

EXTRACTS FROM WFTU INFORMATION BULLETINS

"Iran - Letter from the trade unionists of Khousistan

The newspapers "Rahbar" and "Zabar" have published reports, emanating from the trade unionists of Khousistan in Southern Iran, of reprisals directed against trade unions. The representatives of the Khousistan trade unions attempted to wire the reports from Abadan, but the telegraph office of Abadan refused to accept their telegram.

According to this letter, three weeks ago throughout Khousistan, large scale arrests and deportations of trade unionists took place as well as dismissals of trade-unionists from the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

On August 12, by order of the Military Governor of Abadan, soldiers dispersed the workers assembled in the trade-union club. On this occasion the Military Governor stated that he would not allow meetings of more than three people even on the club premises. On the other hand meetings of the contractors of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company are in no way hampered.

On August 13 soldiers occupied the premises of the trade union club in Abadan and arrested the secretary of the Abadan trade unions, Murad. On August 14, Nedjafi, the leader of the Khousistan trade unions, was also arrested."

"Telegram from the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis Sallant to Reza Roussta, Secretary of the Central Council of United Trade Unions of Iran

Paris, November 14th, 1946.

The W.F.T.U. sends to the workers and to the Central Committee of the United Trade Unions of Iran greetings and support in the difficult period they are now enduring. The W.F.T.U. solemnly reminds the Iran public authorities and Trade Union organisations of the terms and meaning of the open letter read over Teheran Radio by the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.. We shall state our position in a written declaration to the President of the Government, concerning the attacks which are being made against the rights and liberties of the workers. We advise you not to allow democratic liberties and the independence and liberties of the workers who are members of the W.F.T.U. to be damaged in any way.

Louis Sallant,
General Secretary, W.F.T.U."

"W.F.T.U. Delegation to Iran

The General Secretary of the Federation informed the Executive Bureau that the situation of the trade unions in Iran had undergone a radical change since the Washington session of the Executive Bureau when it was decided to admit the Iranian trade unions to the World Federation of Trade Unions. The existing information on the state of affairs in Iran shows that the reactionaries of that country are waging a relentless offensive of police provocations against the rights of the workers, dissolving free trade unions and arresting and imprisoning workers, and active trade unionists. The moral support given to the Iranian trade unions by the Federation has had no results. The Iranian trade unions insist that a W.F.T.U. Commission be sent to Iran to enquire into the trade union situation in that country.

The Executive Bureau took the following decision: