



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of Judiciary, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje  
c/o H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi  
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr Mohseni-Eje,

**Esmail Abdi**, a high school teacher and former secretary-general of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA), has been serving a six-year prison sentence, issued in November 2016, for "assembly and collusion with the intention to disturb public order" and "propaganda against the state," which stemmed from his peaceful advocacy of teachers' rights. As he was in detention prior to his conviction, he was due to be freed in November 2020. However, in May 2020 he was handed a new ten year sentence based on a suspended sentence from 2010.

While in prison, Esmail Abdi's health had severely deteriorated to the extent that he was released for medical care on January 9, 2018, but in a few days he was returned to prison. When his rights in prison were violated, Abdi went on a hunger strike in April 2018 to protest against the conditions of his imprisonment.

Abdi spent a month on furlough due to the COVID-19 pandemic starting on March 17, 2020, but when he sought to extend his release on April 20, he was returned to Evin Prison. In August 2020 Abdi tested positive for COVID-19.

Esmail Abdi is a courageous man who sincerely cares about the well-being of his fellow Iranians who struggle to make ends meet. Esmail Abdi's right to join a trade union of his choice is guaranteed under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), both of which Iran has ratified.

I urge you to release Esmail Abdi immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for his peaceful human rights work. Pending his release, ensure that he is provided with the health care he requires. I also urge you to ensure an end to state harassment and intimidation of all trade unionists in Iran.

Yours sincerely,

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_