

STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN TO FREE IRAN'S POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!

Internationalist greetings for May Day! My name is Bruce Neuberger. I'm glad to be here to convey a most heartfelt message to all of you from The International Emergency Campaign to Free Iran's Political Prisoners Now – the IEC. Larry Everest, a spokesperson for the IEC, could not be here today. Larry is also an author and journalist who contribute to Revolution/revcom.us, reporting for them from Iran in 1979 and 1980. I will read his statement.

Our campaign gives a May Day shout out to all of Iran's courageous political prisoners. We salute the tens of thousands rising up so heroically for their basic rights and humanity in the face of threats, beatings, arrests, even bullets. This includes those in the streets of Iran today – the teachers, bus drivers, refinery workers and many others. It includes the brave people of the small town of Yaasooj in southern Iran, who together freed a teacher and May Day organizer from the clutches of Islamic security goons who tried to prevent May Day from taking place.

The IEC represents the hope of many thousands of people from over 40 countries who have signed our Emergency Appeal to free Iran's political prisoners. This includes Noam Chomsky, Ariel Dorfman, Gloria Steinam, Cornel West, Dan Ellsberg, Nobel Laureates Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams. Sign the Emergency Appeal today, join with us to say **The Lives of Iran's Political Prisoners Hang in the Balance—We Must ACT Now.**

Our campaign was initiated in late 2020 in response to a new and ever more brutal wave of arrests, torture and executions by the Islamic Republic aimed at crushing powerful, just uprisings by ordinary Iranians that rocked the country in recent years. This surge of arbitrary arrests has swept up labor, women's, and human rights activists; dissident intellectuals and artists; protesters and revolutionaries; and members of religious and oppressed minorities. Many have been tortured, held in solitary confinement, and denied legal rights, or even medical aid - as the regime

attempts to force "confessions" and conducts sham "trials," executed, or died in prison due to the Islamic Republic's medical neglect and other cruelties.

I want to call your attention to the case of 65 year old labor activist and member of the Teachers Union Mehran Raoof, a British-Iranian dual citizen arrested in October 2020. He was held in solitary for eight months, not allowed to see his lawyer until the day of his trial, then convicted of "propaganda against the regime" and sentenced to nearly 11 years in prison. Recently Britain obtained the release of 2 other dual nationals, but didn't include Mehran. Over 100 unions and organizations around the world have joined the call for his immediate and unconditional freedom. We hope you will as well.

Our campaign proceeds from the interests of humanity – not those of any government. We here in the U.S. have a special responsibility to oppose any aggression by the US government on Iran, which would bring even more unbearable suffering to the Iranian people. So on this May Day, join with us in demanding: **Islamic Republic: FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!**
U.S government: NO THREATS OR WAR MOVES AGAINST IRAN, LIFT U.S. SANCTIONS!

We call on everyone who stands for justice and yearns for a better world to rally to the cause of freeing Iran's political prisoners NOW. Free Mehran Raouf! Free them All!

Thank you!