

## Statement of Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran ( on the Disbarring of Many of the Reformists in the Upcoming Elections )



### *Widespread and blatant attacks by the reaction's Council of Guardians and the need for broadening the popular protests*

As expected, the Council of Guardians (*an appointed 12-member body with far-reaching powers of vetting legislation and electoral candidates*) by disqualifying thousands of the candidates for the seventh parliamentary elections - including more than 80 members of the current parliament, has taken another blatant step in violating the people's liberties and in particular their right to elect.

Following the disqualification of more than three thousands candidates by the Council of Guardians, tens of the members of parliament expressed their strong objection by staging a sit-in. The council's decision was not unplanned and without consultation at the highest levels of the ruling reaction i.e. the Velayat-e Faghih (supreme leader) and the heads of: the Judiciary, Council of Experts, and the Council of Expediency.

The second statement issued by the protesting MPs reads:

“This sit-in in the People's House is on behalf of all those whom innocently have been the target of unjust accusations made by the central commission of Council Guardians that oversees the elections and those that have been illegally disqualified on fictitious and baseless grounds, and on behalf of those whom cannot plead to anyone. Although there is still another stage left in the appeal process, however given the extent of the disqualification by the Council of Guardians' decision and despite all the warnings and recommendations of the concerned forces, in particular by the caring President and the Speaker of Parliament, and given the council's resistance against the determination of the parliament and government in passing the “dual bills” (*submitted by the President for discussion and ratification to the Parliament a few month ago*) have left no prospect for the review stage. This is why, we have found no other way but to act ourselves and on behalf of a large part of our nation which sees its century long struggle against despotisms and its determination for free and just elections have been threatened and constrained; by standing against this distortion, we would not allow the will of a small group to take precedence over the determination of the nation, by restricting the elections according to their preferences...”

The Participation Front in which a large number of its candidates have been disqualified by the Council of Guardians, released the following statement:

“Questioning the parliament's legality through disqualification of more than 80 of its present members in the 6th parliament and thousands of other candidates running for the 7th parliament, and weakening of the Parliament in the Islamic Republic, naturally weakens the pillars of republicanism within the system and damages the country's international credibility.

The Islamic Participation Front of Iran, while condemning this illegal and provocative action which is contradictory to our national interests, notes the following: by expressing our support for the courageous and responsible actions of reformist members of the parliament in staging a sit-in, and their persistence in safeguarding the rights of the unlawfully disqualified candidates, we urge them to take advantage of all the legal means in order to achieve results in appealing to the legal authorities for the withdrawal of the unlawful disqualification of both existing MPs and the other candidates. The MPs action in defence of free and fair elections, and their protest against extensive and illegal disqualification of the candidates, in fact is their resistance against the “Silent Coup de-tat” that is taking shaping through abusing the opportunity to review the qualifications of candidates. We call upon all strata, experts, social and political groups, organizations and assemblies that strive to establish democracy in Iran, to raise their voices and objections in exposing this action against human rights, and making it known to everyone.”

The Tudeh Party of Iran, while condemning the Council of Guardians’ blatant anti-popular acts, declares its firm support for all the protest movements against these actions, such as the sit-in by a group of MPs. Our party had previously stated that the ruling reactionaries know the 7th parliamentary election is only the first obstacle in which before or after the upcoming presidential elections [Khatami stepping down] ought to reach its appropriate ending, i.e. putting an end to “reform commotion”. The regime’s leaders noting the critical situation in Iran and the outside pressures are attempting through various plots, to repeat the experience of the City Council elections [March 2003], i.e. to create a situation in which the people are disheartened towards their actions effecting the elections. And the reactionaries on the basis of their limited minority would takeover the legislative power. We had also emphasized that fighting against the reaction’s determination is not possible through preaching and giving advice. By declaring such an election as illegal and by mobilizing the people, the reformists within government can take practical steps in confronting the conspiracies of the reaction. The protests and the sitting-in by a number of the members of parliament can only be effective, when, the political and social forces of the country through coordinated and organized actions broaden the protests against these illegal action across the society - not allowing the reactionary leaders to accomplish their sinister plans.

Once again, the Tudeh Party of Iran, while condemning the anti-popular action by the Council of Guardians, calls upon all the popular and freedom-loving forces in Iran and across the world to joint the protest and struggle against the conspiracies of the reaction.

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