Halt Execution of Farzad Kamangar

Your Excellency,

Education International (EI) respectfully asks you to intervene to halt the execution of Iranian teacher unionist Farzad Kamangar.

EI has been informed through several reliable sources that Farzad Kamangar, the Iranian Kurdish teacher and social worker sentenced to death on “absolutely zero evidence” according to his lawyer, could be hanged today, 26 November 2008.

According to several sources, he has been taken from his cell 121 in ward 209 of Tehran’s Evin prison in preparation for execution. The last time he was seen, he was at the health clinic of Evin prison and his physical condition was bad. Witnesses testify that he has been beaten up again. Kamangar has not been allowed to see his lawyer and family members for the last two months.

The Revolutionary Court issued a death sentence for Kamangar on February 25, 2008 although he was cleared of all charges during the investigation process.

In June, EI launched an online campaign appealing the Iranian authorities to re-examine the case of Farzad Kamangar through a fair trial that meets the Iranian and international standards. EI also urged the authorities to commute Farzad Kamangar’s death sentence immediately, as no judicial system should run the risk of condemning an innocent person.

In November, the Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organisation made a clear call for the release of Farzad Kamangar, noting the entire case as serious and urgent.

EI, the global union federation which represents over 30 million teachers and education workers in 171 countries, is deeply concerned about the situation of Farzad Kamangar, and about the absence of commitment to implement basic trade union rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

EI looks forward to engaging in a dialogue with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran while simultaneously holding them to high standards of respect for human and trade union rights.

Sincerely yours,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary

Copies sent to:
- Ali Larijani, Leader of the Iranian Parliament
  Fax: +98 21 646 1746
- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President Islamic Republic of Iran
  Fax: +98-21-649-5880
- Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Sharoudi, Ministry of Justice
- Ambassador Mohammad Reza Alborzi, Perm Mission to the UN
  Fax: +41 22 733 02 03
- Ambassador Ali Asghar Khaji
  Fax: + 02.762.39.15
- ILO – ITUC