

# *Against the Current*

*Organisation of fedaian(Minority) -  
Abroad Committe*

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## ? Economic Consequences of Khatami's Election

It was a short time before presidential elections when the World Bank announced it had agreed to a loan of 700 million Dollars to the Islamic republic. A few days later it was reported in news that Deutsche Bank of Germany was lending a 700 million Dollars loan to Iran on behalf of 20 European banks. Later it was announced that a group of World Bank experts would come to Iran after the elections. During the heat of presidential elections publicity deals were struck behind closed doors. When it was clear that Khatami would be elected for a second term as president and the "reformers" were keen pushing to persuade the people to participate in the elections and to increase the votes and therefore increase Khatami's percentage of the votes, "in the area of economic problems" decisions were being made fast. During a short time, the Central Bank of Iran agreed to two financial institutes becoming private banks as a prelude to privatisation of banks. The managing director of "Privatisation Organisation", formed to facilitate transfer of government institutions to the private sector, announced that more than a thousand state institutions and 734 thousand state companies are ready to be handed over to the private sector. He said they would be put to tender, 86 companies would be dissolved and 217 remain under government control. It was also announced that about half of foreign exchange surplus earned from selling oil, about 3,000 million Dollars, would be given to the private sector in the form of foreign exchange facility to create a motion in the sector. During the elections, the Islamic Council Parliament too ratified a number of proposals to remove legal obstacles on the way of "freeing economics". Other than the proposal for "encouraging and supporting foreign investment"- which was ratified in the parliament, referred to the Guardian Council and was returned to the parliament for amendments- the proposal to establish private insurance was also ratified. Also the proposal to remove subsidy from commodities was ratified in the first sitting. There is a bill to reduce and or exempt capitalists from taxation in queue to be put on the agenda of the parliament in the near future. Those running the Islamic republic say the regime has no more than 4 years - as long as Khatami's second term as president- to implement all the conditions determined by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and like other countries around it ease the circulation of international capital and be accepted to the membership of the World Trade Organisation. For that purpose all government subsidies on commodities must be removed and the budget deficit should reach zero. All custom obstacles for importing commodities must be removed and legal restrictions for importing capital deleted. All laws protecting internal production must be repealed; health and treatment must be transferred to private sector. All labour laws and regulations must be adjusted such that they would not create restrictions on hours of work, determination of wages and dismissals. Therefore production establishments must be organised such that they would have the ability to compete across the world. The economy minister of the regime formulated all that needs to be done in that respect in two to three sentences. He said: "Iranian industrialists must grasp the message of those responsible that joining the World Trade Organisation is imminent and from now must think of making themselves ready for world competition. Finished cost and quality must have the ability to compete internally and abroad. Our companies marketing ability must be increased. The structure of our humane and financial resources of units must be improved.... In this period industries that have old machines and unsuitable financial and human structures, those seeking support and ones with problems must cure themselves". According to the estimates of the regime's economic experts, implementation of these policies for a transitional period of several years would result in an inflation of 400 percent. In most optimistic conditions it could

be estimated as 200 percent. According to this programme, about 2 million of the "surplus" workforce must be removed from state machinery, industries and companies, and as a result of removing any kind of subsidies about 40 percent of country's industries would close down. They say these difficulties must be endeavoured so after a period, economic situation improve, employment created and inflation brought under control. Economic liberalisation that is placed on the government agenda aggressively is in fact the continuation of the very same policy that under the title of economic "adjustment" was placed on the agenda at the end of Iran and Iraq war and presidency of Rafsanjani. In those years tens of thousands of workers lost their jobs. Factories transferred to the private sector and also state factories that did not have the ability to compete with foreign products were bankrupted one after the other. In mid second presidency term of Rafsanjani, fall of the value of Rial and increase of rate of inflation to 50 percent got to a point that with direct order of Rafsanjani, the policy of "adjustment" was temporarily put on hold and "stabilisation of the price of exchange", creation of restrictions on imported commodities and re-establishment of some subsidies were put on the agenda. It was during the presidency of Khatami, particularly in its second half, that the government was able to pursue the policy of "adjustment". The third economic plan that was ratified within the same framework and as a complimentary to measures ratified during Rafsanjani's presidency, despite the agreement of the heads of the state for its implementation, due to objective obstacles that from the point of view of politics and society were on its way, were not able to be implemented according to the pre-determined time table. The greatest obstacle to the implementation of the policy of "liberalisation", as implemented in the surrounding countries, is the Islamic government. The implementation of these programmes that its core is leaving the hands of private internal and foreign capital totally open, in the first place is the existence of security and necessary conditions for circulation of capital.

The Islamic republic has not been able to facilitate these conditions yet. Despite attracting foreign capital and leaving the hands of the internal private capital being the official policy of the government, at least since Rafsanjani's period, but still the foreign capital is not prepared to engage except in some fields and particularly searching for oil and gas, and the internal capital would not engage in production since huge obtainable profits in the short term are in commerce and brokering.

Another pre-requisite to implementation of this policy is down sizing the body of government and reduction of state apparatus expenses. The Islamic republic due to its reactionary and religious character enlarges the government apparatus- without the redundant and superfluities related to the religious character of the government it still is a parasite to the body of society. This government wants to supervise all the aspects of social and private lives of people. That work requires its particular instruments and organs. Therefore, it continuously adds to the length and breadth of investigation, "supervision", spying and oppression apparatus. Since the end of Iran and Iraq war, there is always the talk of limiting the Basij (mobilisation) mercenary force. Now with spread of unemployment and increase in mass protests and as a consequence the need for oppression forces, there is talk of increasing the Basij force to 10 million in the next year or two. Every day a new patrol is added to the patrols designed to harass people and special police patrols. The government bureaucracy too is the same. It is some time since there is talk of the necessity to lighten the body of government, but its weight is increasing. Last week the Islamic council parliament, in the same session that it ratified the subsidies bill to reduce government expenses, ratified another bill

that formulates special benefits for the "martyrs children". The bill adds to hundreds of other laws and proposals that makes offices, factories, universities and other establishments guarantee a percentage of their intake from families of those killed and disabled during the reactionary war and released prisoners of war and so on. Therefore the Islamic state can not reduce forces of oppression and their expenses, on the contrary due to its parasitic, interfering and oppressive nature, it continually expands that apparatus; and as a result the more it puts pressure on the living standard of workers and toilers the more expenses of bureaucracy and oppression apparatus increase. The other important factor frustrating this policy in Iran, is the dependence of economy on oil income. The government controls oil exports and therefore the earned exchange from that is under its control. For that reason it plays a determining role in economy. Government can influence the economic activity in the society by how it allocates earned exchange from sale of oil to various sections of economy. The greater part of the income of the government is from sale of oil. The price of oil and as a result the government income from sale, is subject to the world market. Any fluctuation in the price of oil compellingly throws off government's income calculations. Nearly always, printing money without bullion is government's solution for dealing with budget deficit generally and budget deficit due to reduction in oil income in particular. Its direct result is increase in inflation.

It is said, handing government establishments to private sector, in addition to resulting in those establishments under private supervision being managed better and more economically, would generate huge income for the government that can be spent on government expenses in other sectors. The experience of transferring government establishments to private sector in the past 12 years has shown the government did not earn anything from transferring them. Technocrats who have relied on the huge income from oil and exchange resources of the country and got fat, either take over these units themselves or sell them for the least price to their relatives and friends. In arguments between factions, one of the cases of exposure against Rafsanjani was that during his presidency some of government establishments were transferred to his relatives and friends for as little as 20 percent of their real value. "Transferred establishments becoming more efficient" too does not need much argument. Textile factories that have been privatised during past years can be a sample. Regime's officials admit, in many cases the private capitalist in order to rid himself of the workers of the factory, has preferred to export the foreign exchange that he has received to re-establish production out of the country and by selling the factory's machinery, release and use the site for construction of apartments and tower blocks. Here we must refer to a point in relation to the Iranian economy, certain institutes that neither government nor another organ control and supervise. Those sitting on these institutes are not accountable to anyone. Therefore a general policy cannot include them. It is said that the Institute of the Weak alone controls 20 to 30 percent of the gross national product in Iran. 15th Khordud Institute, Martyrs Institute, and other similar institutes own hundreds of factories, large agricultural establishments, commercial and financial establishments and each, like an autonomous government, work to their own particular regulations and relations.

The policy of "economic liberalisation" has been implemented in tens of countries and has resulted in catastrophic consequences for workers and toilers. Widespread unemployment, price increases, reduction in the level of health and treatment are its immediate results. Although in some countries after a period, it has resulted in temporary economic growth and creation of relative employment, in Iran to the very

limits that this policy was implemented during Rafsanjani's presidency, the masses of people saw its tragic consequences. Now after 12 years, in the second term of Khatami's presidency, there is talk of 400 percent inflation in future years and the "surplus" workforce of 2 million in state sector increasing. And probably to the same extent factories that would be transferred to private sector or are closed down and the army of the unemployed. Under current conditions, before implementation of what has been ratified in the parliament over the past two to three weeks, the number of unemployed in Iran is estimated to be 40 percent of the active workforce in the country. Every year more than half a million young workforce enter the labour market. If several million are to lose their jobs too, it can be called with no other name than disaster. According to official government statistics about 40 percent of Iranian people live in absolute poverty. By removing subsidies and 400 percent inflation how many million Iranian people would be denied their livelihood? In any case, in order to prolong its life, the Islamic republic has no other way than implementing these policies. It will implement these policies with a pace that the political and social conditions allow. The result for the camp of labour in Iran is nothing other than disaster. But despite imposition of these disastrous conditions on workers and toilers, due to the reasons counted above, with the existence of Islamic state, and within the framework of capitalism, it is improbable that economic problems of Iran would have a solution in the medium or even short term. They would not leave the government alone for a moment. Iranian economy does not accept the capitalist solution it requires fundamental and revolutionary developments.

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## REVOLUTION IS A NECESSITY AND UPRISING IS AN UNREMOVABLE PEOPLES' RIGHT

The Iranian society is pregnant for a revolutionary explosion. Today every one in one way or the other utters this truth. When even the most ardent opponents of revolution too in every written piece, statement, speech, interview and round table from every direction reproach revolution, it is an indication of the reality that the problem of revolution has become the day's threatening problem for the regime and its wings. If it were other than that, there would be no need to reproach revolution so much and speak of the advantages of reforms. There would be no need to express so much anxiety about an explosion, there would be no need to advise and tell people to be patient and wait.

Look at regime's papers, statements, press interviews, speeches, look at the speeches of MPs, heads of executive and judicial organs, commanders of the armed forces, the bosses of large and small organs of the state from both wings and even the bourgeois opposition of the regime, even the most liberal of them; all are worried about explosion. All shout their fear of revolution and throw all their hate at revolution. The ruling group and its wings aside, look at the National Front that after a long time issues a statement that apparently condemns oppression, but in reality it is a statement of fear of revolutionary movements. The statement warns the regime that: "We are worried that a part of numerous forces of country's youth, particularly students, would run out of patience and resort to reactions that would not have good future for the country". They advise people that actions similar to the student action of 1999 should not be repeated; instead "wise and patient" action should be taken. The

wing claiming "reforms" repeatedly warns people that there is no way other than putting their hopes on Khatami and "reforms" from the regime. Mr Abdi, a former Hezbollahi and today's "reformer" constantly theorises that people should drive the dream of revolution out of their heads. He claims: "historical experience of the people has shown that we must advance on the road of reform, because revolutionary changes have not solved our problems in the last hundred years". Now that the experience of last 4 years alone has also exposed the falsehood of such claims, his reply is: "if that way could have had results in the last 4 years, our predecessors would have done that". Presumably he means that those so-called reforms might take 400 years. Was it not Hajarian who said the same thing some time ago? The boss boys of the regime abroad, those who once before united with the counter-revolution against revolution and the masses of Iranian people, now too in various ways express their horror of a revolution taking place. The falsehood of Khatami's promises has been exposed so well that even the wing supporting him does not dare talk about his gains. But their boss boys go all the way and claim in the four years that Khatami has been at the helm "the Iranian society has gone through such huge transformations in the political thought and culture that is unprecedented in the last hundred years". Therefore, no surprise, they want the people to go to the ballot box unconditionally and support Khatami again. These low life boss boys of the bourgeoisie have gone as far as considering the supporters of freedom and socialism who take the slogan of boycotting election among people " Accomplices of the Power Mafia". They show their horror of inevitable revolution in that manner. These reactionaries know well boycott is declaration of open war on the regime. The mass of people that consciously boycott the elections of a regime have no other way in front of them other than uprising and revolution. The worries of all those groups inside and outside the regimes emanate from that. They know well that Khamenhi's wing and his outfit are so disgraced among people and have no support among even the backward and ignorant section of people. They had put their hope on Khatami to save the regime. But Khatami's defeat and exposure of his hallow promises disgraced and discredited this wing among the groups of people that had illusions about him. Of course right from the beginning a large section of people knew from the "reforms" whose leader and designer was the former minister of censor and investigation of the Islamic state and its main heads were guards, basijis, hezbollahi, torturing investigators of the intelligence ministry, jailors and executioners of the courts of Islamic counter-revolution, nothing but filth and reaction would emanate. But that section of young and inexperienced forces of the society that lacked political awareness had to go through that experience. Now the very huge majority of society have realised in action and experience that they have no other way in front of them other than revolution and overthrow of the regime. The panic among reaction is caused by the fear of this revolution. They constantly reproach revolution and speak of its harmfulness. A large section of the bourgeoisie at the same time of standing against revolution in words and actions like the entire ruling class, in spite of its defeat, still speak of "reforms" from above. There are two reasons for that. First they have no option other than putting their own alternative against revolution. Second- some sections of the Iranian bourgeoisie benefit from some reforms and those reforms are in tune with their interests in terms of economics and politics, and under some conditions they can consolidate their dominance for a while. But revolution is in contradiction with the interests of the whole of the ruling class and not in line with the interests of any section of the ruling class. Because this revolution that its driving force is workers and toilers wants to drag down all of them from the so-called conservatives to reformists and overthrow them. Obviously such a revolution must create horror in their hearts. Obviously they stand against it in words and action, they reproach

revolution and they resist it with cannons, tanks and armed forces to save their existence. But neither oppression nor propaganda against revolution can prevent the occurrence of a phenomenon, which has deep social roots. Revolution is not born from thought, imagination and will of individuals in society. Neither can anyone issue the command for revolution nor with oppression, orders, lessons, advice and counter-revolutionary propaganda issue commands to stop revolution. Throughout human history revolution has been an inseparable part of social and historical development. If leaps, revolution and transformations of social-economic structures did not occur the humanity would not have been at the current point in its historical development. If political revolutions had not opened the way for social revolutions, the history of development of humanity would have at least encountered a several centuries of delay. Have huge transformations of social-economic structures through the human history not shown the reality of social revolutions and where ever realisation of social revolutions have encountered the obstacle of resistance of ruling classes and institutions and organs guarding their interests, has political revolution not accelerated the process of social revolution? Emergence of the capitalist system has demonstrated this reality in its most blatant form. Capitalist relations were formed and developed in the womb of feudal system. The resistance of the ruling feudal class and medieval institutions and organs confronted the development that had to transform all the foundations of the old society. All economic and social and political relations had to be transformed by breaking those obstacles. That job was only possible through political revolution. Hence a series of political revolutions took place all over Europe in Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries. Looking at the most advanced capitalist countries of today, from England to USA, from Germany and Austria to France, Holland, Belgium and Italy all went through those revolutions to get to where they are now. Even in some countries like France not one but several social revolutions took place. Workers revolutions in the second half of the Nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries too, despite their defeat, showed the same reality. With a difference that here political revolution was the prerequisite to social revolution.

Revolutions arise from a necessity and no reaction, curse and warning can prevent them. If they are crushed in one place, once again, they rise with a greater power. If reaction delayed their occurrence with suppression and massacre they would occur with greater destructive force. In Iran too it is the same. As the Constitutional revolution was killed off by reactions strikes, the revolution of the second half of the Twentieth century occurred with greater force and more wide spread destructive force. This revolution too, due to lack of organisation and awareness of the working class and masses of toilers, was killed off by the ruling class and religious reaction that had organised its suppression force from among tramps and classless elements and the most backward and unaware layers of society. Of course the present reformers are a section of those tramps organised to suppress the revolution. But right now all see that this revolution once again with a more formidable force is emerging. Why? Because the Iranian society has a series of needs that must be realised. Suppression of revolutions and revolutionary movements has not eliminated these social needs. On the contrary resistance of reaction against them has increased the necessity for their realisation. Non-realisation of these needs has continually made the social contradictions more acute and has made revolution more necessary than ever. The necessity for revolution in Iran is not only for settling accounts with medieval institution and organs and realisation of bourgeois-democratic demands. Although in Iran even purifying the society of the filth of medieval garbage, including the clerical apparatus, itself needs a revolution and a radical and root penetrating settlement with

that filth, but this revolution arises from also other needs that the obstacle to their realisation is the very capitalist class and the existing capitalist relations of production. These two are tied together. One of the reasons for the defeat of the so-called reformist wing of the bourgeoisie is this. Revolution in Iran must realise those demands that no reformist is capable of. Considering the totality of social contradictions and needs, the Islamic republic and the Iranian bourgeoisie cannot do anything other than resisting the needs and demands of the masses of people. Smashing this resistance of reaction that uses suppression and punishment forces is not possible other than with revolution. And such revolution is not possible unless the mass of people resorts to arms and breaks the resistance of reaction with armed uprising and sweeps it away. The bourgeoisie and its agents daily advertise that revolution is bad and has a heavy cost for the people. They say people resorting to arms are violence and not civilised. They put all these verbiage one after the other so they could save their tyrannical rule for a few more days and keep the masses of people under their control. The price that people pay for a revolution is in no way comparable to what they have paid and are paying under the rule of Islamic republic. The Islamic republic has massacred tens of thousands of Iranian people through its life. Daily it is torturing the Iranian people to death with poverty, unemployment, promotion of drug addiction, and unbearable social and political pressures. Against all these crimes and tragedies committed by the Islamic republic the price Iranian people will pay for revolution does not count at all. The other point, contrary to the claims of the bourgeoisie and its agents, the mass of people resorting to revolutionary violence and armed uprising against a reactionary regime that is bent on ruling people with bullying and suppression, is their absolute right and shows that the people have reached that level of civilisation, culture, advancement and awareness of their rights that they would not allow the oppressors to rule them. Uprising against the regime that does not heed the will and wish of people, has removed people's rights, committed horrific crimes and wants to maintain its power with bullying, is the indisputable and non-removable right of the masses of people. Even the world bourgeoisie, when it was still a progressive force, not only defended this right and used it, in some cases recognised the right to uprising against the oppressors in its constitution. When a regime wants to impose its will on people with armed forces, guns, canons, tanks and machine-guns, when a regime wants to break the will of people with violence and prevent social and historical developments, there is no way other than breaking that counter-revolutionary violence with revolutionary violence. The masses of Iranian people themselves know better than anyone that 23 years ago they were able to overthrow the Shah's royal regime with resorting to revolutionary violence and armed uprising. Therefore resorting to arms, exerting revolutionary violence against reactionaries and armed uprising will be inseparable part of revolution. Let all reactionaries, from whatever variety; shiver hearing the sound of uprising and revolution. Violent revolution is an inescapable necessity for overthrowing the Islamic republic. Only that revolution and workers and toilers taking all the power can rescue the Iranian people.

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**THE REGIME GOT NOTHING OUT OF THE  
ELECTION MILLIONS OF IRANIAN PEOPLE DID  
NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION**



Millions of most aware Iranian people ignored to participate in puppet show arranged by the ruling reactionaries, even though the Islamic regime and Persian Radios in Iran and abroad tried their best propaganda to encourage people to participate in the election. But still, they talk about unbelievable and wonderful scene of Iranian people attending the polls and congratulate each other. They try to make up their faces to happy faces. It is enough to say about "unbelievable and wonderful scene" that even though the number of eligible voters has increased to more than 6 millions since the last election but the number of participants did not reach to the last time's number according to the official announcement, this is while the official announcements always increase the numbers by millions in fake. According to the statistics published by the regime on number of participants for the last election, 29 millions and 145 thousands of total 36,5 millions eligible voters participated in the election, with another word the rate of participation was 88%. This year, according the statistics published by the regime, there are 43 millions and 600 thousands eligible voters, of them, according to Ministry of Internal Affairs, only 28 millions voted, that is 65%. Of this, 500 thousands of votes declared as blank votes. Thus it is obvious that even according to the official numbers, the rate of participants was lower than the last election, but the leaders of the regime and media in Iran and abroad talking about "unbelievable and wonderful scene". The percent has reduced from 88 to 65% and according to the regime it self, 14,5 millions have ignored to vote in a pre-decided election. This is while the regime with all its propaganda machinery, tried by all means to force people to participate, radio, television and newspapers started bombarding, the leaders and fractions of the regime invited all people to participate, clergy organs became very active, famous mullahs one after another issued Fatva, statistic centres, IRNA and ISNA published faked survey results and prognoses for participation of 85 to 90%, Persian Radios in Abroad such as BBC, Voice of America, Free Europe, France, and Germany increased some additional hours to their sending times and tried their best propaganda to encourage people to participate.

All these while the opposition's political organisations had a very poor means to get people to hear. Thus not participating of 35% of eligible voters who did not fear of consequences of not participating, did not paid any attention to Fatva, did not listen to reactionary propaganda and could not be fooled, is politically very important issue. Even though if we believe that 65% participated, this has no political value. Generally, in a country which has political freedom, even if a large percent of voters of any reason do not participate in an election, the number of votes to different parties can show which are behind and supporting these parties. But in Iran, it is otherwise. You can not make any political conclusion from participation in favour of the regime and its so-called parties. Because in this election, most of those who voted are against the regime. But they prefer to choose between bad and worse as long as they do not see that the regime is going to be overthrown. Another large group of participants is youngsters between the age of 15 and 16 who have no specific political attitude and in number is some millions but is potential force against the regime. It is enough that they graduate from high school to be active against the regime. Another group is those who are afraid that some thing may happen to them, they may lose their job, or in future they may not be eligible to university studies. All of these groups make the majority of participants in the election. They are not either supporters of the regime or believing in the regime's fractions and parties. When four years ago, Khatami come to power, a large group of people really believed him. But now, there is no believer and if there is it is of a very small group. Thus it is obvious that the rate of 65% is nothing of importance and has no political effect on balancing political situation, spread of

disgrace and protest and development of people's revolutionary struggle. Even during the last mandate period that according to the regime 88% participated in the election and there were many believers to Khatami, people's struggles spread behind the legal boundaries. Workers, poor, students, women and youths movements developed day by day and political crises deepened more and more. At present the development in political changes heading the same way and in a faster tempo. Especially now that the true nature of so called reformists are disclosed and Mr. Khatami and his supporters have nothing else than execute the policy of the rival fraction. When Khatami claimed, while standing by the poll, that every vote is a vote to the Islamic Republic and its constitution, he tricked the dead shot to the rival fraction. Now it is time the people masses trick a dead shot to the Islamic Republic.

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## PROTEST MOVEMENT OF ZARAND RESIDENTS, ANOTHER UPRAISE AGAINST THE REGIME

In continuation to masses' protest movements, on September 15th, Zarand City viewed its angry residents demonstration. After that police forces shouted at two passengers of a vehicle that one duly killed and the other injured, people marched towards the local police station in protest against such barbaric action. They demonstrated in front of the police station. This time the police forces opened fire at people, by which at least one killed and several injured. This action caused more rage among people. They set fire on police vehicles and marched towards government offices and buildings. While marching, the number of demonstrators increased, on their way they attacked banks and crushed all windows and then attacked General governor Office and the Justice Hours. Demonstration and confrontation with police forces lasted until late night, and in addition to at least two dead, tens of demonstrators injured and the number of arrested is unknown.

Protest action by Zarand residents is the latest example of masses' protest action in different cities of Iran in which hundreds and thousands participate, attack suppressive government buildings and slogan against the regime's leaders. Zarand residents' demonstration and similar protest actions are out come of masses' upriase who are facing economy crises, social difficulties, strangulation and suppression, and are ready to explore any minute. Economy crises and increase of unemployed in number have pushed hard working masses to the extreme degree of poverty and miser. According to the official statistics and norms, households with less than 132 thousands of Toomans incomes in city and 83,5 thousands in villages are under Poverty Threshold. A comparison of these numbers with the rate of income in Iran shows that most of Iranian are poor. Beside, millions of unemployed and individuals with "free occupation", there are majority of workers, clerks, teachers and ... who have lesser income per month that the norm. That is why, it is not strange that millions of children are suffering from hunger, lack of minimum garments on, health care, education and more than half of all child diseases are caused by starvation. This horrible economy poverty, along with social miser, lack of social and individual freedom and an open suppression have put the masses into a trap. When such unbearable economic- social and political situation being forced to the people and at the same time, they are witnessing that their poverty, unemployment and lack of any rights pay off the small minority of society's enjoyable life and when they are witnessing that the regime's

high leadership along with his relatives, heads of Judicial organ, heads of Executive organ, members of Majles, suppressive forces, bureaucrats executives and supporters of the regime in lower levels are just thinking to get more and more and are enjoying them selves, then all these causes that people just need a match to set fire on their rage. One day, the issue of closing Salam newspaper causes demonstration and protests lasting days by university students and masses in different cities with slogan against the regime's leader, another day the issue of lack of drinking water causes anti- regime demonstration of hard working people of Shatarak Town. In cities of Mashhad, Esfehan, Abadan, Lamard, Iran Shahr, Tehran, Sanandadj and ..., a tickle is enough to make a serial of movements against the regime. Even though the cause for all these mass movement is different but they act in the same way; attacking the suppressive organs, crushing bank windows and marching towards government offices such as General governor, governor and Judicial House.

The recent mass protests are products of gathered economic-social and political demands of hard working people in order to improve their living conditions against the current system and ruling regime. These movements have such character, they are unconnected to each other and they are not rapid. Each time, some other place, they start from the beginning and there is a lack of leadership and are not organised. Different types of participants, lack of organisation and lack of leadership, equip them with a character of being spontaneous and unconnected. But as a whole, the number of protests increases all the time and they become tighter to each other. Attacking the suppressive organs, financial institutions, banks by the participants in protests show that the masses are well aware of who are their enemies. These unconnected, separated actions are just a preparation to the protest movement of toilers and hard working masses which will be connected to the working class movement in order to finalise it's struggle against the strangulators and exploiters.

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## RELIGION SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM STATE

The Islamic Republic has taken away any freedom and democracy to Iranian people masses by combining openly religion and state and by establishing a religious regime. It has also proved once again that a religious state is enemy to freedom and democracy. Thus a condition for establishing any freedom and democracy is to separate state from religion and do reject any religious state.

The Organisation of Fedaian (Minority) which is a most determined defender of political freedoms and democratic rights of Iranian people, defend a complete and all-dimensional separation of religion from state.

The Organisation of Fedaian (Minority) believes:

Religion and beliefs should be considered as a private issue and state should release it self from any involvement with religion.

Any privilege to a specific religion or a religion to be considered as official should be abolished.

State should not take any consideration upon any religion or belief and it should be prohibited that any state allowance or subsidiary goes to religious organs.

Citizens' religion or belief should not mention in any of official documents and identity.

Any member of society should be allowed and is entitled to have a religion or not, to join a religion or leave one.

Schools and educational institutions should be absolutely non-religious. Teaching religion and exercising any religious ceremony should be prohibited in schools.

Religion and clergy organs should not have the right to interfere with schools and educational programmes.

## **THE ORGANISATION OF FEDAIAN (MINORITY)**

### **WORK - BREAD - FREEDOM- SOVIET STATE**

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## **News from Iran**

### **THREE- DAYS STRIKE OF AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY**

After hearing about shut down of the factory and against not-payment of wages, the workers engaged in Lourestan Agriculture & Industry organised a strike. Due to this protest action, the Commission for Labour and Social Affairs of Lourestan Province held a meeting and sent a representative to the workers. The representative assure workers that there will be no shut down and promised them to consider the worker's demand of payment. In addition, the workers also demanded payments related to the Bill for Category of occupations, stop all the administrative orders and stop over-done dismissals.

### **SHADAN POUR WORKERS' PROTEST AGAINST SHUT DOWN OF THE FACTORY**

On September 16th, the management of Shadan Pour Company announced shut down of the factory. This is while the directors promised the workers to solve their problems. some months ago, when Shadan Pour workers together with Jamco workers organised a protest action in front of Majles, the head of Majles gave mission to a commission to consider the workers' demands and promised the workers that two months after the commission start, all their demands will be fulfilled. Now 4 months are passed and instead of payments, the management closing the factory. The workers are seriously against the shut down and threatened that if their problems do not being considered, they will again organise protest actions.

### **STRIKE BY WEAVING WORKERS**

On September 22th, 700 workers of Western Weaving factory in Kermanshah organised a strike against not payment of their wages and subsidiaries. They gathered at the factory and demanded payment of last year's New Year bonus as well.

### **WORKERS' PROTEST AGAINST SHUT DOWN OF FACTORY**

Meysam production unit in Kermanshah province officially closed on September 16th and the management stopped workers to enter the factory. That is why 35 workers of this factory facing an uncertain future. The workers have contacted the Labour Head Office and demanded consideration of their problem.

### **PROTEST LETTER BY PARVIN WORKERS**

Workers of Parvin factory in city of Esfahan, in a following up of their protests, wrote a protest letter in which they demanded payment of their retroactive wages and subsidiaries and work guarantee. 628 workers in this factory have not received any payment for the last two months.

### **DAROUGAR WORKERS GATHERING IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & MINES**

On July 17. tens of the workers engaged in Darougar Company (Private Limited Kaf) gathered in front of the Office for Trade, Industry & Mines while the office at the same time held its annual General Assembly. Among other issues, the workers protested against the management policy conducted by the office due which, around 60 workers with years of work experience have lost their jobs. The management of Darougar Company dismisses workers who are permanent employment, in order to employ new workers on periodical employment bases so that the workers will not have any rights and privileges and thus they will not protest dully.

### **GATHERINGS AND PROTEST OF WAVING WORKERS ENGAGED IN COMPANIES IN ISFAHAN CITY**

During the first two weeks of August, hundreds of workers engaged in Bafnaz, Parvin, Rahim Zadeh, had organised a serial of protest actions in streets of Isfahan City.

On July 28., from 8 A.M., the workers of Bafnaz gathered in Chahar Bagh Street and by blocking both sides of the street, stopped all traffic and started to talk to people why they are doing this. In the mean while, 300 workers of Parvin gathered in front of the Labour Office and demonstrated. Since one and half months ago, Parvin Company has been closed and all the workers are unemployed. In the same day, the workers of Rahim Zadeh gathered in front of the company building.

On July 31., once again, Rahim Zadeh workers, which were almost 750, gathered from 8 A.M. in Khomeini Street and stopped the traffic.

The problems workers are facing in city of Isfahan is similar to the problems in other factories round Iran, namely, not payment of wages and subsidiaries, risk for dismissals, problems of being unemployed, force measurements taken by management and workers disagreement with the privatising.

## **DISMISSAL OF YAZ BAF WORKERS**

The workers of Yaz Waving Company, like other workers in other cities, are facing a serious problem, namely, being dismissed in groups. The newspapers belong to the regime reported, 869 workers of Yaz Baf factories have lost their jobs and from month of August they will be received unemployment fees. It is worth to mention that the unemployed fee, the newspapers are referring to, is very small amount that pays to some workers under a limited short period. All these just in order to get ride of their protests.

Now, the risk of being dismissed put a larger group of waving workers in danger. In province of Yaz, there are 433 waving production units with 23 thousands workers.

## **PROTEST OF PEOPLE IN FARDIS AGAINST WATER SHORTAGE AND CUTS**

More than thousands of residents in Fardis of Karadj City blocked the road connecting Karadj to Malared for some hours on July 27., in protest against rationing and lack of water. Even police involvement could not stop the residents from the action. The residents said that it is four months now that they are suffering from rapid water cuts and shortage but no measure has taken by the government officials.

## **PROTESTS OF TEHRAN RESIDENTS AGAINST BARBARISM OF THE ISLAMIC REGIME**

During the last weeks, the Islamic regime has lashed some people in front of public eyes. These types of barbarism have caused public disgrace and hate. In the last week of July, the people expressed their protest openly on two occasions.

On the eve of July 22., when the regime planned to punish a person with lashes in public in Moshiriyeh Cross, the people gathered at the place protested. This protest led to a confrontation between them and the police forces. People attacked some state buildings and set fire on police vehicles. The day after, people gathered in front of Saie Park protested against such barbarism and confronted by the police.

## **DEMONSTRATION BY RESIDENTS OF SHAHENDJIR VILLAGE IN FRONT OF HEGMATAN CEMENT COMPANY**

According the report by Iran newspaper, about 300 residents of Shahendjir Village located in province of Hamedan, gathered in front of Hegmatan Cement Company in protest against dismissal of one of workers who is resident in the village. Then they went into the building a broke all the glasses and some of equipment in administration section.

Protesters demanded that the dismissed worker gets back to work, the village named as a town, asphalt for village road and get ride of drinking water problem. According to the newspaper, the police forces involved and 20 of the residents arrested.

## **SHORT NEWS**

- On September 21st , a large number of workers engaged in Karadj Paper production gathered in front of newspaper office Kar&Karegar and protested against payment of their last six months retroactive wages. They demanded immediate payment.
- With excuse for re-building the facotry, the management of Eshtad Savjablag wants to dismiss 150 workers of this factory who have more than 25 years of experience.