

## **The Statement of the Central Committee of The Tudeh Party of Iran on the Anniversary of the National Catastrophe of 1988**



***16 years of silence by the perpetrators of the shocking massacre of thousands of political prisoners must be broken by mobilizing public opinion in Iran and worldwide.***

Dear Compatriots!

It is sixteen years since the massacre of thousands of Iranian political prisoners in the dungeons of the regime of Velayat-e-faqih (the supreme religious leader).

According to evidence and documents published to date, it was during the summer of 1988, following the defeat of the regime in the Iran-Iraq war – a war that was pursued contrary to Iran's national interests and on the insistence of the Islamic Republic's leaders, particularly Khomeini – that the leaders' selected death squads were dispatched to prisons around the country with the dual task of emptying the prisons of freedom-fighters and the staunch defenders of the people's rights creating an atmosphere of terror in the country and prevent a social explosion against the regime's devastating policies, by the masses who had come to the end of their tether.

One such document is found in the memoirs of Ayatollah Montazeri, heir apparent to Khomeini at the time of the massacres, which asserts that political prisoners who had been already tried regime's courts of injustice and sentenced to imprisonment, were once more, in breach of all existing national and international laws tried again in kangaroo courts and sentenced to death arbitrarily according to the whim of dark-minded torturers some of whom were convicted common criminals. Many human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, the UN Human Rights Commission and hundreds of humanitarian and progressive political parties and trade unions around the world strongly condemned the regime of Velayat-e-faqih, comparing it to the savagery of Nazis in Gestapo's death camps.

The brutal massacre of thousands of political prisoners clearly shows the deeply inhumane nature of a regime that calls itself an "exemplary regime" but in reality savagely violates all international laws and conventions in the area of respect for and protection of the most basic human rights of its citizens.

This national tragedy was a shocking catastrophe for our people and our country. In the process of this unprecedented political massacre thousands, made up of distinguished public figures, intellectuals and freedom fighters, were killed and our country was robbed of a significant part of its intellectual and spiritual asset.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, and other progressive forces of the country, lost hundreds of their most outstanding leaders, cadres, intellectuals, researchers and writers; hundreds of leaders and prominent figures in the social movements (men and women) among them workers and students were lost so that the reactionary regime could prolong its shameful existence.

Conscientious Compatriots!

As you are well aware, 16 years have gone by and the leaders of this regime have yet to release the slightest information about the fate of those innocent revolutionaries to their families. We, along with the great numbers of the families of the political prisoners murdered in the National Catastrophe of 1988, urge the intensification of pressure both inside Iran and internationally for release of information about all the facets of the crimes committed in the prisons of the Velayat-e-faqih regime. We, along with the families of martyrs of the movement for freedom demand and press on the regime to:

- Officially disclose the names of the murdered victims of the bloody September 1988;
- Release the execution dates and the burial site of political prisoners to their grieving families;
- State the reasons for the re-trials and revised sentences, and identify the authorities of the Islamic Regime that permitted this;
- State the charges for which the prisoners were executed.

We must break the 16-year silence of the planners of this horrible crime against thousands of political prisoners by mobilising the public in Iran and the world. It is only by bringing the planners and perpetrators of this horrific crime to justice that we can prevent such crimes from being committed again in future.

The escalation of repression, kidnappings, assaults and torture of prisoners, by the intelligence services in recent weeks, once again emphasizes the need for the cooperation of all the progressive forces of Iran and intensifying the international solidarity with the political prisoners to defeat the regime's conspiracies and its security forces against those who think differently.

The experience of the past 16 years have shown us that the judiciary of the Islamic Republic, along with the intelligence services under the direct supervision of the supreme leader, are the greatest threats to the human rights of the citizens of our country. It is only through the formation of a broad front made up of all anti-dictatorship combatants and the intensification of the struggle throughout the country that we can achieve the dissolution and radical transformation of these bodies along with other fundamental changes necessary for the establishment of freedom and justice in our country. It is our urgent duty to realise the humane aspirations of the thousands of resolute combatants who put up a legendary resistance against the ruling criminals and did not bend to the will of tyranny and we redouble our united efforts in order to fulfill this task.

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran honours the glorious memory of the martyrs of the National Catastrophe of 1988, and once again affirms its solidarity and sympathy with the families who have lost their loved ones.

We salute the glorious memory of the martyrs of the National Catastrophe!

We salute to the persistent and courageous struggle of thousands of families of the martyrs of the National Catastrophe who continue their efforts to uncover the facts behind this heinous crime!

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

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