

Oberste Justizautorität  
Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei  
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15  
1050 Brüssel

Your Excellency,

Trade unionist and teacher Esmail Abdi has been sentenced to six years in prison. He was first arrested in June 2015 by the Revolutionary Guards and held for 40 days in solitary confinement. Prior to his arrest, intelligence officials from the Revolutionary Guards had summoned him for interrogation a number of times, and had pressured him to resign from his position at the trade union and cancel planned nationwide demonstrations by teachers. During an unfair trial, Esmail Abdi was sentenced to six years in prison in February 2016. The charges solely stem from his trade union activities. His requests for a judicial review of the case were rejected. After serving the six years he will have to serve another formerly suspended ten years' prison sentence.

I would like to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Esmail Abdi as he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association, and to quash his conviction and sentence. Please ensure that he has access to qualified health personnel and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely

Copy:

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