|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS  telephone: 020 7636 4030 fax: 020 7636 0632 [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk/)  General Secretary: *Frances O’Grady* Assistant General Secretary: *Kay Carberry CBE*  Assistant General Secretary: *Paul Nowak* |  |
| His Excellency Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  By email to [media@rouhani.ir](mailto:media@rouhani.ir) | our ref abdi/ot/wp  date: 14 July 2015  contact: Owen Tudor  direct line: +44 (20) 7467 1325  email: otudor@tuc.org.uk |

Dear President

Request for the immediate release of Mr Esmail Abdi, General Secretary of the Iranian Teachers’ Trade Association

On behalf of the six million trade unionists in the UK, the TUC protest at the arrest of Mr Esmail Abdi, a leader of the Iranian Teachers’ Trade Association (ITTA), following his attempt to attend the 7th Education International (EI) World Congress in Ottawa, Canada later this month.

Mr Peyman Nodinian, another representative of the ITTA who was to attend the EI World Congress has also been prevented from travelling.

The arrest of Mr Abdi is an infringement of several international human right conventions, including those protecting the freedom of expression and the right to travel. In particular, by imprisoning a trade union leader without good cause, and preventing him from taking part in the work of the international teacher trade union movement, you are breaching the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation – especially that relating to freedom of association – which you are duty bound to uphold by virtue of your country’s ILO membership.

I urge the Government of Iran to facilitate Mr Abdi's immediate release and to secure the right of Iranian teacher unionists to travel to attend union meetings.

Yours sincerely

**FRANCES O’GRADY**

General Secretary