

February 8, 2008

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Dear Sirs:

We write on behalf of our 570,000 members to ask you to immediately and unconditionally release the students that recently have been detained as well as all other political prisoners, including labour activists, in Iran.

We are informed that independent student organizations have been attacked and that dozens of politically active students have been arrested for holding political protests. At present, we are told, more than 40 student activists are being detained in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran and elsewhere. There are rumours that the detained students have been tortured. Such news has gravely alarmed their families and others, including those among our own membership.

Surely, this cannot be the kind of human rights reputation that you wish for your country on the international stage. We urge you to act now to secure the release of the political prisoners. We further implore you to insure that all torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners cease immediately and permanently.

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In addition to our concern for the detained students, we are equally upset at the continued harassment and detention of labour activists, among them Mahmud Saalehi, Mansur Osaanolou and Ebraahim Madadi. As well, we are aware that many women have been jailed because they have resisted the current Iranian government.

Again, we cannot accept that you would want the international community to see this as typical behaviour being accepted and justified by your government.

Here in Canada, we have experienced the terrible consequences of brutality in Evin prison through reports of the torture and death of Canadian photo-journalist Zahra Kazemi. We fear for the lives of the current detainees if the situation reported to us persists.

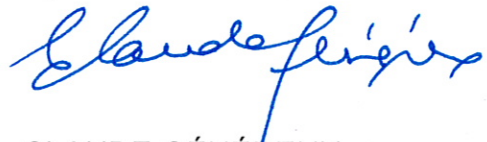
We have also witnessed protests outside your embassy here in Ottawa that show your people at home and abroad are unhappy with the type of behaviour reported to us in your prisons and against political activists.

For the sake of your own country's public image abroad and for the sake of justice for your people, we urge you to release the students and other political prisoners now and cease such arrests in future.

Sincerely,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE G  N  REUX
National Secretary-Treasurer

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cc: S. Daneshfar (shahla_daneshfar@yahoo.com) *Committee for the Freedom of Political Prisoners in Iran and International Labour Solidarity Committee of the Worker-Communist Party of Iran*; M. Alipour (mahin_alipour@yahoo.se) *"Equal Rights Now" An Organization for Women's Rights – Iran*; F. Hoseini (farshadhoseini@yahoo.com) *International Federation of Iranian Refugees*; M. Ahadi (minaahadi@aol.com) *International Committee Against Execution*; M. Ahadi (minaahadi@aol.com) *International Committee Against Stoning*; S. Ahmadi (iranrcr@yahoo.ca) *Iran Civil Rights Committee*; B. Yazdi (babakyazdi@yahoo.com) *Kaanoon Khaavaraan – Organization for Defense of Political Prisoners*; N. Minaee (navidminay@gmail.com) *Communist Youth Organisation*; K. Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Congress; F. Muzin, NEB Liaison, CUPE Global Justice Committee; Members, CUPE Global Justice Committee