

**Tudeh Party of Iran condemns
the outrageous assault of regime's
thugs and killing of workers
in Shahr-e Babak!**



We call for Urgent Solidarity actions by all progressive, trade union and democratic organisations. Sent letters of protest to the regime's diplomatic representation in your country.

Dear compatriots!

The repressive regime of Velayat-e-faqih (the rule of supreme religious leader) once again revealed its anti-labour and anti-popular face and the true nature of the bogus “pro-toiler” slogans and. Assaulting the peaceful protests of overwrought workers who are losing their livelihoods under the devastating anti-popular policies, in a country with abundant natural and human resources, which has had a wealth of oil income in the recent years, is indicative of the depth of the economic-political crisis, and also the corruption, brutality and oppressive nature of the administration of the ruling despots that has ruined the life of millions of noble toilers and workers for so long.

According to the reports released by official media, the repressive assault of intelligence forces of regime against the protesting workers of “Copper Smelting Plan” in Shahr-e Babak in Kerman Province resulted in killing of 4 workers and wounded more than 20 workers. The protesting workers, who have been working for some time for the contractors of “Copper Smelting Plan”, had staged a sit-in, at the entrance of the plant, to pursue their collective demand of converting their temporary contracts to permanent employment. As had been previously agreed, 1500 workers of Khatoon Abad Copper Smelting Plant were supposed to get permanent contracts for work at the Plant. The struggle of temporary workers of “Copper Smelting Plan” in Kerman, is in line and in pursue of the lengthy and much-deserved struggle of the workers of country against the use of temporary contracts by employers to evade their responsibilities under the labour law and anti-labour policies of the regime to oppress the toilers from the legal benefits of employment and the labour law.

Fearing from the expansion and augmentation of the labour protests, the anti-popular and despotic regime declared emergency conditions in the town of Khatoon Abad, in which the majority of protesting workers reside, and in Shahr-e Babak sent for the special guards of intelligence and law enforcement forces from Kerman city (capital of the province of Kerman), and invaded the rightful protest of the workers. The interesting point is that, while negotiating with the protesting workers on one hand, the official authorities practically organized the outrageous repression of workers by referring the case to the “security council” of the Shahr-e Babak. This criminal action is the beginning of a new phase in regime's attempts to overcome the crisis that it is facing with. It also shows the panic reaction of the leaders of despotic regime in the face of the expansion of the popular movement in our country and joining of workers with this movement.

By making up stories like the attack of an “unknown bikers group...against the critical positions” of the town, and the fight of the law enforcement agencies with them, the official authorities of the regime, including the governor of Shahr-e Babak, tried to patch up a security context for their criminal action. However, the reality is that the bloody and anti-labour report card of the regime is so blatant that such cover ups cannot save the regime from this horrible crime that is of the same order of magnitude as the massacre of striking workers of Isfahan Steel Mill over 15 years ago.

We call upon all progressive forces, and particularly trade unions all around the world to send protest letters to regimes embassies in various countries, to condemn this criminal act. Tudeh Party of Iran condemns this criminal action and calls upon international bodies, including the Human Rights Commission of the UN, International Labour Organization, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to immediately and strongly condemn this action of the regime.

We call upon all the freedom-loving forces of the country to condemn the anti-popular action of the regime in solidarity with the families of the victims of this crime. We call upon all labour activists to protest to the massacre of the workers of Khatoon Abad “Copper Smelting Plan” in any ways possible within the context of the existing conditions, including issuing resolutions, sit-ins, walk outs and petitions, and to support the workers demands and to ask for the punishment of those who committed this bloody crime in Shahr-e Babak.

Victorious is the rightful struggle of workers and toilers of the nation!

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

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International Dept. Address: BM Box 1686 London WC1N 3XX

Fax: (Berlin: 324-1627) (London: 208 -392 2653)

e-mail: mardom@tudehpartyiran.org - **URL:** <http://www.tudehpartyiran.org>