

# ***The Call by the Tudeh Party of Iran, the Party of the Working Class, upon the Workers and Toilers of the Country***



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## **Conscious Workers and Toilers!**

More than thirty years have passed since your historic and epoch-making uprising in the February Revolution of 1979 along with the majority of the people of our homeland for freedom, independence and social justice. It was your decisive and determining presence in that epoch-making struggle which determined the outcome of that historic event. At that juncture, the might of the working class came into action with precision, complete awareness and in a calculated way, halting production and denying fuel to the regime's machine of repression and war which targeted the hearts of the women and men who had risen to take back their rights; it was thus that the regime of tyranny and oppression along with its killing machine, collapsed in the face of a few serious blows, and the Revolution triumphed. But what next? You have increasingly felt with your own flesh and blood the lethal persecutions, the constant and repeated withdrawal by the regime of Velayat-e-Faquihi, from the promises inscribed on the banner of the revolution in the last thirty years and learnt lessons from your experience. Your class and the deprived people who fought for your liberation were chained once again. You are now facing unemployment, poverty, ill health and homelessness. According to official statistics published by government institutions, the number of people living under the poverty line is increasing at the rate of two percents every year. The Head of the Office for Social Studies and the Elimination of Poverty at the Ministry of social security stated that the poverty line in the capital is 850,000 Tomans (equivalent to 850 US Dollars) which is twice the figure ratified as the minimum monthly wage by the High Council of Labour! The anti-worker government of Ahmadinejad, has increased the gap between the earnings of the classes, with its ruinous policies in the last four years. Based on data from the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, since the coming to power of the anti-worker government of Ahmadinejad, the inequality and the gap between the classes in terms of income distribution has increased and more than 80 percent of the national income belongs to less than 20 percent of the population- the rich- while 80 percent of the population - you workers – share a mere 20 percent of the national income. Furthermore, our country's economy is struggling in the face of crises and inflation with the resulting widespread unemployment, continuous layoffs, and deepening destitution of the working people. According to the Centre for Statistics in Iran, during last winter alone, unemployment amongst the 15 - 24 year old youth was at 27.5 percent.

Privatisation has resulted in close to 70 percent of the workers having only temporary contracts which are in effect a form of slavery. The official report by the Central Bank earlier this year, pointing to the severe downturn in the economy, predicted the closure of production units and factories. In 2008 alone, at least 400 production units became bankrupt and closed resulting in the loss of 200,000 jobs. All this happened

while the income from oil has been in excess of 198 billion US dollars. You workers and toilers do not have the right to independent trade unions, and trade union leaders and activists are incarcerated and tortured. The approach of the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih towards independent unions such as the Bus Drivers' Syndicate and Haft Tapeh Sugar Workers is a testament to the intense suppression of the trade unions and independent organisations. The Labour Law has been amended against the workers' interests and with a view to benefit big capital in the guise of economic transformation which last year omitted Article 41 of the Labour Law which set a minimum wage and Clause Z (7) has been added to Article 21 of the Labour Law making layoffs 'legitimate' and Article 33, the legacy of the deposed Shah's regime is being re-instated in the Labour Law. These measures clearly reveal the nature of the regime as the servant of the big mercantile bourgeoisie. Today, a government has taken hold of the social and political levers which does not think about anything other than the interests of the few – the plunderers and the rich and powerful- and does not believe in heeding the views and aspirations of the people in running the country.

The scenes of the regime's heavily armed thugs attacking un-armed and peaceful people are going to test our people's patience. Undoubtedly, in this unequal struggle, you have not been and will not be indifferent. Your main decisive, potential power is still in reserve. It is in the liberating nature of your class to join in solidarity with your unarmed sisters and brothers, against the killers who are intent on continuing their rule of despotism, injustice, corruption, and deceit.

Combatant Workers and Toilers!

Remain vigilant and alert in assessing the broad struggle for freedom against theocratic despotism, and keep within your sight the possible actions and manoeuvres you have available to you. The time will arrive, as the regime of suppression and tyranny continues its bloody crackdown. Be prepared for the day when the use of the sharp and decisive force of your powerful class is called upon to fulfil its historic role. The regime should know that just as thirty years ago you had the power to halt one of the biggest machines of war and military suppression in the world, today, after all these years, you are much more capable, experienced, and politically conscious. The regime must know that in this unequal struggle between the people and theocratic despotism, your powerful class will not leave the people on their own and will utilise its winning weapon.

- Greetings to the working class of Iran, the main pillar of the popular movement**
- Let the bond between the working class and other battalions of the popular movement be ever more strong and steady**
- Down with theocratic despotism**

Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**