



## WINNER INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY

### **Syndicate of Workers of Teheran and Suburbs Bus Company (Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed)**

**Iranian trade union leading a courageous struggle for the respect of workers' rights and social justice**

**Nominated by International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) & International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)**

### **Why Syndika Sherkate Vahed?**

The Teheran Bus Workers' Union *Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed* has been chosen as a Silver Rose winner to honour their brave commitment to social justice and work place democracy which leads to improving the lives of fellow workers at the Teheran and Suburbs Bus Company. The courage and dedication this organisation brings to its work, even with the unrelenting repression from the Iranian government and its security forces, is an inspiration to trade unions and many other civil society organisations in Iran and around the world.

### **About**

The Union has been leading a courageous struggle in Iran for the respect of workers' rights and social justice since its formation in 1968. Regardless of ongoing repression and the disbandment of the union by the government after the revolution in Iran in 1979, the *Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed* was re-established in 2005. Throughout that year, the workers' struggle to establish the union met with determined and violent repression from employers, security forces and official labour organisations through vicious attacks and unlawful arrests of workers and their supporters.

Between March and June 2005, seven union members were harassed, interrogated and subsequently fired from their jobs. Any attempts to hold meetings to formally establish the union were violently broken up. At the end of January 2006, mass arrests took place and more than 1,000 people were detained for taking part in a one-day strike action to demand union recognition and the release of their president, Mansour Osanloo. Furthermore, Teheran and Suburbs Bus Company has continued to threaten workers who support the union and engages in systematic anti-union repression.

Despite the detention of their leaders, the *Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed* has undertaken courageous solidarity actions regardless of intimidation by employers and authorities. Their struggle has become an example for other organisations in Iran to stand up for basic human rights for workers, leading towards more democracy in the workplace and direct participation by workers. In turn, this is helping to improve the general social conditions in the country.

The President of the Union, Mansour Osanloo has repeatedly been charged with different offences such as 'disturbance of the public order' and 'illegal trade union activities' and detained in jail. Throughout his detentions he has been denied the right to legal assistance and the right to communicate with his counsels, undergoing severe physical violence and psychological pressure. In 2006 he was released on bail after heavy international pressure through a successful global day of action in his favour, supported by the ITUC, ITF and Amnesty International. However on his return from a visit to Europe in July 2007, Mansour Osanloo was arrested once again and in October 2007 was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for 'endangering national security'.



## WINNER EUROPEAN CATEGORY

### **Globetree**

**Swedish NGO working to promote children's rights and a sustainable future for children**

**Nominated by Margot Wallström**

### **Why Globetree?**

*Globetree* has been chosen as a Silver Rose winner to honour the work that they have done to promote children's rights and also to celebrate the creativity of the organisation in providing children with a space to express their concerns about their future, as well as educating them about the impact that their words and actions can have now.

### **About:**

Founded in 1982 by Prof. Ir. Ben van Bronckhorst and actress Kajsa Dahlström, *Globetree* unites children in caring for the world and supports initiatives at local, national and international level among schools, organisations, and companies. *Globetree* is a meeting place between children and adults in search for the answers to children's questions about the future. The aim of *Globetree* is to develop a future for children and youth which is in harmony with the sustainability of nature, and to provide a space for different artistic expressions enriched by cultural exchange.

In keeping children at the centre of their work, *Globetree* works on a scientific base, using creative expressions, such as theatre, drama and art, as the key tool to mobilise and support children and their teachers in efforts to improve their lives and living environment. The idea is that adults have to learn to see how social and physical environments influence children's behaviour; acknowledging that children included in this environment will naturally join in with decision-making processes, whilst children left outside often become a risk to themselves and others. Therefore it is important to create this meeting space where children can join in with the planning and managing of their own environment and where their views and thoughts are listened to and respected.

The work of the organisation is focused around three UN resolutions - The Rights of the Child, Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals - which directly concern the situation of children worldwide. *Globetree* was given a special consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council in 1999 which has given the NGO a mutually benefiting relationship with the UN ever since.

*Globetree* has several international achievements and has hosted their representations in countries all over the world with the aim of bringing people together and developing a group vision of the future with the participation of children from all horizons. Their latest project was the World Championship in Cooperation hosted in Kampala, Uganda in June 2008 which intended to facilitate dialogue in a cooperative rather than competitive spirit by allowing the youth to formulate and propose solutions to issues impacting them for action and implementation-commitments from the adult stakeholders.