



Date: _____

H.E. Saeed Iravani
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Iravani,

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.

In 2022, the Supreme Court accepted Esmail Abdi's retrial request. His attorney Ramin Safarnia announced on Twitter that in accordance with article 478, Mr. Abdi's prison sentence would be suspended until the new verdict is issued, and he would be released. Despite that ruling, Esmail Abdi is still kept behind the bars.

In June 2023, the Free Workers Union released a statement condemning the continued imprisonment of Esmail Abdi, calling it cruel and unjust.

Esmail Abdi is suffering from heavy stomach pain, lung irritation, chronic numbness of hands and feet, high blood pressure, and knee pain. However, his medical furlough issued by an infirmary doctor in 2022 was denied by the prosecutors.

Esmail Abdi is a courageous man who 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,

Address: _____