Geneva, 19 December 2018

H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani
President
Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: media@rouhani.ir; mission.iran@ties.itu.int

# IndustriALL Global Union demands Government of Iran immediately release National Iranian Steel Company workers arrested for exercising their fundamental rights

Dear Mr. President Hassan Rouhani,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of IndustriALL Global Union, which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors in more than 140 countries, including Iran, to urge you to intervene immediately to bring about the release of 41 workers of the National Iranian Steel Company in Ahvaz who have been arrested as a result of their participation in strikes demanding payment of unpaid wages to 4,000 workers.

Note this letter follows on my letter to you dated 5 March, 2018 in which I urged you to intervene immediately to guarantee the payment of unpaid wages of these same workers (see attached). Clearly you have not done so and the government has taken a different approach which IndustriALL strongly condemns.

It has come to my attention that forces of the Islamic of Republic Iran have arrested 41 workers after two consecutive days of brutal raids on the homes of the striking workers of the Ahvaz Steel Complex. About 31 workers were arrested at about 2 am, Monday, December 17, 2018 and at least another 10 workers were arrested on December 18, 2018.

During these arrests, the Iranian government's forces, using violent tactics, beat some steel workers in front of the eyes of family members and seized their personal belongings, including their cell phones. Following these arrests, police forces and the Revolutionary Guards seized parts of Ahvaz city to prevent the gathering of striking workers. Nevertheless, a large group of workers courageously continued to protest and called for the release of their arrested colleagues.

The security and intelligence forces are using the same tactics they used against Haft Tapeh sugarcane workers where they arrested striking workers' representatives and then started a campaign of intimidation and fear amongst other workers.

According to various reports, the names of detained steel workers in Ahvaz are as follows:
1. Meisam Ali Ghanavati, 2. Esa Mar'ie, 3. Amin Alavani, 4. Morteza Akbarian, 5. Taregh Khalfi, 6. Massoud Efri, 7. Jafar Sobhani, 8. Mostafa Abiat, 9. Gharib Havizavi, 10. Hossein Davoudi, 11. Karim Siahi, 12. Hamed Baseri, 13. Hafez Kan'ani, 14. Hamed Judaki, 15. Kazem Heidari, 16. Yaser Ebrahimian, 17. Majid Janadeleh, 18. Kuroush Esmaieli, 19. Ali Oghaba,

20. Mohsen Balouti, 21. Mohammad Pour Hassan, 22. Mohsen Behbahani, 23. Seyed Habib Tabatabaie, 24. Jasem Roumazi, 25. Ali Etmami, 26. Seyed Ali Javadpour, 27 Javad Gholami, 28. Abdolreza Dasti, 29.Seid Ahmed Seid Noor, 30. Fariborz Sheikh Robat, 31. Ehsan Yousefi, 32. Hosein Asarekeh, 33.Meisam Al Mehdi, 34. Seyed Majid Mousavi, 35. Amir Dehghan, 36. Ahmad Bavi, 37.Behzad Alikhani, 38. Seyed Mostapha Mousavi, 39. Majid Jalali, 40. Arash Mohammadpour, 41. Behzad Shahbazi.

IndustriALL strongly condemns the arrests of the striking steel workers and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. IndustriALL further demands the payment of all unpaid wages, the immediate ceasing of all measures designed to coerce the workforce, and the protection of fundamental labour rights, including the rights of workers to join a union of their choice, and engage in collective bargaining.

We anticipate your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely yours,

Valter Sanches
General Secretary