

Geneva, 23 September 2019

H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani  
President  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
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## **IndustriALL Global Union calls for the release of 28 workers detained in a brutal attack at the HEPCO Industrial Complex in Arak**

Dear Mr. President Hassan Rouhani,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), 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 to guarantee the immediate release of 28 workers detained in a brutal attack on demonstrators at the HEPCO Industrial Complex in Arak on 16 September.

We deplore the brutal attacks on HEPCO workers, who were exercising their legal right to peaceful protest. Violence is no way to resolve workers' legitimate demands to be paid.

At least 15 workers were injured and many more arrested after security forces used violence to break up a peaceful demonstration. Around 900 workers were protesting against months of unpaid wages and privatization of the company.

HEPCO was privatized in 2017, and since then working conditions have deteriorated considerably, including late and unpaid wages. Furthermore, the workforce has reportedly been reduced from 8,000 workers to 1,000 since 2017.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union urges the Iranian government to abide by national and international core labour standards, thus putting an end to the repression of workers exercising their legitimate right to demonstrate peacefully in public, and releasing without any delay the 28 HEPCO workers detained on 16 September.

I anticipate your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely yours,



Valter Sanches, General Secretary