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GORDON McGRATH
President

BILL GAUCHER
Secretary Treasurer

October 19, 2017

Morteza Maleki
Unifor Local 114
Member-At-Large for Human Rights and Visible Minorities
Iranian Committee in Support of Workers

Dear Members of the Committee;

Unifor is Canada's largest union in the private sector, representing more than 315,000 workers in every major area of the economy. Our Unifor Local 114 in British Columbia represents about 4,500 members in many sectors in the province.

Organizations like the ITF and other world organizations have condemned the imprisonment of Iranian trade unionists. In Iran, trade unionists are subjected to continued persecution by the authorities. Their trade union rights and civil liberties are denied and trade union leaders are detained for reasons connected with their activities in defence of the interests of workers. The Education International and the International Transport Workers' Federation are particularly concerned about the fate of Reza Shahabi. Reza Shahabi, treasurer of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, was under medical leave of absence after suffering severe forms of ill treatment while in detention. He was denied an extension to his medical leave and is now back in prison. Furthermore, his detention was extended by 968 days as a result of his absence. Reza Shahabi has joined a hunger strike on 9 August to protest against the inhumane detention conditions in Iranian prisons.

Unifor Local 114 supports the Trade Unionist in Iran and we urge the Iranian authorities to take all necessary measures for the immediate and unconditional release of Reza Shahabi and any other trade unionists detained for reasons connected with their activities in defence of the interests of workers. Unifor Local 114 is very concerned about the harsh detention conditions imposed on them and fear for their safety and wellbeing. Unifor Local 114 holds the Iranian government responsible and accountable for any worsening of their situation.

Unifor Local 114 encourages our members and the public to go onto Labourstarts website and sign the petition for the immediate release of Brother Shahabi. https://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=3534

Local 114 stands in full solidarity with Brother Shahabi and all prisoned labour activists in Iran and demand an end to this injustice.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon McGrath'.

Gordon McGrath
President
Unifor Local 114
Copy: Local 114 Executive
Uniforbclocals/bg