
Isfahan Steel workers stage symbolic hunger strike

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It is reported that workers at the Isfahan Steel Mill Factory have begun a symbolic hunger strike on February 28th 2009 which will continue for two weeks. According to reports from Iran, they will not have the meals served at the factory premises.

The initiative comes in protest to inappropriate working conditions and both open and veiled discriminations against workers. They are also objecting to a wide gap in pay between full time and part time employees in the factory, as well as lack of job security.

Isfahan's Steel Mill Factory has over 10,000 part time and 8,000 full time workers. On December 2nd 2008, some 1,000 workers of the factory had set up a blockade on the main Isfahan to Shahr-e Kurd highway in protests over pay disputes.

In the past couple of months, deprived and angry workers in factories and work shops in various cities across the country have staged protests against lack of job security, unpaid wages and monthly benefits and shortage of minimum necessities for themselves and their families. These workers include employees at the Haft-Tapeh sugar cane mill of Khuzestan, Ahvaz Pipe Mill, spinning and weaving companies of Meh Nakh and Farnakh in Qazvin, Khavar Cotton Mill, Pars battery of Qazvin, Korom Chemical Plant of Sari, Shabestar Textile Company, Lead and Zinc factory of Zanjan, Vegetable Oil of Qou and Kesht-o-San'at of North.

Mr Abbas Davari chair of the Labor Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran condemned that the systematic violation of workers' rights over the past three decades of the mullahs rule, especially the violation of various labor agreements such as those related to wages, the rights to protest and strike and the rights to establish labor organizations independent from the regime, among others. He called on all international human rights organizations and labor syndicates and unions to condemn the mullahs' anti labor policies and support protests by the oppressed Iranian workers, while adopting immediate measures to guarantee respect for the workers' minimum requirements.

(Sourced from ncr-iran.org)

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