

**Statement of the Central Committee
of the Tudeh Party of Iran
on the Occasion of the Passing Away
of Ezzatollah Sahabi and the murder
of Haleh Sahabi**



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Tudeh Party of Iran sends its sincere condolences on the occasion of the passing away of Ezzatollah Sahabi, a prominent figure in the popular and liberation movement of Iran, to the people of Iran, his family, his comrades, and his friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Sahabi was one of the unrelenting activists of the national movement, and one of the leaders of the National Movement of Iran, who spent long years of his life in the prisons of the Shah regime, and later on in the prisons of the theocratic regime of Iran, and despite all the pressures and restrictions imposed by the current regime, refused to compromise the defense for the rights of the people and the freedom movement in our country.

Mr. Sahabi was born in 1930 in Tehran and was one of the prominent leaders of the Council of National-Religious Activists of Iran. He was one of the few national figures in the Revolution Council [1978-1979], a member of the very first Constitutional Assembly, and a member of the very first parliament, after the revolution, elected in the capital Tehran. After a short period of time during which he was the Director of the Budget and Planning Organization in the administration of Mehdi Bazargan [the very first government of Iran after the 1979 revolution], Mr. Sahabi began publishing the well respected "Iran-e Farda" [The Iran of Tomorrow] magazine, and in the recent decades was always one of the outstanding individuals who defended the reform process and was a daring critic of the theocratic regime of Iran and its anti-people policies. The passing away of Mr. Sahabi is a loss for the popular and freedom movement of our nation.

Dear compatriots,

The ruthless attack of the dark-minded thugs on the funeral of Mr. Sahabi caused yet another disaster. This incident was an indication of the brutality of a regime that is still in power against the will of the overwhelming majority of the nation.

Amid the physical assault on the attendants in the funeral, including Haleh Sahabi, the daughter of the late Mr. Sahabi, this relentless activist of the women's and peace movement in the country was martyred. Haleh Sahabi, was a member of the "The Council of the Mothers for Peace" and one of the political activists and those prosecuted as a result of the events of the post presidential election of June 2009 who was summoned to Evin prison last winter to spend her 2-year term in jail. According to the numerous eyewitness reports, consequent to the brutal raid of the security forces on the funeral procession on June 1st and their attempt to disrupt the funeral, Haleh was severely beaten by the security forces, [collapsed as a result] and was martyred due to heart attack.

Tudeh Party of Iran condemns the criminal actions of the security forces of the theocratic regime of Iran and expresses its sympathy with the Sahabi family, and calls upon all the progressive and freedom-loving forces of Iran and the world to intensify their protest against the Iranian regime more than ever before. Such crimes are committed at a time when we are approaching the second anniversary of the electoral coup of the theocratic regime of Iran to impose and re-install the anti-people government of Ahmadinejad. The current disastrous economic and social situation in Iran, the continuation of the political crisis in the country, and intensification of the suppression atmosphere are the most vivid indications of the conviction of an anti-people regime which resorts to any means no matter how inhumane, to stay in power.

The memory of the national figures and activists such as Ezzatollah Sahabi and his daughter Haleh Sahabi will always remain in the memory of our people. It is the reactionaries, the perpetrators of this horrendous crime that are and will be damned and doomed in the court of the public opinion in Iran and the world as a bunch of dark-minded criminals.

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran
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