

Gewerkschaft PRO-GE

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Union of Metalworkers and Mechanics of Iran (UMMI)
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In solidarity with oil and gas workers and their strike

Dear sisters and brothers, dear comrades,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of the Austrian Production Workers' Union to express our full support and solidarity with the members of the Union of Metalworkers and Mechanics in Iran (UMMI), as well as with all the workers at oil and gas projects and petrochemical plants, who have gone on strike in South Pars, in Tehran, and across Iran, involving at least 72 companies, as part of the coordinated action called Strike Campaign 1400.

PRO-GE union condemns in the strongest possible terms the firing of 700 workers, who were fired for joining the petrochemicals strike. We demand that they be immediately reinstated.

Furthermore, PRO-GE supports your call to the government for wage increases, including a set of wage demands for each employment category, adequate social security and better living conditions. Workers are willing to return to work if employers meet their demands.

Workers are employed by subcontracting companies, which provide labour for development projects in the oil and gas fields. Contractors routinely underpay social security contributions by misclassifying workers, which affects their pensions, unemployment and sickness cover. This situation is unacceptable, and in blatant violation of international core labour standards.

Please be assured that the Austrian Production Workers, who also represent members in the oil processing sector, stand behind you in your struggle and will alert the public in Austria to support you and exert political pressure.

In solidarity,

Rainer Wimmer
President PRO-GE

Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund – Die Produktionsgewerkschaft PRO-GE

Die Gewerkschaft für Produktion-Technik-Dienstleistung in Industrie und Gewerbe der Branchen Metall, Bergbau, Energieversorgung, Chemie, Papier, Glas, Mineralöl, Textil, Bekleidung, Leder, Nahrung, Genuss, Arbeitskräfteüberlassung, Abfall- und Abwasserwirtschaft sowie in der Land- und Forstwirtschaft und in verwandten Betrieben.