

# Tudeh News



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## “Freedom Charter”, the Untitled Front Against Dictatorship and Present Urgent Necessities

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the  
Tudeh Party of Iran No. 664, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2003)*

In December 1993 the CC of the Tudeh Party of Iran published a document entitled the “Freedom Charter”. Commenting on the needs to publish the Charter the party stated: “during the recent history due to foreign interference, expansionist policies and undemocratic despotic rule, our country has enjoyed only a short period of peace, calm and freedom.....for decades free thoughts and freedom of expression have been unforgivable crimes - patriots, fighters for peace and justice have been jailed and many executed because they didn’t submit to the oppression and the tyranny..... during the last decades the Iranian nation has endured enough injustice, oppression and bloodshed. Now they are entitled to demand from their country’s political forces and politicians a future with freedom and secure justice (Nameh Mardom 416, December 1993).

The Charter suggested the following points as a basis for discussion and exchange of views between progressive forces in a shared struggle:

- Establishment of individual, political, social rights and ensuring the nation’s sovereignty.
- Ensuring the undisputable rights of all citizens in determining the type of government and its composition through public ballot.
- Ensuring the unconditional freedom of thought and religious beliefs – and the right to organise and free speech.

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- Ensuring the unconditional freedom of the media regardless of their philosophical, cultural, political, economical and social views.
- Ensuring equal cultural, social and political rights of women and men with the removal of all laws which limit the rights of women – guaranteeing their national and ethnic rights within a framework of a free, sovereign and democratic Iran.
- Ensuring the unconditional rights of religious minorities such as the Zoroastrians, Christians, Jews, Assyrians and Bahaies.
- Separation between the state and religion.
- Ensuring Iran’s sovereignty based on amicable and equal relationships with all the countries of the region and the world.

Following the people’s historic victory in the presidential election of May 1997 [Khatami’s election which has been recognised as a referendum – people overwhelmingly rejecting the regime’s preferred candidate] the people’s movement for reform was confronted by the conspiracies of the ruling reaction. In its 4<sup>th</sup>

Congress (1998) in assessing the objective and subjective conditions particularly in view of the despotic and medieval ruling structure in our country, the submissiveness and appeasement adopted by political forces which claimed supporting the Reforms, our party concluded that a broad political Front is the only way to enhance the Reform process and achieve the people's aspirations. We asserted that the Front should comprise of all parties, political forces and personalities which are against despotism and dictatorship – with a minimum and common programme to replace the existing despotic regime with a national democratic alternative. During the last few years the various political forces of our country have further noted the importance of this analysis. Recently the appearance of many joint statements and open letters signed by hundreds of political and social activists, are all based on the analysis that the current sensitive situation requires the collective action of all those that stand for liberty, independence and justice. Our party while welcoming this development believes that the people's movement faces a challenge in achieving this important objective.

A significant issue which is still insufficiently recognised in these statements and letters is the fact that the gathering of different political forces and personalities can only be achieved through multilateral negotiations between forces - with flexibility without sectarianism and dominating views. Successful examples in the past (formation of ANC, PLO and the "Freedom Front" in Iran 1944) show these fronts have only been effective when their participants were able to reach a minimum common programme while respecting each others beliefs and point of views while dealing with the immediate issues ahead of the movement.

The other notable issue in the above mentioned statements and letters is an "Organisational Evasion" which must be dealt with. In Iran this phenomenon can be explained due to the prohibition imposed on all political parties and organisations – but outside Iran it is a concern that individuals are replacing political parties and organisations. Essentially a Front which is not based on social forces and does not reflect their socio-political demands and aspirations will not function as an effective force in the political life of the country. In recent years our

party has reiterated that only through mobilisation of the broadest alliance of social forces (e.g. workers, youth and militant women) the ruling reaction can be forced into retreat. The existence of individual political personalities in such a front would enhance its organisational abilities. However, as mentioned previously individuals can not substitute parties and social organisations.

The present critical and sensitive conditions impose difficult tasks ahead for the progressive and freedom seeking forces. The recent developments in our country, among them the widespread attacks on students by the regime's mercenaries in conjunction with dangerous and destructive foreign interference - that have no interest in a democratic and independent future for our nation, have now created a dangerous situation. Intensifying efforts in creating a united Front against dictatorship on the basis of a common programme in establishing human rights and democracy can be the first step in the long and difficult road for our people in achieving freedom, independence and social justice. Once again we call upon all forces, organisations, political parties and progressive personalities for a dialogue in reaching a common solution to confront the present problem, i.e. the prolongation of the Velayat-e Faghih's regime [representative of god on earth].

# Statement Of The Central Committee Of The Tudeh Party Of Iran On The 15th Anniversary Of The Massacre Of Thousands Of Political Prisoners In Iran

*(From editorial in the "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 667, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003)*

The mass execution of thousands of political prisoners was a National Tragedy. An historic horrifying slaughter and a disaster, which deprived Iran of a significant number of its most outstanding freedom fighters, scholar, writers, artists, intellectuals and fighters for the liberation of the nation.

Fellow compatriots,

This summer (August and September) is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massacre of thousands of political prisoners in the dungeons of "Velayat-e Faghih" [the ruling regime in Iran].

Fifteen years ago [ending of Iran-Iraq war] marks the failure of a policy [prolongation of the war] referred to as "war-war till victory", which was counter to the interests of Iran and was imposed on the nation by the rulers of the regime. In order to stamp down the growing mass protest movement the regime created an atmosphere of terror and fear to protect the despotism inherited after Khomeini. By execution of some of the most determined, unyielding political, cultural and social figures the regime's executioners committed one the most heinous crimes in the history of our country.

Fifteen years ago, the leaders of a regime that claims to be "a world exemplary system", fearing the visions of liberating the nation from the claws of war, ignorance and crime staged the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners who had already been sentenced to long-term imprisonment and buried them in mass-graves. In this, they even disregarded their own legal and judicial verdicts.

The slaughter of political prisoners took place over a few weeks in the prisons under a complete news blackout while keeping thousands of their families unaware of the crimes that were perpetrated against their children, spouses and relatives. This massacre was organized and executed with the full knowledge and consent of the top leaders of the regime, including Khomeini, Rafsanjani, Khamenei and the others. Ayatollah Montazeri's opposition [then the deputy leader] towards this horrific acts and his revealing letter of protest to Khomeini was the only instance of internal opposition against the crimes orchestrated by the leadership of the Velayat-e Faghih's regime.

In November 1988 the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran (TPI) issued an important statement which stated: "the news that we have recently received about the massacre of political prisoners in dungeons of the Islamic Republic from all over the country and particularly in Tehran, indicate that a national tragedy is in the making. This disastrous act has vast, horrendous and shocking dimensions. The news is about a widespread slaughter of hundreds of prominent members and cadres of the TPI and other progressive and revolutionary opposition forces and organizations. With profound pain and sorrow, we must say that as a result of this bloody "house-cleaning" within the regime's hellish dungeons, the nation and its revolutionary movement has lost a great number of its most knowledgeable, experienced and devoted people. The recent crimes of Khomeini's autocratic regime have no legal, civil, ethical or human justifications. They are a painful reminder of the insane actions of Hitler's fascists in the Nazi's death camps ..."

Although the exact number of the victims of this tragedy is still unknown, the human rights organizations estimate that more than five thousands of political prisoners were massacred in the regime's dungeons. The way this horrendous crime was organized, i.e. through minutes-long "trials" followed by medieval style inquisition to force Islamic belief on prisoners show the moral bankruptcy of a horde of criminals dressed in "clergy" robe - whose their only weapons against logic and wisdom are the whip,awl and noose. The 15-year silence by the regime's leadership about this crime and the continuation of the same methods in its prisons

proves that the existence of Velayat-e Faghih regime is tied to criminal acts and suppression of liberty and freedom fighters, and the only way that it can survive is to continue in the same anti-people manner.

Fellow compatriots!

Through this national tragedy our party lost more than 300 of its leaders, cadres, members and supporters. Amongst the executed leaders and cadres of the party there were a number of “legends of resistant” from the Shah’s era, which had spent more than 25 years of their lives in the Shah’s prisons. A number of the most prominent intellectuals, outstanding authors and translators, well-known artists, courageous military officers, militant trade unionists and worker’ representatives were among the victims. It is our party’s humanitarian and revolutionary duty to continue its persistent efforts exposing the regime until the organizers of this criminal act are identified and prosecuted.

In recent years, particularly after the victory in May 1997 [i.e. reform movement through presidential elections] in which Khatami’s government took office, we repeatedly have mentioned that by maintaining silence about this historic horrifying slaughter allows its perpetrators to continue with their crimes. In the past six years, despite all efforts by the victim’s families, petitions, and all the promises, no actions have been taken to shed any light on the various facets of this historic tragedy. The continued attack on dissident, brutal tortures in the regime’s dungeon, [political] serial killings (Forouhar, Mokhtari, Pouyandeh, and many others), covert executions, crimes committed during the raid on university dormitories around the country, and the recent murder of Zahra Kazemi in the hands of the torturers [belonging to Tehran’s chief prosecutor], and also the present dangers threatening hundreds of imprisoned students and a number of national-religious public figure are the direct and indirect consequences of the policy of silence which must be strongly resisted.

The popular movement, and particularly those who today claim to be supporters of reform and civic society cannot remain silent toward this National Tragedy. Intensifying the struggle and pressure to open the dossier regarding this crime

and striving to uncover all its aspects undoubtedly will play a determining role in the current struggle of our nation for freedom, democracy and social justice. It is the ethical, humanitarian and historic duty of all progressive and freedom-loving forces to concentrate their efforts on this matter.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Tragedy; the massacre of the political prisoners of Iran, the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran salutes the legendary and glorious memory of these brave women and men. Undoubtedly, in the near future when our nation is liberated from the criminal rulers it will remember its true heroes, as they deserve to be.

**Central Committee of The Tudeh Party of Iran,  
16<sup>th</sup> August, 2003**

## **Solidarity Of International Union Of Students (IUS) With The Struggle Of Students In Iran**

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the  
Tudeh Party of Iran No. 667, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003)*

In its annual Central Council meeting held from August 5 to 9, 2003 in Montreal, Canada, the IUS examined and declared its support for the struggle of the university students in Iran. IUS represents 152 student organizations around the globe and is the world’s largest student organization. It is internationally recognized due to its UN granted status as “ UNESCO Advisory Member”.

As stated by Ms. Elisabeth Carlyle, a member of the Executive Secretariat of IUS; the representatives of student organizations around the globe have studied the published reports regarding the Iranian students protest and the brutal repression of these peaceful actions by the security forces of the regime and gangs linked to the regime’s power circles – and asserted solidarity with their Iranian sisters and brothers, supporting their just struggle and demanded the immediate release of all the arrested students and imprisoned leaders of the student organization; “Bureau for Consolidation of Unity”.