



European Parliament, Brussels, 02.02.2010

Round Table Discussion followed by a Press Conference

"Human, Journalists and Trade-Union Rights in Iran. The New State of Emergency"

European Parliament, 60, rue Wiertz / B-1047 Brussels

Round table 14:00 – 15:00 in ASP 5 E 1

Press Conference 15:00 – 15:30 in PHS 0A50 (Anna Politovskaya Room)

Hosted by:

- Barbara Lochbihler, Chair of the European Parliament Iran Delegation – Moderator

In the presence of:

- Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).
- Marietje Schaake, Member of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Culture, Media and Education.
- Jaap Wiene, Deputy General Secretary of the International Trade-Union Confederation (ITUC).
- Emile Franck, Iran Officer Amnesty International (AI) Belgium; **Drewery Dyke**, AI Researcher on Iran.

The June 2009 presidential elections in Iran sparked mass-protests and civil unrest on a scale not seen since the revolution that established the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979. Long-standing patterns of human rights violations, including severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, intensified during the protests, and have continued since. As a result, the many Iranians who dispute the



outcome of the election are living with a heightened fear of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, unfair trial and even execution. The report of Amnesty International is available on: more (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/123/2009>)
Soon after the elections, the government took measures to control media, particularly the Internet and broadcasts of international news channels. The authorities have expelled foreign correspondents from the country and criminal charges were brought against those suspected of collaborating with foreign media. Since the elections, at least 50 journalists have been arrested, including representatives of the Iranian Association of Journalists (AoJ) whose offices have also been sealed on August 5. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is extremely concerned about the physical safety of detained journalists and the ability of those still free to continue their work without undue influence. See details of the IFJ campaign at: more (<http://mena.ifj.org/en/pages/campaigns-mena>)

Considering the broader trade-union community, hundreds of workers have been arrested for supporting the right to organise or participating in legitimate trade union activities or labour gatherings. At least two prominent trade union leaders remain in jail and a teacher is on death row. Genuine trade unions are not recognised by the authorities and anti-union prison sentences passed by the Revolutionary Courts are common practice. See Iran report of ITUC 2009 Survey of violations of Trade Union Rights at: more

(<http://survey09.ituc-csi.org/survey.php?IDContinent=5&IDCountry=IRN&Lang=EN>)

The round table will discuss violations of human, journalists and trade-union rights in Iran, including the prohibition by iranian authorities towards these organisations to carry out their work. This event is jointly organised by the International Federation of Journalists, the International Trade-Union Confederation and Amnesty International. It will be hosted by MEP Barbara Lochbihler, at the European Parliament:

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