodaghi**, detained since September 2009. Despite finishing his six-year jail term, new charges have been brought against him and he now awaits a new verdict against him;
- **Ali Akbar Baghani**, detained since April 2010;
- **Esmael Abdi**, detained since 27 June 2015; and
- **Mahmoud Beheshti Langroodi**, arrested on 6 September 2015.

All these education unionists have been abusively arrested for exercising peaceful and legitimate trade union activities. The situation affecting the education sector with low wages and teacher pay cuts is regularly denounced by brave teachers taking the streets in Tehran and elsewhere in the Islamic Republic of Iran and suffering the consequence.

I call for the Government of Iran to comply with all international labour standards and respect the rights of Iranian workers to freedom of association, assembly and expression. Iranian trade unions should be allowed to play their role in a climate free from violence, pressure or threats of any kind. I would welcome a positive response on this matter and will, in the meantime, continue to observe the situation in Iran closely.

<Unterschrift>

Copy to

- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany: iranemb.ber@mfa.gov.ir
- Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN: iran@un.int and mission.iran@ties.itu.int