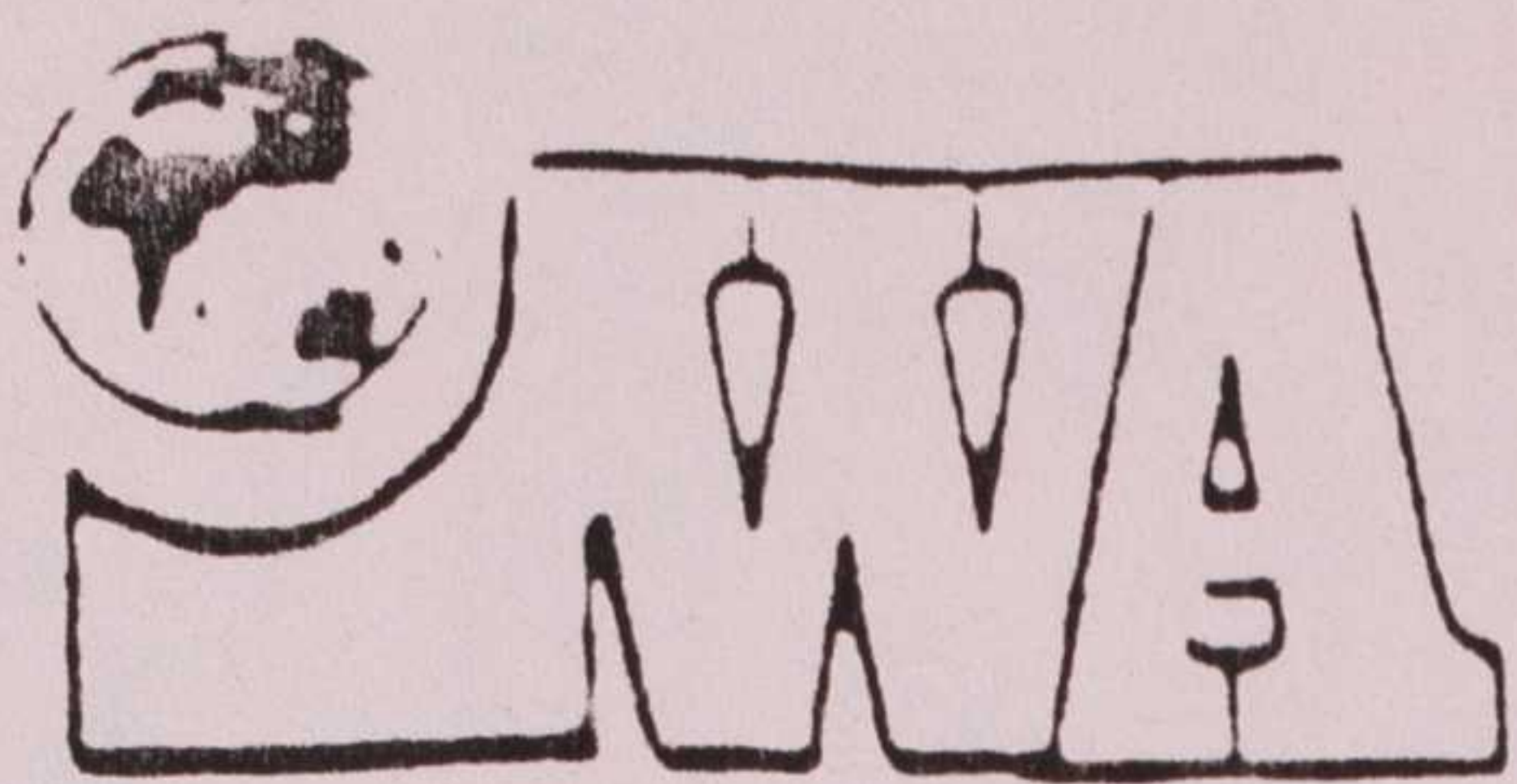




PRESS RELEASE

Workers Solidarity Alliance
U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

IRANIAN WORKERS IMPRISONED AND EXECUTED: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NEEDED

The Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 13 years has continued to violate the rights of workers. The regime of Iran has arrested, tortured and executed hundreds of labor activists. Last year the government passed a Labor Law which treats workers like slaves and does not allow workers the right to strike or to form independent labor organizations and unions. And the regime has continuously suppressed strikes and actions, and most worker activists were arrested or executed for taking part in strikes and other actions to protest their poor living and working conditions.

In April 1990 Jamal Cheragh-Vaissy, a utility worker, was executed. Jamal was a member of the Sanatgar union, this union was subsequently crushed by the State. A short time later, Abdollah Beyvaseh, a bakery worker, was also executed by the regime. These workers were executed only because of their union activities.

Since the summer of 1991, the Iranian government has stepped up its persecution and arrest of worker activists in the city of Sanandaj in western Iran. The latest detainees include two workers, Saeed Saedi and Zahed Manouchehri. Saeed is a welder and he has been an activist in the Sanatgar union. Zahed is a garment worker and has been an activist in the Tailors Union. According to a report in late December 1991, the detained workers are being held incommunicado, with no information being released about their condition.

The lives of these workers are being threatened, and they need international support. Workers' organizations from around the world are being asked to write protest letters to the Islamic Republic of Iran and send them to your local Iranian embassy or consulate*. Resolution of support is also being asked of local and branch unions about the continuing repression of Iranian workers and about the previously mentioned executions and also to demand the release of Saeed Saedi and Zahed Manouchehri.

To the workers of the world, your urgent support and solidarity is needed.

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*Mission of Iran to the United Nations
622 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 687-2020