

Geneva, 5 February 2014

Mr. Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sent by email to media@rouhani.ir and mission.iran@ties.itu.int

Arrests and dismissals at Chadormalu Mine in the Yazd Province, Iran

Dear Mr. Rouhani,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 140 countries. We have been informed that over 20 striking miners and their leaders have been arrested in your country despite their action being legal.

We have been informed by a reliable source that security forces have arrested over 20 workers of the Chadormalu Mine in the central Province of Yazd, including the head and the Secretary of the labor union, who stopped work as part of a contract negotiation and labor dispute.

For several months, more than 3,000 workers have been demanding a pay increase in line with inflation as well as overtime pay, which had been unpaid for four months. Bahram Hassaninejad, the Secretary of the workers' labor union, was dismissed from his job during earlier protests over this issue in November 2013. The protest grew wider after Hassaninejad's dismissal, and his return to work became another demand in addition to the pay increase and back pay.

On January 26, the Ardakan Labor Office Determination Committee confirmed Hassaninejad's dismissal orders, sparking new protests among the mine workers. Thousands of the mine workers downed tools on January 28 in protest of the dismissal, as well as in continuation of the pay demands. On January 29, security forces summoned and arrested 20 workers, who the Governor implied had been instrumental in launching the initial protests. The remaining workers continued their sit-in, and on January 30, four additional workers from among those who were holding a sit-in at the factory site were also arrested. The following day union leaders, Hossein Jenaee and Bahram Hassaninejad were arrested by Ardakan town's security organizations.

We are appalled to hear of the arrests of these mine workers and their union leaders and call on you to immediately order their release as well as the payment of all delayed payments. We urge you to ensure that negotiations over a substantial increase in wages, to guarantee both a living wage and compensation for rising costs, take place as a matter of urgency.

Sincerely Yours,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union

cc. Mr. Mahmoud Norian, CEO of Chadormalu