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ITUC/Lex/MW

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Request for urgent intervention with the Government of Iran regarding the death sentence for labour activist Sharifeh Mohammadi

Dear Director-General,

We are deeply concerned that the Supreme Court of Iran has confirmed the death sentence against labour activist, Sharifeh Mohammadi in August on false charges of "armed rebellion against the state".

Since our previous communication to you in July 2024 on the sentencing of Sharifeh Mohammadi to death, the government of Iran has not ceased the systematic repression of rights protected under ILO conventions against labour activists, in this case a female activist.

We recall that Sharifeh Mohammadi was a member of the Coordination Committee for Helping to Establish Labour Organisations which was cracked down by the Iranian authorities in 2012 followed by mass arrests of the leading activists. Though Sharifeh Mohammadi has not joined any organization since the crackdown, she was arrested on 5 December 2023 in the city of Rasht on charges of armed rebellion against the state". She was sentenced by the Rasht Revolutionary Court to death on 4 July 2024.

In October 2024, the sentence was overturned by the Supreme Court on the ground of legal flaws and returned for re-consideration. In February this year, the Supreme Court under a different chamber confirmed the death sentence despite the false charges and the procedural and evidentiary defects.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation in Iran has urged the Iranian government to review its arbitrary recourse to national security offences as a tool for suppression of civil liberties (A/HRC/58/62).

We are gravely concerned that this confirmation of the death sentence shortly follows the examination of Iran on Convention No.111 on Discrimination by the Committee on Application of Standards (CAS) at this year's International Labour Conference and ignores the Conclusions of the CAS. The CAS concluded that the government of Iran should ensure that measures related to state security and the use of national security laws in the context of the exercise of civil liberties are in line with the Convention.

We are again deeply concerned of reports that Sharifeh Mohammadi has been tortured and kept under solitary confinement since her arrest.

We call on you to urgently intervene with the government of Iran to withdraw the charges against Sharifeh Mohammadi and for her unconditional release. We further urge the government of Iran to drop the charges of all the detained trade unionists and other human rights defenders for exercising their rights protected by the ILO conventions and civil liberties. The government of Iran must respect its obligations under the Constitution of the ILO, ILO Convention No.111 and the conclusions of the supervisory bodies in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Triangle General Secretary