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Email: info@dadiran.ir (Subject line: FAO Ayatollah Larijani)

Your Excellency:

I am very concerned about **Mansour Ossanlu**, leader of the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, who has peacefully sought better conditions for workers and an end to discrimination in employment. For his trade union activities, he was sentenced to five years in prison for “acts against national security” and “propaganda against the system”.

In August 2010, Mansour Ossanlu was sentenced to a further one year in prison after conviction of a new charge of "spreading propaganda against the system". The new sentence, about which he was told in prison, will become effective after he fully serves his previous five-year sentence.

Despite numerous health problems, including a heart condition and damage to his retinas from beatings by security agents, Mansour Ossanlu has not received adequate medical care. In August 2008 he was transferred to Raja'i Shahr prison in the city of Karaj which houses those convicted of violent crimes. He has reportedly been abused and intimidated there by guards and inmates.

I urge you to remember Iran's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees all people the right to form and join trade unions. Likewise, Iran's membership in the International Labor Organization compels it to uphold the right to organize and the right to freedom of association.

Mansour Ossanlu is a prisoner of conscience whose only “crime” has been his desire to improve the lives of workers in Iran. I respectfully request that he be immediately and unconditionally released from prison, and I urge you to ensure that he be given all necessary medical treatment. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

copy to:

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