

Tudeh News

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Support the Demands of the Political Prisoners

Dry hunger strike of prisoners and assault of the reaction thugs on the families of the prisoners

The hunger strike of a group of political prisoners that started 10 days ago entered a more critical phase with the dry hunger strike of 3 of them whose lives are now at risk. Meanwhile, the rest of the prisoners are continuing their hunger strike until a clear response is given by the authorities as to 5 conditions they demand are met.

The 5 conditions to end the hunger strike announced a few days ago are: the full observance of the rights of prisoners as well as dealing with prison guards who violated the rights of incarcerated activists, the immediate release of Babak Bordbar - the detained journalist and photographer, the allocation of more space and phone-time to each prisoner, the access to medical services and hygiene provision as well as putting a stop to the insulting and abuse of political prisoners and the right to have access to books and newspapers.

Furthermore, families of the striking political prisoners who merely wanted to know the status of their loved ones were assaulted by the armed thugs of the coup perpetrators. Kalemeh web site wrote on August 4th: “the police threatened the families of the striking prisoners with arrest and detention and did not allow them to gather in front of the offices of the Attorney General of

Tehran...the anti-riot police armed with batons attacked the families of the political prisoners at Sabzeh Meydan in Tehran in front of the main entrance of the offices of the Attorney General, grabbed and ripped apart the pictures of the political prisoners and insulted and offended the mothers of prisoners...a few other plain-clothes police took pictures of and filmed the families and others at the scene...”

The struggle and resistance of political prisoners and their legitimate demands are fully supported by all forces defending freedom and social justice and the opponents of the theocratic despotic regime of the Supreme Leader. Supporting the rights of the political prisoners and the demand for their immediate release is the urgent task of all progressive and patriotic parties, organisations and individuals.

The Tudeh Party of Iran resolutely supports the struggle of the political prisoners with all to its avail, including the 17 on hunger strike and their families.

Presently the lives of the 3 imprisoned activists are at risk due to the dry hunger strike. The theocratic regime of the Supreme Leader and its judiciary system are directly responsible for any harm to the well being and life of the political prisoners.

Freedom for all political prisoners and prisoners of conscious!
Political prisoners must be freed!

August 5th, 2010

The New Plot of the Reactionaries against the Labour Movement

The re-trial of Mansour Ossalou in jail, and convicting him with an illegal sentence, is the new plot of the ruling reaction and the judicial system that serves the coup perpetrators in order to subdue the escalating struggles of the labour movement in Iran.

According to published reports, Mansour Ossalou, the imprisoned president of the board of directors of the Syndicate of the Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Transit Company (Vahed) was once again put on trial by the Islamic Revolution Court on the charges of “connections with the anti-revolution” and was subsequently convicted resulting in a new sentence. So far, the lawyers of Mansour Ossalou have not been informed of the trial and the new ruling it reached.

This unlawful act indicates another round of plots of the ruling reactionaries against the labour and trade union movement of the nation and is directly related to the rising labour struggle. The new sentences against this trade union activist have been devised at a time when the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had recently promised, in agreement with the ILO, to release him soon. Creating and pursuing new charges against Mansour Ossalou and other incarcerated activists of the labour-union movement also serves to frighten and intimidate the labour activists and is a continuation this method of arresting trade unionists on manufactured charges in recent months.

We demand the immediate release of Mansour Ossalou and all the imprisoned workers. We strongly condemn his retrial and the increased pressure placed upon political prisoners including the activists of the union movement of the working people. Such actions do not hamper the determination of the workers to gain and protect their trade and political interests.

August 8th, 2010

Prosecution of Political Activists and Ratification of Long Term Jail Sentences

According to confirmed reports, Hoda Saber, an activist of the National-Religious alliance, has been missing since Saturday July 24th and the security services and judicial authorities of the theocratic regime of the Supreme Leader have not yet taken the responsibility for his arrest.

On Sunday July 25th the National-Religious website posted this news and wrote: “Hoda Saber, a National-Religious activist... has been missing since he left work...most likely he has been abducted...He was summoned by telephone to prison 3 weeks ago to serve his sentence. However, his lawyer had then contacted the court and requested it serve him with a written summons...No written summons has been served yet.”

The abduction of Hoda Saber is an indication of the escalated coercion used against the freedom-loving and progressive forces and particularly the broad spectrum of National-Religious activists and other patriotic and national forces. In fact, with the abduction of this National-Religious activist, the sentences of 15 other National-Religious activists, originally arrested in 2000, are now being enforced. These activists were physically and psychologically tormented for one month subsequent to their original arrest and were then sentenced in preliminary courts to 4 to 10 years' imprisonment. This renewed action has been carried out in order to create an atmosphere of intimidation and terror and is quite a purposeful and calculated move on the part of the authorities.

Furthermore, in recent days, the unfair jail sentences given to a number of political prisoners from a broad spectrum of national-religious, dissident and national forces have been ratified in the appeal courts.

Peyman Aref, a member of the National Front of Iran, was also sentenced by division 54 of the Islamic Revolution Appeal Court to one year in prison and 74 lashes. This activist, who was arrested after the presidential election-coup of last year and suffered a heart attack in jail, is currently undergoing medical treatment. Also, Khosrow Dalirsani, a member of the Central Council of Combatant Muslims Movement and a member of the committee to inquest the illicit arrests made during the Ashura unrest last year, was sentenced to a 4-year ta'aziri jail term (detention with unspecified additional punishment/penal conditions) on the charges of "assembly and conspiracy to commit crimes against national security". Meanwhile, harsh sentences were ratified against two members of the central council of Tahkim Vahdat (a prominent student organization). Bahareh Hedayat, the public relations secretary, and Milad Assadi, the cultural-student affairs secretary, were sentenced to 9 and 7.5 years in prison respectively. The court ruling against Mahdieh Golrou, a student activist and a member of the Council to Defend the Right to Education, was also upheld and she has to serve a 2-year jail term. These prejudiced sentences, designed to intimidate the progressive freedom-loving and national forces, along with the framing and false charges made against incarcerated labour activists (including false charges against Mansour Ossalou amongst other trade union activists) all indicate a new round of suppression and coercion in the current critical situation.

The Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the prosecution of political prisoners and the harsh sentences against them and warns of the dangerous policies of the ruling reaction. The escalation of pressure on national and progressive parties, forces and individuals once again underlines calls for the urgency of joint struggle and united action against the coup perpetrators by all those who fight for independence, freedom and social justice.

July 29th, 2010

The Worrying Situation of Detained Trade Union Activists

Independent labour organizations and activists from the trade union movement of the working people have on several occasions drawn attention to the alarming and unclear fate of the workers imprisoned by the regime.

In a statement released on July 18th, the Syndicate of the Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Transit Company (Vahed) protested against the continuing detention of union activists. The statement reads: "...deeply concerned about the fate of them [the imprisoned workers], the Syndicate of Vahed demands the immediate and unconditional release of Reza Shahabi, Ibrahim Madadi, Mansour Ossalou, and other detained workers."

The coercion of the labour movement and its activists has sharply intensified in recent months. The ruling forces of reaction are attempting to curb and suppress this movement in order to prevent it from aligning with the wider general anti-despotic movement of the nation. Recently, in an effort to intensify the pressure on labour activists, members of the Haft-Tappeh Sugarcane Trade Union have also been prosecuted.

The immediate and unconditional release of all imprisoned workers, without exception, is one of the main demands of the anti-despotic popular movement of our nation under the current situation.

July 26th, 2010
