

# **Call for Urgent Action: Re: Afshin Osanloo's death; save the lives of political prisoners in Iran**

**Please take a minute to send this protest letter to the Iranian government's authorities**

**You can make a difference!**

Leader of the Islamic Republic  
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: info\_leader@leader.ir

This letter is to voice our utmost outrage over the tragic death of Afshin Osanloo, a jailed Iranian labour activist and political prisoner. Prison authorities have announced that Mr. Afshin Osanloo suffered a heart attack on Thursday, June 20, 2013 in notorious Rajai-Shahr Prison in the City of Karaj. Afshin Osanloo was 42 years old and had no previous health problems. He was subject to severe torture during his incarceration since December 2010.

This letter is also written to protest continued persecution of labour activists and gross violation of workers' and human rights in Islamic Republic of Iran. We continue to witness many labour activists brutally persecuted and unjustly incarcerated based on totally sham charges. In particular, we are seriously concerned about the health and well being of many of these prisoners of conscience who are in need of immediate medical care.

A group of prominent labour activists and political prisoners from Evin Prison wrote on June 24, 2013 that Afshin Osanloo's death is only the latest episode of an extended series of political prisoners' deaths, including Akbar Mohammadi, Amir Heshmat Saran, Zahra Bani Yaghoob, Omid Mirsafi, Hoda Saber, Mohebn Dokmeh Chi, Satar Beheshti and many more. This indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing, among other repressive policies and practices, a strategy of slow and gradual death towards political prisoners, by making them subject to severe torture, medical neglects and gross mistreatments by prison authorities.

I (we) are calling for an independent international inquiry into the death of Afshin Osanloo. I (we) are calling on your government for an immediate end to execution, torture and mistreatment of labour activists and all political prisoners and an immediate and unconditional freedom of all political prisoners in Iran. We call on the Iranian government to recognize the right to organize, assemble and freedom of association and expression.

Please send your protest letters to: info@leader.ir, info@judiciary.ir, dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir; iran@un.int; ijpr@iranjudiciary.org, info@dadiran.ir, office@justice.ir, support@irimlsa.ir; info@humanrights-iran.ir; avaei@Dadgostary-tehran.ir; bia.judi@yahoo.com; info@mlsa.ir; larijani@ipm.ir; info\_leader@leader.ir; npillay@ohchr.org; inquiries@un.org, sg@un.org, urgent-action@ohchr.org; ContactUs@shaheedoniran.org; Sr-Iran@ohchr.org; Iran\_team@amnesty.org, wkgroup@ilo.org; ilo@ilo.org  
CC: info@workers-iran.org

**International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran (IASWI)**

**<http://www.workers-iran.org>**

**[info@workers-iran.org](mailto:info@workers-iran.org)**

June 25, 2013

## Background information:

### Communiqué by a group of Evin prisoners on passing of Afshin Osanloo

With extreme sorrow we have been informed that our friend and former cell-mate, Mr. Afshin Osanloo, who were imprisoned in the City of Karaj's Rajaei Shahr Prison, has passed away. Despite all the pressures that he had endured, while incarcerated in Evin prison with us, he was in relatively good health. Afshin Osanloo's death occurred while prisoners' death, especially political prisoners', due to hardships, inadequate healthcare and negligence of authorities, are recurring incidents; for instance Akbar Mohamadi, Amir Heshmat Saran, Zahra Bani Yaghoub, Omid Mirsafi, Hoda Sabery, Satar Beheshti and other prisoners.



We, as friends and former cell mates of late Afshin Osanloo in ward 350 of Evin prison, who were witness to all the pain and sufferings he was subjected to, send our deepest condolences to his esteemed family, particularly his sorrowful mother, hoping not to ever see such tragedies again in the future.

Signed by:

Reza Shahabi Zakaria, Saied Matinpor, Abdolftah Soltani, Mohamd Sadegh Kabodvand, Amir Khosro Dlirsani, Royien Otofati, Mohammad Rezaie, Mehdi Khodaei, Nasor Taghipour, Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, Saied Jalalifar, Fraydon Saiedyrad, Vahid Aligholipour, Yashar Darolshafa, Saied Haery, Davar Hosseini Vojdan, Gholamreza Khosravi, Hani Yazerlo, Asghr Ghatan, Majid Assadi, Hootan Dolati, Mohammad Saemi, Mohammadvali Gholamnezhad, Abdolreza Ghanbari, Seyed Mohamad Haidari, Assadollah Assadi, Assadolah Hadi, Ali Moazi, Rasoul Heidarzadeh, Kamran Ayazi, Shahin Daadkhah, Fardzad Rouhi, Mohammadreza Nouri, Bahador Alizadeh, Vahid Asghari, Alireza Seyedian

The original letter in Farsi Publically distributed on June 24, 2013

Link: [http://www.etehadbinalmelali.com/html\\_2013/03\\_tir\\_92\\_bayanieh.html](http://www.etehadbinalmelali.com/html_2013/03_tir_92_bayanieh.html)

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### Afshin Osanloo died in Prison

#### The Iranian government is responsible for Afshin Osanloo's death

June 23, 2013 - According to the latest news from Iran, Afshin Osanloo, a jailed worker and political prisoner, suffered a heart attack on Thursday, June 20, 2013 in notorious Rajai-Shahr Prison and passed away on June 21, 2013 in a hospital in the City of Karaj.

Afshin's sister has emphasized in an interview after his death that he did not have any health problems. Rajai Shahr is a notorious prison with a very high security in which we have witnessed numerous questionable deaths of political prisoners in past few years. Many prisoners go through severe torture, medical neglects and gross mistreatments by security guards and prison authorities. Afshin was severely tortured after his arrest and during his interrogations.

Afshin Osanloo was 42 years old. He was a younger brother of Mansour Osanloo who is the former president of the board of directors of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company. Mansour Osanloo left Iran a few months ago.

IASWI holds the Islamic Republic of Iran fully accountable for the death of Afshin Osanloo. All jailed workers and political prisoners in Iran must be freed unconditionally and without delays.

More updates on Afshin Osanloo's tragic death and an urgent call for action to follow shortly.

### **International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran (IASWI)**

**<http://www.workers-iran.org>**

**[info@workers-iran.org](mailto:info@workers-iran.org)**

Background information about Afshin Osanloo:

\*"Security forces arrested Afshin Osanloo in the main Tehran bus terminal in December 2010 without any specified charges. He spent three months inside Evin Prison's Security Ward 209 without his family's knowledge. He was sentenced to five years in prison in May 2011 on charges of "acting against national security" and "propagating against the state" without access to a lawyer, and his sentence was upheld by an appeals court. On Wednesday, June 6, 2012 Afshin Osanloo was abruptly transferred to the Special Security Ward of Rajaei Shahr Prison on orders from Evin Prison's Disciplinary Council and without any explanation. Prior to his abrupt transfer, Osanloo had been serving a five-year prison term at Evin Prison. Describing his torture at the hands of Islamic Republic regime henchmen, Afshin Osanloo issued the following appeal to the world community on August 7, 2012 from the horrible Rajai Shahr Prison: "I am Afshin Osanloo of the labor movement in Iran; I drive a transport truck between cities and am now in Gohardasht (Rajaei Shahr) prison in Iran. In the autumn of 2010, while resting in the dormitory for drivers in the passenger terminal, I was arrested by armed persons wearing casual clothing – not uniforms – and was taken to Section 209 of Evin prison. For five months I was kept in solitary confinement and was interrogated and tortured. The tortures included beatings of the soles of my feet with cables; forcing me to run on the beaten feet which were covered in sores and cuts; gross verbal insults and swearing; week-long interrogations, 18 hours at a time, while being beaten by a group of men which resulted in my ribs and some teeth being broken. During these five months, my family had no information about me whatsoever, and their inquiries were not answered. I was not even permitted one phone call to my elderly mother who also was suffering from my brother's imprisonment (Mansour Osanloo, (former) Chairman of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company)". \* See the link for full letter <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/free-iranian-labor-activist-afshin-osanloo-tortured-s.html>