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Bildungsinternationale

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His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection,
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Email: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir

Brussels, 12 January 2012

Re: Request to Halt the Execution of Amir Hekmati

Excellency,

Education International (EI), the global union federation representing over 30 million teachers and education workers in 173 countries, expresses its deep concern about the death sentence imposed on Amir Hekmati earlier this week. Amir Hekmati, whose parents are school teachers and members of the National Education Association – a member organization of Education International -, was arrested in August 2011, while visiting his ailing Iranian grandmother. He has been held in detention without access to his family and consular assistance, in violation of international law. Furthermore, he was made to participate in a televised "confession" before his trial in December, which prejudiced even further his right to a fair trial.

We are of the opinion that an unjust and unfair trial led to the conviction and sentencing of Amir Hekmati to death. Furthermore, Education International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and the ultimate violation of the right to life.

EI strongly urges you to re-examine the case of Amir Hekmati and, at a minimum, provide him with the opportunity of a fair trial in compliance with judicial international standards. In the meanwhile EI asks that, as a matter of urgency, you halt Amir Hekmati's execution. We are confident that the Iranian authorities would not wish to take the risk of executing an innocent person.

Sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary