

Joint Statement

AGAINST THEOCRATIC RULE AND IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION IN IRAN

Statement by the Tudeh Party of Iran and the Communist Party of Britain August 16, 2010

Representatives of the Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran and the leadership of the Communist Party of Britain met on the weekend of August 14-15 to consider the political situation in Iran.

The discussion focused on the worsening human rights situation there and, in particular, the harsh conditions imposed on political detainees. These have prompted the recent hunger strike of 17 political prisoners against their mistreatment and the regime's decision to put on trial the leader of the Tehran Public **Bus Workers' Union**, Mansour Osanlou, before his current sentence ends.

Osanlou has been in gaol since his arrest in July 2007 on trumped-up charges. He is suffering ill health and doctors who have examined him have say that he is too ill to remain in prison and should be hospitalised. Despite this, Osanlou was sentenced last week to a further one year's imprisonment.

The Tudeh Party of Iran and the Communist Party of Britain have agreed to coordinate a series of activities in solidarity with victims of the Iranian regime's repressive measures.

They declared their support for the current popular struggle for human rights, justice, democracy, peace and an end to theocratic rule in Iran.

They called for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Iran and for the Tehran regime to fully respect the UN Charter and the UN Convention on Human Rights, of which it is a signatory, and all ILO conventions on workers' rights.

The two parties also expressed their admiration for the brave stance of the Iranian women's movement in the current struggle to expose their oppression and work towards a democratic and equal future. They expressed grave concern about the treatment of women by the Islamic government in Iran and condemned the endemic discrimination against women in employment and all aspects of economic, social and cultural life.

The CPB and the Tudeh Party of Iran unreservedly condemn the barbaric punishments meted out to victims of the country's legal system, such as stoning to death for those accused of adultery and amputation of limbs for minor criminal charges. The parties called for an end to all forms of discrimination against women and an immediate cessation of all barbaric and medieval tortures and executions.

The two parties also emphasised their total and unequivocal opposition to any external intervention in Iran under any pretext. They stated that such adventures serve only to strengthen the hand of the theocratic regime in further extending its repressive rule. This is already proving to be the case in relation to recent sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council and the European Union. Sanctions have been used by the regime as an excuse to crack down on the opposition, blaming them for the unstable conditions in the country.

The Tudeh Party of Iran and the Communist Party of Britain emphasised that the future direction of political developments in Iran can and should be decided only by the Iranian people themselves. Neither theocratic dictatorship nor intervention by any foreign power should feature in the future of the country.

END