

Tudeh News

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Continuing Crisis in the Velayate Faqih Regime

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While there are a few days left until the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the upheavals in the country move to further heightening of the current crisis. The deliberate and pre-planned actions of the despots after only 3 months of Ahmadi-Nejad's election as President have put our nation in extremely dangerous circumstances both internally and externally. During the past weeks the internal and surrounding conflicts of the regime and parallel to that, a growing social unrest, have created a situation where the defenders of Ahmadi-Nejad are attempting a series of dangerous activities.

One important such action is creating enemies and artificial crises which have a widespread reverberation in the mass media. The situation started when during a parliamentary session to evaluate and confirm ministers proposed by Ahmadi-Nejad, the president, after a meaningful delay started to criticize and complain about the heavy propaganda against himself and his government and with a demeaning tone declared any insult to the presidency as illegal. Following these words, Farda news agency, on November

10, 2005, quoted a source close to the president as saying "a secret committee has been created by Ahmadi-Nejad's opponents and it aims to plan and start a widespread psychological battle against the presidency."

The same agency adds "one of the sources close to the president who wished to remain anonymous said that in their last meeting the members of this committee set their goal as the preparation for a non-confidence vote."

It is interesting that during the parliamentary session to confirm his ministers Ahmadi-Nejad himself, in answering a reporter on the possibility of a non-confidence vote, gave a very cynical response. On November 10, Emrooz website published this news and said "the reporter asked: Do you think this [a second vote of non-confidence after the one that overthrew Bani-Sadr] will happen again? Ahmadi-Nejad responded: Thank you very much, this is the dream of many political parties."

On November 13, following these reports, Farda News Agency, and a few other news agencies, published a news report titled: "Vote of non-confidence against the President has been approved, the minority fraction in the parliament, in a far-fetched and controversial attempt started the preparations for a non-confidence vote for a President, while it has only been over 2

months since the Ahmadi-Nejad cabinet had started its work.” However, the governmental reformists that form the minority fraction in the seventh parliament immediately denied such allegations. Mohammad Reza Tabesh, the leader of that fraction declared: “we deny it, and we deny it vehemently. This is a conspiracy and an attempt to confuse the issues.”

In order to further understand the dimensions of the current tension, one must pay attention to the tensions among the groups loyal to Ahmadi-Nejad and the leadership of the Valiye-Faqih and other forces of despots and also Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his followers.

Rafsanjani, during the nineteenth gathering of the Friday Imams of the country, and during the heat of the fractional differences and Ahmadi-Nejad's agitations, once again attacked Ahmadi-Nejad and his policies. He reminded: “the internal conditions of society have increased the risk of foreign invasion. Today, our society is such that some groups have taken hostile positions. This action has brought about the censorship, isolation, and elimination of some people and it even aims to isolate the forces of this regime by giving them a bad name.... If this trend continues, the offending forces will definitely start attacking and this will add to the scope of the problems.... We must act in such a way so that our energy is not spent only in fighting.... This issue of a foreign invasion has always existed but today we are under special circumstances, especially the internal situation has made this a more real threat.”

During that speech, he also emphasized the role of the “Council of Moral Observance” as an organization beyond the three pillars of the government and in

control of them, and reminded that: “Supervision is the role of the leadership [Supreme Leader] and he has decided to delegate that task to “Council of Moral Observance”. Our main work is to make sure that decisions are not made against these general guidelines, and our next task is creating measures for implementing those policies. There must be a yearly report to the “Council of Moral Observance” to clarify how much of the policies have been accomplished and if it has not been correctly implemented, where the problem is.”

Counter to these positions, the statements of Ahmadi-Nejad's supporters, including Pour-Mohammadi, Minister of Interior, are of importance. Pour Mohammadi noted – in the same Conference of the Friday Imams – that “we are faced with a high level expectations, and the economic hand of the cabinet must be cut (he was referring to the dismissal of many directors, provincial governors, and high level official on many levels from opposing parties within the regime), and this task requires an intensive surgery and a firm determination and the ninth government has the will and determination to do so. We want to strengthen the roles of the compassionate elements of the revolution (read: the Sepah Pasdaran militias and the middlemen) and the clergy who are pillars of national strength.”

Comparison of these two positions reveals the depth of the chasm in the intra-governmental differences and problems not rising from the interests of the people or of our nation but a struggle over conquering and plundering our national wealth and sitting on the ruling seat.

Another important issue in the analysis of the current events in our country, in addition to the party politics and clashes

within and around the regime, is the calculated planning and movement of the despots in silencing any opposition and squashing any remaining hopes within the society.

The oppression is creating a climate of fear and repression with very calculated speed and precision, by monitoring the thinkers, writers, and journalists in the country. Many reports mention the increased pressure on writers and activists of independent media sources, a large number of journalists have been summoned to courts on phony charges in the past weeks, and have been interrogated.

In some cases, these interrogations have even escalated to insults and even violent encounters. Before these reports were published, in a meeting with the directors of eighteen daily publications, Mohseni-Azhei, the regime's Minister of Information, drew up his ministry's new plan and unveiled the government's new orders regarding reporting on the nuclear portfolio.

According to what Azhei said, it is now decided that no publications should be sent to the media court, and the infractions will be assessed amongst the directors and managers that the ministry of Information hand picks. This means that said ministry and other such repressive organs, can act openly and without any hindrance in summoning, and interrogating journalists, media activists, and progressive intelligentsia. Isa Saharkheez, a member of the coalition for defending the freedom of press, has said that "they are trying to creating an climate of fear so that journalists will limit their cooperation with Internet sites and ... we even know that many such people have not had the

courage to tell their relatives that they have been summoned...."

The words of Saffar Harandi, Minister of Public Guidance and also one of the most detested interrogators of the regime, are worth noting. In the gathering of the Friday Imams, he admitted the implementation of the regime's plan for "certain media, while it has only been a few months since the new president took office, are bringing up the vote of non-confidence with unprecedented fervor. Such media outlets, are achieving their activities with defamations, which we exposed... in the field. Some lenience is unavoidable so that the people do not experience pressures beyond what the society can handle (*it should be noted that the point of their plan is exactly that*) we must be somewhat easy going and lenient."

These words really mean that they will not resort to extreme violence like the past, but instead will impose their choke-hold on the society with calculated planning.

One aspect of creating such repression and persecution of progressive thinkers is the strengthening of religious institutions connected to the regime and under the Valiye Faqih's direct orders, all the while punishing journalists and tightening their hold on the political atmosphere of the country. Seyyed Reza Taqavi, the head of the policy maker for the Friday Imams, has said in support and encouragement of religious gatherings, Friday Prayers, etc., that "Friday Prayers are the best and most important place for cultural activity in the country and Friday Imams play a spiritual and father role in the society."

Complimentary to this plan, is the increase in the role of Sepah Pasdaran militias (Revolutionary Guards) and local militias

in the political life of the country. The Sepah is preparing itself to suppress and clamp down on any opposition.

On November 9 of this year, according to a report by ISNA training for “fighting against unrest” was being held by the Ashoora and Al-Zahra brigades for a period of three days in the Sorkheh Hesar region. Considering the country's dangerous situation, the unrest in the region and the political climate the dissatisfaction with the reactionaries is increasing considerably.

The publication of a declaration signed by 674 people from the political activists in the labour and student movements, entitled “*A Word with the People of Iran, A Warning to the Rulers*” is indicative of the situation our nation is facing, where it is being threatened on every side. In this declaration, critical and sensitive issues have been pointed out. Although such actions in the country's current dire straits are admirable, in our opinion they are not enough. Our party, while it supports such positive actions, is of the opinion that to fight the reactionaries, the movement needs a cooperative spirit, the sharing of efforts, and a unity of purpose more than anything else.

The Tudeh Party of Iran sees the alignment of all freedom seeking, nationalist and progressive forces, parties and prominent personalities in a united front against repression as the only way to escape the current dangerous times when the nation is going through many perils. In our opinion, all true defenders of freedom, independence, national sovereignty, peace, and social justice overall have the same direction in fighting against the ruling reactionaries, however, mental barriers have prevented the proper alignment of forces to use this historic opportunity and

create a united front of freedom fighters and all those who refuse repression and despotism.

We support the statements of these 674 people that “demand true fundamental reforms based on the Universal Declarations of Human Rights and its Amendments, and providing fundamental rights, justice, and the rule of law with the cooperation and presence of committed and dedicated people who are not connected to the pyramid of power and the ruling regime.” We ask all those who want a free Iran, concentrate totally on thinking of the nation's freedom and independence, to make use of this opportunity – before the destructive and regressive policies of the regime, put sovereignty, independence, and security of the country into further danger, especially in dealing with the country's nuclear and human rights cases.

We declare our preparedness in any manner of cooperation in creating a unified and widespread anti-despotism front to achieve freedom and social justice. Our party has always acted with the utmost trustworthiness in this regard, and the publication of the charter of freedom, and the united anti-dictatorship front is witness to that claim.

Undoubtedly, the feelings of a national responsibility, loyalty to defense of the rights of the people can bring the various freedom-fighting, nationalist, and progressive forces together in an allied front, despite various obstacles, and differences in outlook and ideological beliefs. Our nation is in need of the creation of a unanimous front to free it from the grips of despotism in this historic time.