

# Tudeh News

**International Bulletin of the Tudeh Party of Iran - December 2001 - No.209**

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## Another Blow To The Reform Process: More Sham Trials Against The Religious-National Forces

*(From editorial in the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 621, 22nd Nov 2000)*

Finally, after eight months of harsh mistreatment and attempt to break the will of the religious-national prisoners and gaining false confessions, on Sunday Nov.11 the first session of their sham trial began behind the closed doors. Attack against the religious-national forces is part of a vast assault of reactionary forces against the trend of Reform in our country.

In his speech in Amir Kabir University, one week before the beginning of the attack, Seyed Ali Khamenei the Supreme Leader of the reactionary regime said: "Islamic Republic and it's officials have no longer the right and the tendency to compromise with those who under the slogan of freedom intend to act against the peoples interest and the freedom itself and the destiny of the people" Our party swiftly warned that: "A new round of attacks is going to start following the Supreme Leader's order". (March 7, 2001 "Nameh Mardom's Supplement"). Later, on Sunday March 14, 2001, after Khatami's speech in the Parliament, many religious-national activists

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were arrested with the ridiculous accusations and faked charges of "overthrowing the government" and were sent to be put under torture. In these eight months, despite some high level activities to release these forces, the reactionary forces did not heed the Khatami and his colleague's requests and started the sham trial for obvious reason of horrifying and disappointing people from the process of reforms.

According to the "Tehran Islamic revolutionary" court's recent statement and the statements of the "attorney general", the religious-national activists are charged with "action against the country's security and aiming to over through the regime". Javad Mansoori, one of the reactionary ideologists of the regime, explained the meaning of "overthrowing" charge in an interview with Resalat newspaper (Nov. 11, 2001): "The overthrowing activities could be in the form of coup d'etat, or sometimes in the form of people's movements...and sometimes by abusing the established laws aiming the transformation of the system and using flaws in order to change the government..."

Jalal Ziafati the editor of Ghods newspaper says the same thing but more clearly. He equates every activity that is against the will of the reactionary forces to overthrowing the regime and points out to the election activities of reformist forces and concludes that: " Now the governing system in Iran is based on people's vote and the overthrowing activities are planned to change and transform people's ideas... enemy wants to destabilize the foundation of the system by changing people's ideas and thus omit the people from the political scene..."

Based on the above positions, it is clear that the religious-national forces are arrested without any real charges and are persecuted only because of political activities and defending reforms and people's will. Of course this kind of actions have an old background in our country. In 1980s the totalitarian regime arrested many progressive and freedom-seeking forces, including the Tudeh Party of Iran, on the basis of similar faked charges and ultimately killed thousands of these freedom-seeking forces.

For great majority of our people it is clear that the crime of these detainees is nothing but defending our country and people's rights. These behind the closed doors trials are the best proof against the absurd allegations of the reactionary regime's leaders, especially the Judiciary system. The Judiciary system of the Velayate-Faghih regime has such a scandalous and anti-people history that any pretension to "legality" of these ridiculous shows not only have no effect in changing the people's opinion, but strengthen the idea that the judgement and the judicial procedures under this regime is only and instrument to protect the dictatorial and medieval regime.

The news of the launch of these trials in addition to other news in the recent weeks give a better picture of the plans of

reactionary forces. Establishing " Special Committee for National Security" in judiciary organization, violent and threatening speech of the reactionary high officials pertaining to "execution" verdict for the defendants, threats against parliament members and those officials defending reforms, new arrests ordered by Clerics Special Court and more pressure on the Student movement are parts of the reactionaries plan to oppress the whole process of reform in our country. Realization of this plan is taking place under the conciliatory and stepping back of the 22<sup>nd</sup> May (2<sup>nd</sup> Khordad) front forces. This trend, no doubt, has a destructive effect on the reform process and people's support for it, and faces the people's movement with tremendous danger.

Reactionary forces, by starting the trial of the religious-national forces, have challenged the public opinion and the democratic movement of our country. Silence, inaction and refusal to protest against these atrocities will be considered as a green light by the reactionary forces to take the next steps.

Previous experiences have shown that by any kind of conciliation on the side of the reform movement the reactionary forces have started a broader attack against the reform forces. Reactionary forces know well that under the circumstances of public dissatisfaction and people's uprising, the religious-national forces can act as an alternative for their regime. This is why they have decided to oppress them as soon as possible.

Today struggling against the sham trial is defending the reform movement and silence over the trials under any pretext is cooperating with the reactionary forces in oppressing the people's movement. By relying on the people's movement and other social forces that are supporting reform movements, we must organize a vast campaign against judiciary

system and unfair courtrooms. Tudeh Party of Iran condemns the launch of sham trials of religious-nationals and calls all progressive forces in Iran and around the world to rise their protesting voices against these anti-people actions and do not allow the activists be victimized by these oppressive policies of reactionary forces.

## IMF and Velayat-e-Faghih regime

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Once again, within the last few years, the executive managerial board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its published yearly report, supported the socio-economic direction of the policies of Islamic Republic of Iran. This report published on 18<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2001, welcomed privatization and liberalization of trade and assessed the Islamic Republics action as economic progress.

This report states that: "Iran's international economic position has been fortified. The current surplus is doubled and has reached 13 percent of the GDP, an indicator of the rapid increase in the crude oil export. The surplus amount is about 6.9 billion dollars and the official production reserves, including in the O.S.F., have reached eight month of import of goods and services. The non-petroleum revenue has increased only by 4 percent which is caused by weakness in collecting tax revenues and profit transfer from the important careers"

This report praises the leaders of Velayate-Faghih regime for their official announcement of the structural reform plan in this year and the years to come. It states that the leaders of the Islamic Republic, in the highest levels,

should be helped and encouraged to reduce the government role and continue the economic reform to guarantee the capital safety. The main points that according to this report is important to notice are: proposing plans to attract the capital and guarantee its safety, privatization in all sectors specially the key industries, changing the employment law in favor of guaranteeing the profit and the capital, and removal of all the subsidies from the budget.

In addition, the IMF report stresses that in order to bring the inflation under control, measures has to be taken to bring the rapid rise in cash flow under control. Before publishing this report, a group of specialists from IMF visited Iran and had conducted meetings and had discussions with different levels of regime's officials. At the time of this visit, the Khatami's cabinet removed the restrictions on the import of 1545 items of goods to the country. This action was applauded to be in the direction of the third strategic plan and was welcomed by the pro Velayate Faghih forces and the merchants. The important point here was that from this unrestricted 1545 items, 350 items were related to the weaving industry - which will further break its already bent backbone and will destroy this critical industry in a short time. Moreover, a few weeks after this, on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2001, the Islamic parliament ratified the anti worker, and anti national "Support of renovation of the weaving industry" bill which will cause thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

It is not only the weaving industry that is being downsized by Velayate Faghih regime economic plans. There are news published about the "break up of the monopoly on tobacco industry". Ishagh Jahangiri, the Mining and Industrial secretary announced that "in line with the third strategic economic

plan, the tobacco company will be handed over to the private sector”

The privatization of the tobacco industry is nothing but a threat against the twelve thousand workers working in this industry. According to the specialists, as a result of the privatization, 80 percent of the workers will lose their jobs. Jahangiri confessed that there is no plan to support these workers interest. Also, Rahmani, the new director of the tobacco company, whose mission is to accelerate the privatization of the company has said that: “break down of the monopoly in the tobacco company and handing over the company to the private sector are among the most important plans of the company’s management”.

To this set of privatization process strategic oil, gas, and petrochemical industry should be added. As a matter of fact, the IMF has recommended the privatization of the oil industry in the shortest possible time. Some time ago, the director of the oil products distribution announced that all of the activities of this company, in the framework of the third strategic plan, will be transferred to the private sector. This transfer will not be only to the Iranian private corporation, but also to transnational corporations. Also, based on

published news, foreign companies will begin to construct a refinery in Port Chahbahar port.

According to Mohammad Taghi Salehi the head of board of directors of the Port Chahbahar free trade region, this refinery will be constructed by German, and Austrian investment and will be capable of production and export of 50000 barrels of oil products per day.

Defense, admiration and welcoming of the economic plans of the Velayate Faghieh regime by the IMF is exactly because of the anti-national interest character of these privatization and downsizing policies.

Finally, the third strategic plan, which our party quite correctly has assessed as anti-national interest and against the aims of the democratic movement against the reaction, is the basis of all plans which in the final analysis will destroy the production capability of the country and will erode the employment safety of the working class.

The inflation, the free fall of the wages and the real income of the workers, along with the tie up of the country’s economic plans with the IMF’s policies and the transnational corporations are the set of policies that should be fought against with all in our power.