

# Tudeh News

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## Playing with Fire

*(Taken from "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 793, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2008)*

On Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>, New York Times published a report about a major Israeli Air Force maneuver carried out over the eastern Mediterranean to exercise refueling and bombarding distance targets. According to the report, the main purpose of this military maneuver has been to exercise striking nuclear facilities of Iran. Other US and European media, too, confirmed the news about this military exercise - which reportedly was carried out in harmony with the US naval fleet in the region – and analyzed various facets of Israeli government policies in dealing with nuclear policies of Iran and its consequences.

Further to the news about this military exercise in which 100 Israeli fighters participated, statements that were made in recent weeks by Shaul Mofaz, a former Israeli defense minister who is now a deputy prime minister, about how to “stop Iran’s nuclear plans” are noteworthy. In a press interview which was widely criticized and reacted to by diplomatic circles, Mofaz stated that Israel might have no choice but to attack and “attacking Iran, in order to stop its nuclear plans, will be unavoidable.” Undoubtedly, military attack against Iran, with any purpose and any pretext, not only is against peace and immediate and long term interests of the people of Iran and the Middle East, but also could have catastrophic consequences for the whole region and could drag this region into new and widespread military disastrous conflicts. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA, in a prudent and rightful reaction to these concerning news said: “In my opinion, a military strike will be the worst... If a military strike is carried out against Iran at this time ... it would make me unable to continue my work.” Also, Russian envoy to UN noted that: “threatening Iran

with military action or attempting to step up sanctions beyond the UN’s Security Council resolutions could undermine crucial negotiations with Iran.” Furthermore, Ban Ki-Moon, UN’s Secretary General, commented that: “we strive to resolve Iran’s nuclear file peacefully and through negotiations and without provocative talks.”

Tensions and the risk of new military conflicts in the Middle East, and the threats of Israel and imperialist states to attack Iran, particularly with Bush administration approaching the end of its term, have been the subject of intensive discussions in the recent months among European states and also the US presidential candidates.

Since Ahmadi-Nejad took office, and following the escalation of tensions in the regions, particularly around Iran’s nuclear program, Tudeh Party of Iran has always condemned irrational policies that although are presented as frenzy rhetoric, but at the end only help the policies of the US imperialism in the region. At the same time, however, TPI has always emphasized on peaceful conflict resolution. And once again, we would also like to stress that unreserved right of Iran and other countries in the region to peaceful use of nuclear energy, does not require permission from this or that country, and any pressure to violate this right constitutes blatant and coercive interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. Beating war drums and provoking military maneuvers is nothing but a foolhardy act of playing with fire that could have disastrous consequences for the whole region and the world. Mobilizing a global campaign to oppose these destructive policies is an urgent and crucial matter. Peace, progress and democracy activists and forces around the globe could, and should, organize an effective campaign to condemn and oppose confrontational, and ultimately dangerous, policies and actions of Israeli state leaders and their American and European allies. The slogan of this campaign could be to defend peace and sovereignty of Iran and to encourage conflict resolution through constructive negotiations.

Pursuing an active foreign policy to mobilize world's public opinion in support of Iran's right and condemning imperialist interventions in our domestic affairs, is an urgent necessity which we don't see any signs of it in current policies of Ahamdi-Nejad administration and other heads of the regime. Provocative statement [by Ahmadi-Nejad] during FAO's conference in Rome that Israel "...will soon disappear off the geographical scene", or putting down ("impossibility of") the risk of Israel's military attack against Iran by the spokesman of the Iranian government rather than voicing reasoned objection to Israel's threats, through international institutions, and making efforts to call upon international public opinion to oppose Israel's belligerence, are improvident policies that could not safeguard our national interests.

The events and several military conflicts in the region in the recent years, which cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of human beings, proved that the US administration, pursuing its imperialist and hegemonistic interests, is prepared to perpetrate any escapade, no matter how dangerous and destructive, in order to control the Middle East and in particular the strategic region of the Persian Gulf. Neo-cons, who hold central control over Bush administration, have explicitly stated that Iran's government and its policies in the region, especially related to Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine and its support for Islamic extremists must not be tolerated.

Escalation of the US and Israel threats is happening at a time when the decisive negotiations that were under way to resolve the dispute between the two parties, seemed to be producing certain results.

The trip to Tehran earlier this month by the "5+1" delegation headed by European Union defense and foreign policy chief Javier Solana, and his official negotiations with the regime's representatives about the offered packages of either side concerning the limits and nature of nuclear facilities of Iran, is an important matter which should not be neglected in analyzing the current situation. Speaking on the same topic, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters: "what we have now, for the first time in a while, we have something of a diplomatic momentum on the heels of Mr. Solana's trip to Tehran, with a new expanded and enlarged package."

There are powerful circles in Europe that in order to protect their interests in the energy sources of the Middle East, large markets of this region, and

for other delicate political, economical and diplomatic considerations - which have been possibly shaped in their competition with the US - refrain to engage in a new adventure in the Middle East. It is exactly for this reason that mobilizing the international public opinion to oppose a new military conflict stands a chance to impede such a mishap.

We call upon all the progressive, democratic and peace-seeking forces of Iran and the world to raise their voices in unity and harmony to oppose any foolhardy adventure by anyone, related to the developments of our country and the region●

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## PRESS STATEMENT

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**D**uring the third week of May the representatives of the Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran met with Comrade Hanna Amireh, member of the Political bureau of the Palestinian People's Party (PPP). The meeting had been arranged in the framework of the bilateral fraternal relation between the two parties and served to discuss important issues of significance in the Middle East.

Representatives of the two parties discussed the developments in the region and in particular in Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran and exchanged views about the way that progressive forces could contribute to the development of a powerful campaign for peace, democracy and progress in the region.

In their discussion about the Palestinian problem, representatives of the two parties studied the catastrophic consequences of the economic blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories, especially on the Gaza strip, and the damaging impact of military methods adopted by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people. They discussed also the stagnation in the peace process, because of the Israeli expansionist policies, military aggression, apartheid wall and siege. Both parties put emphases on the importance of the Palestinian unity and on the necessity to pursue the proper steps to consolidate the inner front and to end the military turn-over of Hamas in Gaza, They both stressed the need for a national dialog and forming a provisional Palestinian government, that could supervise an early presidential and legislative elections as soon as possible. They condemned the attitude of the US in ignoring the brutal nature of the Israeli occupation and in effect

encouraging Israel to continue its inhumane policies.

Both parties emphasized the centrality of demands of the Palestinians people for an immediate, unconditional and full withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Palestinian occupied land, and establishing an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza strip, alongside the state of Israel and solving the Refugees problem according to the UN resolution 194.

The representatives of the two fraternal parties discussed the difficult political, social and economic conditions engulfing Iran, the impact of the threats by the US and Israel against the country, the disastrous consequences of the undemocratic methods in, confronting the external threats, promoting the well being of the masses, solving the inner difficulties and problems and in facing the various challenges. They emphasized the vitality of the campaign for peace, democracy, human rights and social justice in Iran, and the urgency and importance of the development of a united front of all forces committed to human rights and democracy and social justice. The two parties stated their total and unconditional opposition to any external interference or military adventure against any country in the region by the US, Israel or any other country. They emphasized that all disputes should be resolved through diplomatic negotiation and in accordance with the UN Charter and the international law.

Representatives of PPP and Tudeh Party of Iran emphasized the importance of the campaign for peace, democracy, human rights and social justice in the Middle East. They stated that the people of Middle East have suffered the consequences of the world imperialism and in particular the US aggressive policies against the peoples in this region.

The two parties emphasized the need for an international mass campaign to lift the siege on Gaza and to mobilize a worldwide mass campaign for dismantling the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Palestinian territories through pressing all countries and in particular the EU countries to boycott the products of these settlements.

Representatives of the PPP and Tudeh Party of Iran assessed the bilateral meeting as successful and resolved to develop their bilateral relationships through regular meetings and exchange of views and consultation about matters of common interest.

*23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008*

## Message to the Communist Party of China

The Central Committee  
Communist Party of China  
Beijing  
People's Republic of China  
Dear Comrades,

We have been following with great sadness the news of the devastating earthquake that hit Szechuan province and subsequent developments. We understand that the tragic earthquake has resulted in the death of tens of thousands of people and injury, harm and homelessness for millions.

We hereby send our sincere and heartfelt condolences on the occasion of this catastrophic tragedy through you to the people of China. At the same time we declare our admiration for the people of the affected region and the many thousands who have come to their assistance for the resilience and steadfastness they have shown in the face of such adversity. We are delighted that the people of China and the People's Republic of China have been able to overcome the massive challenges posed by providing humanitarian assistance, re-housing hundreds of thousands of residents of the devastated areas and doing everything possible to restore normal life in the days following this natural disaster. This has justifiably gained the admiration of the world public opinion and international organizations.

We would like to emphasize our solidarity with the noble people of China and their representatives in the fraternal Communist Party of China at this difficult time.

**With fraternal greetings**  
**The Central Committee**  
**Tudeh Party of Iran**

*31<sup>st</sup> May 2008*