



Tudeh News

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The Approaching Storm and the Weak Foundations of Velayate-Faghih Regime

(From the editorial of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 629, 5th March 2002)

The dangerous deadlock imposed on our country by its reactionary forces in conjunction with the global and regional condition have resulted in an acute and complex situation. The news and many reports in the permitted press and media reflect the deepening and growing crisis of the "Velayate-Faghih" regime (the representative of god on the earth), which has taken our country to the brink of an explosive situation.

The reformist forces now admit to the impasse within the reform movement which months ago was pointed out by our party. Readers of the "Nameh Mardom" will remember the assertion by Comrade Khavari (speech on 60th anniversary of TPI): "Consistent attacks on the ranks of the reformists by the reactionary forces and despotism is practically leading the country to a deep and wide ranging crisis. The people disillusioned with the reformists and disgusted with the pro "Velayat" faction are moving towards a period of post-unaccomplished reforms." (Nameh Mardom 624, Dec.18th 2001).

The truth is that, while the reformist group is paralyzed and inactive, the ruling reaction has inflicted a massive and organized attack against the movement and the reformists. The sham trials aimed at framing the national-religious forces under serious charges, continued aggression against the press, arrest and issuing subpoena against the Members of the Parliament, propaganda and accusation of financial corruption, dangerous exploitation of the grave international situation and foreign threats are part

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and parcel of a broad attack during the past few months.

Assessment of the reformist's statements show, they are fearful of the direct action and involvement of the masses in a struggle which is engulfing our society. They are hopeful that by issuing fatherly advises and cautioning their opponents of the threat of regime's collapse, continue with the policy of appeasement and compromise from the top – broadly rescuing the regime from its inevitable fate. Contrary to this assessment, the freedom seeking and progressive forces are not fearful of the masses, instead they strongly believe in organizing the dejected social forces and intensifying the struggle against the ruling reaction, in order to move forward.

The popular support of the regime has severely been reduced and it continues to survive merely on the basis of brute force and violence. Due to a combination of anti-national and anti-democratic policies, including the implementation of socio-economic restructuring which are nothing but the discredited programs dictated by the IMF and the World Bank, an increasing sections of the people in our country have been directly effected – they stand for a change in political system.

Today, for the clear majority of the democratic forces, workers, women, youth and students in Iran is clear that the regime of "Velayate-Faghih" is the main obstacle to the democratic and progressive development of our country. It is on this basis that people judge the political forces and social personalities of our country. Contrary to the wishes of the ruling reaction the divisions in the society are not formed on the basis of either "one-of-us" or "an outsider"- but instead the separation is between the "followers" and those opposing the "Velayate-Faghih" regime and its ruling apparatus. It is on the basis of this analysis in which the socio-political forces of our country must choose between the democratic policies and those designed to sustain an anti-democratic and reactionary "system". Today in our country, not many political forces or personalities could be

found who do not admit the stagnation of the reform process. We also agree with the analysis that the current impasse does not point to the stagnation of democratic movement as whole - also it does not indicate the aspiration of the masses for the fundamental stable democratic changes has subsided.

The democratic movement to oust the "Velayate-Faghih" regime is constantly growing in various dimensions. What is needed more than ever is a united front of all freedom seeking and progressive social forces that stand for freedom and social justice against the dictatorial regime. It is time to extend our efforts in response to this need of the movement. The foundation of the "Velayate-Faghih" regime is more than ever fragile and the storm of protest by the masses is rising.

The Necessity Of Intensifying the Struggle to Free Political Prisoners

(From the editorial of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 631, 2nd April 2002)

We entered the Iranian New Year [March 21st] with the issue of the political prisoners yet again is one of main concerns of the democratic movement. Although on the eve of the New Year many of the political prisoners belonging to the national-religious forces were released in returned of large amounts of bail, still the sentences issued against certain political personalities and detained students is of the great concern - particularly the continued detention of Dr. Payman and Taghi Rahmani. The admirable struggle of the families and relatives of the political prisoners continues. In a symbolic gesture in support of the political prisoners the families of the national-religious prisoners jointly celebrated the New Year. In another move, nine national-religious activists, in a statement protested the arrest of Dr. Payman and Taghi Rahmani. Taghi Rahmani has been charged with heresy under the current law, punishable by death.

The efforts for the release of all political prisoners and support for those who courageously have

stepped into the arena of struggle for freedom must continue.

The Government of Israel is Bent on the Destruction of Palestine

The government of Israel continuing its pressure on the Palestinians arrested three of the leaders of the Palestine Liberation movement, accused of murdering the minister for Tourism. In a statement Sharon announced that as long as their trial is in progress, Yasser Arafat would remain under arrest in his headquarters. The Palestinians and many of the Israelis have condemned these outrageous actions. However, these actions clearly show the growing strength of the right wing forces in Israel. This trend had started with the coming to power of Netanyahu as the Prime Minister. According to Netanyahu, who tries to show Sharon the "correct way of handling the Palestinians", Arafat should be sent to exile to Libya.

Meanwhile the Israeli forces have tried every military action to stabilize their illegal occupation. The actions have put in danger many unarmed and innocent civilians. Israel will continue to pressure the Palestinians until forced by the international pressure into a retreat. The broad effort of the international progressive and peace loving forces can and must force Sharon's government to accept the right of the Palestinians. The present circumstances in the world should not be used as a pretext to undermine Palestinian rights.