



Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran on the Occasion of May Day, the International Workers' Day

To fight for social justice and the violated rights of the working people is an indivisible part of the struggle against the ruling despotic regime.

Honourable working people!

We congratulate you, the true fighters for the liberation of the humankind, on the occasion of the May Day, the International Workers' Day.

May Day is the day to commemorate more than a century of historical and epical struggle of the working class against the oppression of capitalism, for parity and social justice, peace, freedom and emancipation of human from exploitation, and is the day to remember and honour all those distinguished and legendry humans who sacrificed their lives for the great ideals and causes of the working class.

125 years ago, on the first day of May of 1886, the textile workers in Chicago, with their bloodied fight for their legitimate rights, became the vanguard of the relentless struggle of the working class against global capitalism, which despite all the ups and downs, has been going on until today and has had great achievements.

This year, the workers of the world celebrate the May Day at a time when, in addition to the continuing crisis of the global capitalism, historical developments and events are also sweeping the Middle East, from Egypt to Tunisia and Yemen, and are tearing down the very existence of the rotten dictatorial regimes in the region, in which the working class has played a significant role. Four years after the intensification of the monetary, financial and economical crisis of the global capitalism, and despite the claims of the capitalism theorists about the transient and temporary nature of this crisis, it is clear today that the recent crisis is not a short-term and transitory one due to the inefficiency of the capitalism mechanisms or failing to utilize and implement those mechanisms, but precisely demonstrating the failure of the very nature of the capitalism system, and in particular, concepts like "free market", the self-adjustment and auto-tuning ability of capitalism, and implementation of neo-liberal policies.

The continuing crisis in the European Union and the economical collapse of countries like Greece and Ireland along with the bleak economical situation in Portugal, Spain and Britain with hundreds of billions of dollars of



debt, in addition to the continuing crisis in the United States and Japan, all are indicators of the continuing tragic affects of global capitalism.

Anti-people policies to discard and eliminate social services such as public healthcare and education and social security, and growing rate of unemployment in developed capitalist countries, and exacerbation of poverty and privation in developing countries that are struggling under the policies dictated by the IMF and the World Bank, more than ever illustrate the harsh conditions that the working class is facing with in various countries of the world.

According to the latest estimates of ILO, the number of unemployed in the world in the year 2011 exceeded 205 millions. In its statement on the occasion of May Day, The World Federation of Trade Unions reports an unemployment rate of 20% among the European youth and 10 million jobless in the US.

The peace-loving people of the world are truly concerned that under the condition of growing economic crisis, the capitalist states try to overcome the current crises by inflaming wars and military conflicts and stimulating weapon production monopolies, as they did during times in the past century. The interventionist policies of imperialism in the Middle East, from military invasion of Libya to direct intervention against the people of Bahrain and in support of the anti-people lackey regime of this country, once again proves the discredited claims of imperialist states about defending democracy and human rights, and highlights the need for the urgent attention of the progressive forces around the world to the struggle for peace and effective organizing for this goal.

Working people of Iran!

Contrary to the false claims of the regime leaders and the anti-people government of Ahmadinejad, this year, the International Workers' Day in our nation will be celebrated under the circumstances of a wide-ranging political, social and economic crisis and growing suppression of the regime against the labour cadres and activists. Recognizing the ever-deepening economical crisis of the regime, Ali Khamenei called the new Iranian year the year of "economic jihad". As was anticipated, the destructive and anti-national policies of the military state not only has sunk Iran in an unprecedented economic crisis, but also the uncontrollable inflation, millions of jobless, bankruptcy of manufacturing plants and exacerbation of poverty and privation, all in all resulting in a very harsh living conditions for millions of Iranian families.

According to the formal state statistics and reports by the authorized press, the unemployment rate has reached its highest during the two terms of Ahmadinejad in office. According to the recent studies of Statistics Centre of Iran (SCI), the unemployment rate in the spring of 2010 increased to 14.6% and the number of jobless surpassed 3.5 millions. The official unemployment rate in the previous years was at most 11.9% and the number of jobless was just over 2.5 millions. The study conducted by Mehr newspaper last year showed that in the 5 years from 2005 to 2009 (both years included) the rate of unemployment was at its peak in 2009. According to this statistics, 24.7% of the youth between the ages of 15 to 24 were out of job. According to SCI, in the year 2010, the unemployment rate among this same age group was 29.6%.

The root cause of the current unemployment and joblessness must be found in macro-economic policies of the state, including the privatization of manufacturing units, lack of support for the domestic manufacturing, promoting an economy based on brokerage and imports, tenderpreneurship, and the control of major parts of the economy of the country by the leaders and military commanders of Sepah Corps (Islamic Revolutionary Guard). As reported by daily "Donya-ye Eghtesad" [World of Economics] early last summer, "20,000 unfinished



manufacturing plants are waiting in billions for investment capital. Industry Minister Deputy talked about 20,000 incomplete industrial units around the country and said that 'solving the problem of investment funds required by these units is in our agenda...'"

The Chamber of Commerce also reported in its Industry Commission that 50% of manufacturing units in most of the regions of the country are idling and thousands are out of job. Kalemeh website also published a report early last summer titled "A glance at the economic report of the Chamber of Commerce; critical days for the domestic production" in which numerous statistics are produced and the dire conditions of the manufacturing are reviewed. The report reads: "currently the domestic production is going through its worst days...according to the report of the Industry Commission of the Chamber of Commerce, 50% of manufacturing units in most of the industrial regions of the country have either closed their doors or are at the verge of closure...the majority of the large manufacturing and industrial units across the country are working under 30% of their rated capacity...some of the manufacturing plants are forced to adjust their workforce due to the economic situation."

Vigilant and militant workers!

Close to two years has passed since the electoral coup of the Sepah Corps and the Supreme Leader. The brutal and bloody suppression of the wide spread protests of the people against the continuation of the tyrannical regime, and violation of the democratic rights and freedoms, including the trade and economical rights, have been some of the crucial issues whose impact on the day-to-day life and activity of the labour movement is noticeable. The harsh suppression of social and political activities has not been limited to the militant student and women of the nation, but has targeted the labour activists too. Your unrelenting struggle for your legitimate rights such as the right to organize independent class and trade associations has continued in recent years with its ups and downs, and bears valuable lessons for future struggles.

The working class of Iran left last year behind while gained experience from the protest movements and strikes in companies like "Tabriz Petrochemical Co.", "Iran Khodro" (Iran's largest car manufacturer), "Abadan Refineries", "Pars Wagon", "Haft-Tapeh Sugarcane Co." and "Tabriz Tractor Manufacturing Co.", and started the new year with the labour strike in "South Pars Gas Site" (Assalouyeh), "Pars Paper Mills", "Shapoor Petrochemical Complex", and "Mahshahr Petrochemical Complex".

The century-long experience of labour struggles in Iran and the world has shown that the recourse of the workers, working people and toilers in confronting the capitalism maneuvers is unity and organization. A united and organized working class is a colossal liberating force that could, and should play an essential role in the liberation of the nation from the chains of the current dictatorship. Today, alongside fighting for better wages, improvement in the working conditions and job and social security, the fight for independent trade organizations is of particular significance. Organizing the struggle to form independent trade unions and syndicates is one of the important tasks in front of the labour movement of our nation. All possible and available means and resources must be utilized in this complicated and tough struggle.

The experience of the recent struggles in the past two years against the tyrannical regime of the Supreme Leader demonstrates this solid fact that despite all the economic and political crisis of the ruling dictatorial regime, it could not be defeated without united and joint efforts of various social strata and the united action of all the freedom-loving political forces. The recent experiences of the victorious popular movements in Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen are indicative of the active and significant role of the labour movement alongside other social groups and strata in the fight against the dictatorial regimes.



Realizing this immense danger, i.e. the united action of all the anti-despotic forces, the Iranian regime is making every effort to divert and prevent it from happening. Due to years of fierce suppression, lack of desired level of organization, scattered forces, and severe restrictions on the operation of the independent trade unions and syndicates, the labour movement could not attain its violated rights without taking part in the general and nationwide struggle of the people against the ruling dictatorship.

In its close to 70 years history of struggle, the Tudeh Party of Iran has always considered the struggle for the ideals of the working class as one of its most important tasks, and today too, committed to this glorious history from which prominent figures of the labour movement like Ali Omid, Shenassaei, Hosseinpour Tabrizi and others have been born, continues this sacred struggle alongside the working people and working class of the nation.

Working people of Iran!

On the eve of the May Day, the international labour celebrations on the first day of May, in harmony with the international trade union movement let's call out for trade union freedoms and the right to organize independent unions for all, an immediate end to the killing and persecution of trade unionists, and the immediate release of all the political prisoners. Let's hand in hand build a broad anti-dictatorship front against the united ranks of the reaction, despotism and autocracy, and open the road to social justice, freedom and independence. The century long history of the heroic struggle of the working class of our nation promises the victory of the people against tyranny and reaction.

Happy May Day, the International Workers' Day!

Greetings to the glorious memory of the martyrs of the Iranian labour movement!

Victory for the people's struggle to discard the regime of Supreme Leader and for freedom, peace, independence and social justice!

***Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran
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