



To the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Paris, July 23, 2019

Supreme Leader,

Two months after the peaceful rally of 1st May 2019, held in front of the Iranian parliament in Tehran, the pressure on arrested people does not stop increasing.

Of the fifty or so demonstrators arrested, most of those who were temporarily released on bail, are being summoned to court and continually harassed.

Atefeh Rang Raz, Neda Naji, Marzieh Amiri and Anisha Asadullahi are four women amongst detainees of the violent crackdown of May Day. Although their interrogation procedure ended more than one month ago and they should have been released in accordance with the law and the judicial procedure in force, but unfortunately they are still in prison. Ms. Neda Naji has been transferred to the prison hospital as a result of injuries received under torture.

Haft-Tapeh sugar trade unionist Esmail Bakhshi is still in prison and is under strong pressure to retract his statements of being tortured in the prison. Sepideh Gholian, student activist, is in the same situation.

In addition, three journalists, Sanaz Alahyari, Amir Amirgholi and Amirhossein Mohammadifar have been arbitrarily detained since January 2019 and without access to a lawyer. They are facing charges including 'gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security', 'spreading propaganda against the system', 'disseminating false information' and 'belonging to a group formed for the purpose of undermine national security'.

These spurious national security charges are solely in connection with their coverage of the protests at Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Company. As a matter of fact these reporters by covering protests organized by of the Haft Tappeh, who demanded payment of unpaid salary and denounced poor working conditions, have peacefully exercised their basic rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly

The French trade unions, the signatories of this letter, strongly condemn this unbearable repression. They call on the Iranian regime to respect the international conventions ratified by its government.

They demand solemnly the cessation of all forms of pressure and the immediate and unconditional release of all the trade unionists, journalists and activists arrested.

Please, Your Excellency, receive our respectful greetings.

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Copies to:

Mr. Hassan Rohani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Ebrahim Raïssi, Chief of the Judiciary

Mr. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris