

Helsinki, Finland 1.12.2005

Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President
Islamic Republic of Iran

Respectable Mr President,

The Peace for the Kurds Forum hereby strongly protests against sentences handed down to trade union members.

We have been informed that on 9 November this year Mahmoud Salehi, the former President of the Bakery Workers' Association of the city of Saqez and a co-founder of the Coordinating Committee to Form Workers' Organisations was sentenced to five years imprisonment and three years in exile in the city of Ghorveh. Jalal Hosseini, a member of the Bakery Workers' Association of the city of Saqez, was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

We have also been informed that the Saqez Revolutionary Court has also sentenced Mohsen Hakimi, Borhan Divangar and Mohammad Adipour to two years imprisonment. Hence five out of the seven initially charged have now been sentenced, including Mahmoud Salehi and Jalal Sosseini.

It seems that similarly to those condemned earlier, Mohsen Hakimi, Borhan Divangar and Mohammad Adipour were sentenced for their trade union activities, especially given the fact that the initial arrests were made in connection with their participation in May Day 2004 celebrations and that charges against them were made shortly thereafter.

We request that ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work trade union freedom and rights shall be respected in Iran.

We urge you to take all necessary measures to ensure the immediate repeal of the sentences against Mohmoud Salehi, Jalal Hosseini, Mohsen Hakimi, Borhan Divangar and Mohammad Adipour and to ensure that all charges against Borhan Divangar in connection with his arrest on 7 August 2005 be dropped.

We trust that the innocence of our above-mentioned colleagues will be fully recognised in later stages of this judicial process.

Yours sincerely,

PEACE FOR THE KURSD FORUM IN FINLAND

Leo R. Hertzberg
Vice-President

Helena Lipponen
Treasurer