

Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft Hauptvorstand



President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Palestine Ave., Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran

IRAN

28 August 2008
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Farzad Kamangar

President Ahmadinejad,

Following my letter to the Ministry of Justice, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Sharoudi dated 16 June 2008 I am writing to you today to deplore the confirmation of the death sentence of the teacher and trade unionist, Farzad Kamangar. I support the campaigns of the Iranian Teachers' Association and of EI to have his case re-examined through a fair trial that meets Iranian and international standards. I also urge the authorities to immediately commute Farzad Kamangar's death sentence.

According to Mr Kamangar's lawyer, there is no evidence to justify that he has "endangered national security" or is "Mohareb" (at enmity with God). I also deplore that Iranian trade union colleagues and human rights activists who show solidarity with Farzad are being subjected to pervasive intimidation by the Iranian authorities.

The harassment, detention and condemnation of trade unionists because of their legitimate human and trade union activities are not only serious violations of trade union rights, but also create an atmosphere of fear prejudicial to trade union development in Iran.

In addition, I deplore that Mr Kamangar has been tortured while in detention and was denied medical treatment. I urge the Iranian authorities to investigate into the reports of torture and to ensure that, in future, no detainee is tortured or ill-treated.

Looking forward to hearing about your positive intervention in this regard.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Ulrich Thöne', is written in black ink.

Ulrich Thöne
President of GEW
Board Member of Education International