

## **Worker Unions, Organizations and Activists Around the World**

### **Fellow workers!**

This year, just like in previous years, we the Iranian workers cherished May First under circumstances of sheer nonunion and deprivation of our rights. These days, Iranian workers and teachers are living in difficult situations. Workers are driven deep into a miserable life because of low living standards, difficult living situations, scanty salaries, temporary contracts and postponing the salary payments to even 32 months in some cases. Under these very conditions and in the presence of all types of oppression and security pressures, the Iranian workers took to the streets and called for meeting their demands and forming their free trade unions.

As one of the signers of the protocols 87 and 98, the Iranian government should respect and be committed to fulfilling the objectives of the above-mentioned protocols. But on the contrary the Iranian government doesn't tolerate any kind of independent ceremonies or events and cracks down on workers in all their struggles.

This year on the first of May the Iranian workers decided to hold their independent ceremonies in different Iranian cities such as Teheran, Kermanshah and Sanandaj despite harsh security measures just as in the previous years. As usual, the police forces attacked the workers with the attacks on the Sanandaj workers being the most violent.

On the first of May and along with their families the workers gathered up opposite to the Sanandaj city labor office to hold May First ceremony. Seeing the tight security atmosphere and afraid of the interference of the police, the workers had to read out their laid resolution at the very beginning of the ceremony. When the last band of the resolution was being read the police forces attacked the participants at the ceremony and tried to arrest the organizers of the ceremony but they faced resistance from the workers and their families.

The clash continued for half an hour before the Special Guard Forces (oppression guards!) could show up at the place. Upon its arrival, the Special Guard Forces laid its unleashed wave of barbarity by beating up and cracking down on the workers and their wives and children to make them disperse and take refuge to the surrounding streets. The Special Guard Forces started by spraying chili powder and incapacitating materials into the workers' faces and eyes and continued the oppression by beating them up with clubs.

They arrested about 20 people who had fainted because of the chili powder, the incapacitating materials and the mayhem and later transferred them to prison. Some of the injured people were saved from the police and were given medical treatment by the Sanandaj people. Some of the injuries are very acute where the workers' arms, legs and other parts of the body are broken. Based on the black list that is created by the security agents, the arresting of the worker activists is still going on in Sanandaj.

## **Workers and Worker organizations Around the World!**

We the Iranian workers expect multilateral support on a worldwide level for our increasing struggles as well other sections' struggles in the Iranian society in the cause of realizing international workers solidarity so that we can make the oppressors retreat and while working on freeing the imprisoned workers, pursuit our own demands more firmly.

## **Workers and Worker Unions and Organizations Around the World!**

We the Iranian workers ask you to rise in support of Iranian labor struggle in the cause of international solidarity of the workers class in any way possible. We expect you to support us in realizing the workers', teachers' and other sections' rights in the Iranian working class, in releasing Mahmud Salehi who has been imprisoned on charges of participating in May First ceremonies in 2004, in our demand for immediate release of arrestees of the this year's May First commemorations, in preventing any kind of harassment, prosecution or arresting of Iranian workers and worker activists, in forming free trade unions as well as in preventing the oppressors' violent acts.

### **The Cooperation Council of the Labor Unions and Activists**

4 May 2007

1. Follow-up Committee for Forming Free Labor Unions
2. Coordinating Committee for Forming Labor Unions
3. Workers' Cultural and Support Council
4. The Union of the Workers Committees
5. A group of worker activists
6. A group of freedom-loving and equality-seeking students in the Iranian universities