

## **The Swedish Trade Union Platform Iran supports the Iranian nurses' demands and protests**

Nurses in Iran have since July 30 begun a nationwide strike at health centres and hospitals. Dissatisfaction with salary levels, late payments, the work environment, privatization and subsequent employment via temporary employment agencies is the background to the dissatisfaction.

The nurses are carrying out a campaign in connection with the strike and have collected more than 7,000 signatures that have been handed over to the parliament, the government and the Islamic military forces (Sepah Pastaran). In it, the nurses demand answers to the promises made by politicians about increase of salaries and improvement of the work environment. But so far, the authorities have not reacted and no answers have been given in response to the nurses' demands. The demands are:

- Increased salaries. Salaries are currently between 13,000-14,000 Toman (Iranian currency) per month and the estimated poverty line is 35,000 Toman per month.
- Abolish the employment agencies and all forms of certain period employments with precarious employment conditions.
- Improved work environment and no forced overtime. The stress and workload must be reduced and work safety issues have to be considered. To achieve this a more competent management of health centres and hospitals is needed.
- Salaries must be paid on time. The often delayed payments of salaries must stop.
- Salary supplements for the performance of difficult and dangerous work.

Since no answers to the demands have been received despite previous protests, the nurses believe that nationwide strikes and protests are the only thing that can force the regime to respond to the demands. The strike has now been supported by several independent trade unions in the oil industry, from the teachers' coordination council and pensioners' organisations. Popular support for the strike is growing.

The Islamic regime allocates a large proportion of the state budget to religious institutions instead of increasing the budget for schools, health care and pensions. This has resulted in many protests in recent years. The regime's approach to the protests of teachers, nurses and pensioners has always been characterized by a political and security policy approach that results in the

protests being described as subversive and dangerous to society. This is because the regime will otherwise be forced to recognize the ILO's core conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of negotiation and freedom of association.

This would lead to the independent and free forces in society being given the opportunity to organize themselves into independent trade union organizations with representative status, which the regime considers dangerous. The regime, through the establishment of its own "yellow" organizations such as the Workers' House, the Islamic Councils of Labour and the Islamic Council of Teachers, is trying to control the workforce and the labour market. Over all these years, the regime has spread terror through its repressive policy of threats of dismissals, imprisonment and torture in order to secure its power and its rule.

Trade Union Platform Iran condemns the regime's repressive policies and the actions of its security apparatus against the nurses and declares our firm support for the nurses' legitimate demands, protests and strikes.

Trade Union Platform Iran strives to create the necessary conditions for the independent and free trade unions in Iran to organize and participate as representatives of the Iranian workers at the International Labor Organization (ILO) and to enable the replacement of the Islamic Republic's fake Iranian ILC labour delegations.

**Women**

**Life**

**Freedom**

Swedish Trade Union Platform Iran  
28 August 2024

#### The Swedish Trade Union Platform Iran

*The Swedish Trade Union Platform Iran was established in 2014 by the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the Transport Workers' Union, the Municipal Workers' Union, If Metall and the Teachers' Union. Our ambition and goal is to be part of the international support for trade union rights in Iran and to inform the Swedish trade union movement and society about the situation for Human and Trade Union Rights in Iran. The Swedish Trade Union Platform Iran protests against the Iranian regime's harassment and imprisonment of representatives of free and independent trade unions in Iran. The work is led by project manager Saied Tagavi in collaboration with Leif Isaksson, International Secretary, LO.*