



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

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October 6, 2023

His Excellency Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Subject: Free jailed Iranian teacher unionists

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), which represents 72,000 academic staff at Canadian post-secondary institutions, to condemn the ongoing detention of numerous Iranian teacher union leaders who have been engaged in peaceful activities protected by international laws. We urge for their immediate and unconditional release.

Over the years, Iranian teachers have been voicing their legitimate demands for decent working conditions and the acknowledgment of their basic rights and freedoms as both workers and citizens. Last year, teachers were joined by other workers, as well as students and women activists, in the uprising in response to the extrajudicial killing of Jina Mahsa Amini.

The rights to peaceful assembly and association are fundamental for any society. The arrest and imprisonment of union activists who are exercising these rights represent a flagrant abuse of authority and a clear violation of ILO Conventions. The Iranian authorities must address the legitimate demands of their people through open dialogue and sound policies, rather than resorting to repression.

CAUT calls on the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran to:

- Unconditionally release and drop all charges against Iranian teacher unionists detained for union related activities.
- Respect and uphold the fundamental rights and freedoms of all workers, including the freedoms of association and speech, as well as the right to engage in peaceful assembly without state interference.
- Revoke the permanent and temporary dismissal orders imposed on teacher union activists.
- Institutionalise dialogue with representative organisations of teachers and education personnel to address matters related to educational policies and teachers' status.
- Respect the rights and privacy of the family members of detained unionists and ensure their safety and wellbeing.

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- Ensure the physical and mental well-being of children while at school, creating a conducive learning environment for both girls and boys.

CAUT anticipates your prompt and decisive intervention on this pressing matter. In the meantime, we will closely monitor the situation of teacher trade unionists in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yours sincerely,



David Robinson
Executive Director

cc. The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
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