

# Tudeh News



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## **TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE HORRENDOUS TERROR ACT AT “CHARLIE HEBDO”**

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 964, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2015)*

*“The contextual conditions of the growth of terrorism and Islamic extremism should be sought in the destructive and adventurous policies of imperialism in the regions, from Syria and Iraq to Lebanon, Palestine, Persian Gulf and Iran.”*

A few days ago the world witnessed the horrendous crime of murdering writers, cartoonists and staff of the French magazine “Charlie Hebdo” in Paris. The attack of extremist Muslims on the office of “Charlie Hebdo” and massacre of a few of the editorial personnel and staff members of this magazine only because of their views and opinions is an indication of the growth of a very dangerous and destructive phenomenon that the progressive people cannot remain silent about. As a result of the terrorist attacks in recent days in Paris, 14 innocent people, from the staff of the “Charlie Hebdo” magazine to the customers of a Jewish kosher shop and 3 police officers- one of whom was a Muslim of Algerian descent- were killed. Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns this dreadful crime whose objective is to exterminate dissidents and to spread fear and intimidation.

Attempts to physically exterminate and massacre dissidents is nothing new and surprising for us, Iranians, who have been living for years under the chains of a medieval theocratic regime. From Khomeini’s fatwa (religious decree) to murder Salman Rushdie, to massacre of thousands of political prisoners for their progressive and freedom-seeking beliefs in the summer of 1988; from serial killings in which prominent figures like Foroohars [Dariush and Parvaneh] and Mokhtari and Pouyandeh and other political activists and dissidents were slaughtered by the security forces of

the regime, to arresting and jailing and persecution of dissidents and screams of “suppress them, crush them” by the Supreme Leader to silence any dissenting voice; all are similar ways to deal with opposition views, which has caused our nation to suffer for 3 decades. Thousands of freedom-loving and progressive people, scientists, writers, translators, artists, and social and union activists have lost their lives because of that.



It is interesting that under the pressure arising from strong repugnance in the world public opinion, some of the regime leaders and figures had no choice but to condemn terrorist actions and attack on the “Charlie Hebdo” magazine in Paris. For instance, Ahmad Khatami, the Friday prayer Imam of Tehran and one of the most dark-minded advocates of the theocratic regime, said in his sermon on January 9<sup>th</sup>: “We strongly condemn the terrorist attack in France and believe that Islam does not permit the killing of innocent people. It does not make any difference if these innocent people are in Paris, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan or Afghanistan.”

These words come out of the mouth of someone like him when he and his like-minded allies, such as Jannati and Larijani (Speaker of the Parliament) and others, in recent weeks have reconfirmed their support for the bloody suppression of the people protesting against the 2009 election coup, and have asked for execution of the leaders of the Green Movement, Mousavi and Karrubi, who are still under house arrest, for their opposition to that

coup. Jannati, the spokesperson of the Guardian Council, said in an interview with an Islamic Republic TV station: "These perpetrators have been treated with favor. If they are tried, any educated and fair judge would sentence them to death. No country treats such people who oppose the system- not the President or a Minister or a judge, but the system-like we did. Therefore we have done them a favor. For whatever reason, such as Islamic kindness, their punishment was reduced. Otherwise, if this was anywhere else in the world, they would have been executed."

Paris terrorists claimed that the reason for their attack on "Charlie Hebdo" and killing the writers and cartoonists and staff of the magazine was their "publication of offensive material against Islam." While we believe that all religions and schools of thought have to be respected and the faith symbols of people must be dealt with diligently, but we also believe that the idea of exterminating dissidents stems in medieval thinking, when individuals were killed because of casting doubt on and questioning religion (then the Rome Catholic Church), or were forced to confess against their own beliefs and burned, as in the case of Galileo. Emergence of such way of thinking and behavior in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in the present stage of the development of the human society is a horrific and destructive phenomenon which has to be opposed and confronted by any progressive person and advocated of human rights.

Following the emergence of the "political Islam" and its view points about the role of Islam in today's world and the aspiration to establish "Islamic Empire" such conducts gradually transformed from political protests into state policies and took the shape of a global order for Jihad against the opponents of "political Islam". One of the most notorious and controversial examples of such conducts was Khomeini's fatwa against Salman Rushdie in 1989. A point to reflect upon is that a few months before this fatwa, Khomeini had issued another fatwa for mass killing of thousands of political prisoners in Iran which at the time was mainly ignored by the European leaders, who practically turned a blind eye on it. Double standard [of the West] in reacting to these two fatwa was noteworthy. In his 14 February 1989 fatwa Khomeini said: "I am informing all brave Muslims of the world that the author of The Satanic Verses, a text written, edited, and published against Islam, the Prophet of Islam, and the Qur'an, along with all the editors and publishers aware of its contents, are condemned to death. I call on all valiant Muslims

wherever they may find them in the world to kill them without delay, so that no one will dare insult the sacred beliefs of Muslims henceforth. And whoever is killed for this cause will be a martyr, Allah Willing. Meanwhile if someone has access to the author of the book but is incapable of carrying out the execution, he should inform the people so that [Rushdie] is punished for his actions."

At the time, Nameh Mardom, the central publication of the Tudeh Party of Iran wrote in an article titled "Khomeini and Rushdie": "Nameh Mardom revealed that during the recent massacre of political prisoners, religious judges were calling on the prisoners and asking them whether they believe in god or not; whether they were still insisting on their views and beliefs or not. If they were not getting their desired response, they would immediately issue the death sentence... [The news published in Nameh Mardom] might have created this doubt for those who are unfamiliar with the "culture" and "logic" of the theocratic regime of Supreme Leader that we had exaggerated in circulating these news... The order to kill Salam Rushdie, the author of The Satanic Verses... proved that when these guys don't like an opinion or belief (rightly or wrongly) and consider it "offensive", they cannot like any other civilized person deal with it in a logical and scientific manner, so they decide to kill the person." (Nameh Mardom, No. 248, 28 Feb. 1990)

### **The context of growth of terrorism and extremism in the region and the world**

While unconditionally condemning such medieval and destructive beliefs (mentioned above) in dealing with the dissidents, we cannot ignore the objective context of the growth of this phenomenon which is directly related to the destructive and adventurist policies of the global imperialism in the Middle East in the recent decades. The founding of the terrorist group "Al Qaeda" in Afghanistan during the "cold war"- with the aim of toppling the democratic government of that country at the time- with the financial and moral support of the US and Britain imperialism and under the direct supervision of the intelligence service in Pakistan, and with the cooperation and financial aid from the local reactionary forces, such as Saudi Arabia regime, created and mobilized a horrible beast in the world which revealed itself in the bloodiest way in the West in terrorist attacks of September 11 of 2001, and its continuation could

be seen today in bloody civil wars in Syria and Iraq.

The military attack of the US and its allies on Afghanistan and then Iraq, and the continuing bloody suppression and violent violation of the rights of the Palestinians by the state of Israel, have in general laid the ground for the growth of religious extremism and intensification of tensions and bloodshed not only in the Middle East region, but also all around the world.

A careful and critical review of the news in the recent months about the raids of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and then the recent terrorist attacks, indicate this undeniable fact that imperialists and their allies have supported these same criminals as “freedom fighters” in Syria in the past two years, and have provided all kind of financial and military assistance to them. The revelation that the French terrorists have been training and transferring “jihadists” to Syria and Iraq under the guidance of the France security forces in the past few years, and the European states turning a blind eye on the fact that terrorist organizations have been recruiting warriors in the European capitals in order to organize “jihad” in the Middle East countries, backed by the billion-dollars financial support of the Saudi Arabia and Qatar regimes, are indications of the destructive consequences of a policy that strives to impose its hegemony, in this very sensitive and high-tension region at any cost, and without any consideration for the will and interests of the people of the region and the world.

Another important point to note is the growth of fascist and racist views in European countries, including France, which provides grounds for the growth of extremism in various forms and shapes. The results of the recent EU parliamentary elections and the unprecedented and dangerous growth of racist forces, from Germany to France and England and Greece and Holland and East European countries, is a serious indication of a social crisis which is spreading widely every day on the ground of the capitalism economic crisis and its efforts to impose neoliberal policies on the world. The demonstrations of racist groups in Dresden and other German cities in recent days, which were opposed by the progressive forces and ordinary citizens, and also the events in Ukraine and the support of the imperialists of fascist forces in that country proves this fact that contrary to what the Western leaders say, it is not the governing capitalist system that defends the human rights, equality and fraternity and “liberté” in France or anywhere else in the world.

While categorically condemning the horrendous crime of terrorists affiliated with the Islamic extremists in killing writers, cartoonists and staff of the “Charlie Hebdo” magazine, our party does not believe that the way to save the world from the scourge of terrorism is religious crusade and transforming the cities in Europe and North America to military bases, but the answer is in the fair and just solution of the crisis in the Middle East, implementing people-orientated socio-economic policies, and in putting an immediate stop on the adventurist and destructive policies of imperialism to impose its hegemony over the Middle East region. The presence of millions of French people in the streets of various cities of France and the solidarity of the progressive and humanitarian people around the world in memory of the victims of this horrific crime and in defence of freedom of thought and expression does not mean that they defend the devastating policies of the imperialist states in the Middle East and Africa.

### **IN IRAN:**

## **INCREASE IN IMPORTS, DECREASE OF EXPORTS AND STAGNATION IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION**

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 964, January 12, 2015)*

The Customs Bureau of the Islamic Republic, in its latest report, has indicated that the imports in the last seven months have shown a significant increase in terms of both the volume and the value. According to this report, in the first seven months of the Iranian year (starting March 21<sup>st</sup>), there were 57,810 cars imported alone worth \$1.15 billion which indicates a 90% increase over the previous year. Most of these import cars have been imported from countries in the Euro-zone and from Japan. At the same time, the newspaper Etemad, on November 6, in a report titled "180 degrees turn in the source of imports to the country" noted that: "The ministry of Industries, Mines and Trade declared in a report that Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands were the top countries among the ten largest exporters to Iran in the first six months of the Iranian year... Five of these countries had a total export of \$3 billion to Iran."

Reports indicate that the United Arab Emirates still stands as the top exporting country to Iran. UAE is the conduit for exports from the US, UK, Canada, Australia and other Western countries, and especially from Europe to the Islamic Republic of



Iran. More than 90% of the UAE exports to Iran originate from the UK, US and European companies, and especially France. Furthermore, ISNA (Iranian Student News Agency) in late November indicated that the German

Statistics Office reported that exports from Germany to Iran in the first eight months of 2014 showed 33% increase compared to the same period last year. In addition, the numbers published by the Customs Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran on December 31<sup>st</sup> show that the trade with UK has picked up 36% in the recent months.

In another report, Mehr News Agency wrote in late November that in the spring and summer of the current Iranian year, 300 tons worth of cell phones entered the country which shows an 84% increase over the previous year. The value of these imports, based on the Customs Bureau's estimates, tops \$128,700 million. These phones have been mostly imported from South Korea, China, Turkey and UAE.

The Customs Bureau report and the estimates of the Central Bank of the IR of Iran show that in the first eight months of the current Iranian year, the imports have more than doubled compared to the previous year. In fact, based on the imperialist devised scenario, all the blocked assets of Iran that were released (by the US treasury) will be used to purchase goods from the Western countries, and especially the EU and US. It was not a coincidence that a number of industrialists and domestic manufacturers, complaining about the implementation of the second phase of the "targeted subsidies" (i.e. elimination of subsidies) and not paying the unpaid state subsidies to the manufacturing plants, termed the massive imports a source of extermination of industry and domestic production in the country. In this respect, the head of the Textiles Association and the Board of Directors

of Part Manufacturers Association told ISNA that we are witnessing a tsunami of imports against domestic production! They noted that through the negotiations with the countries of "5 + 1", and the increase in the foreign currency reserves (through their release by the US treasury), the manufacturing sector has been treated unfairly by the authorities, and on the other hand, imports have taken over the domestic markets. The astronomical increase in imports is not separate from the socio-economic policies of the Iranian regime and the Rouhani administration. Regime's strategy in the economic field is to boost imports and ever increasingly shrink the role of domestic production sector, both in industry and agriculture. Imports are against the interests of national economy and the wide array of working people and middle strata in the society and they solely divert massive profits to the coffers of major importers, Bazaar merchants, parasitic foundations, and the companies associated with the Revolutionary Guards■

## **IN IRAN:**

### **ABOUT REVISIONS TO THE LABOUR LAW, FEMALE WORKERS, AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS**

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 964, January 12, 2015)*

The Unemployment numbers for the summer season once again have shown the nature of economic plans of the Iranian regime and the Rouhani administration, and have exposed their dire ramifications for all to judge. According to the the released numbers, female workers and women who are the heads of families have been the main group among the unemployed. In recent years, along with the economic stagnation and ever increasing weakening of the industries and manufacturing sector, female workers have faced numerous hardships, especially a decline in their standard of living and job loss.

Now, with Hassan Rouhani's plans to revise the Labour Law, especially articles 7 and 21, to grant the full right to employers to fire and lay-off workers, the livelihood and job security of female workers have once again been turned to a contentious issue. At the same time, the publication of reports on Ministry of Labour plans to reform the Labour Law and the propaganda by Ali Rabiei, the Minister of Labour, on tackling the unemployment problem, Shargh newspaper, in a report on November 9<sup>th</sup> about "the challenges faced

in the job market" wrote: "the unemployment rate, especially among the youth and women, has increased... the decline in participation of the women in labour market is a testament to this fact. In the period under study (summer of 2013 to summer of 2014), despite the substantial increase in education level of women, their rate of representation has declined by 2 percent and has lowered to 11.7% from 13.6%." Furthermore, ILNA (Iranian Labour News Agency) wrote on November 4<sup>th</sup> that "ratification of bills such as reduction of the working hours and increase in the duration of maternity leave, although appearing to be protecting women, but due to absence of social security for employed women, actually puts them on the first lines of layoffs... The minimum legal protections in the current Labour Law will be eliminated by such proposed revisions and are considered serious threats, especially to female workers... Such 'reforms' can practically move the female workers out of the labor market."

The fact is that in the past years and in the context of anti-people socio-economic plans such as the economic restructuring and economic liberalization (targeted [eliminated] subsidies), the working class and working people in the country have faced a decline in their living conditions and income, and this trend is still continuing. Female workers are the first victims among the working people in this regard



and face layoffs, unemployment, reduction in wages, and imposed temporary contracts. The livelihood and the job security of them, therefore, are in jeopardy.

All the statistics and official estimates show that the female workers, in all cases of plant closures and alike, are the first to lose their jobs and be on the verge of poverty. The so-called "House of Workers", a state-affiliated organization, has long set up an organization called the "National Association of Female Workers" which up to now has not taken a single positive step in defense of the female workers' rights. Among the goals of this counterfeit,

reactionary "association" is "to create the means of empowerment and blooming of talents and self confidence of women"! There is no mention of the fundamental issues such as the right to organize, equal pay for equal work and struggle against class and gender discriminations among the claimed goals of this "association". Now, with the revision of the Labour Law in the context of the targeted subsidies or economic liberalization on the dictates of IMF and the World Bank, the rights and interests of female workers will be trampled more than ever. Women workers, and in general the marginalized and working women in the society, have special demands which are: equal pay for equal work, Job security during pregnancy and after child birth, abolishing all the gender discriminatory laws and union rights of the female workers. These are also among the main demands of existing union movement of the workers and all female workers.

Female workers can and should, through independent union activity, effectively fight back against the changes and revisions to the Labour Law in favour of the grand capitalists■

*Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran*

## **Message of Solidarity with KKE**

*To the Central Committee,  
Communist Party of Greece  
Athens, Greece*



Dear Comrades,

As the people of Greece approach the important parliamentary elections of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015, The Tudeh Party of Iran wishes to convey to you its best wishes for the success of the fraternal Communist Party of Greece (KKE). In our view the success of KKE in this election in representing the views and aspirations of the Greek working class will be an important victory for genuine democracy, social justice and prosperity in your country. A successful result for KKE means a strong KKE and an important victory in the struggle for peace, human and democratic rights and socialism in Greece.

Since the start of the economic and monetary crisis of capitalism the working people of Greece have been subjected to the most barbaric attacks on their livelihood, social and economic rights that had been won through bitter struggles and their sovereignty by the European Union, the European

Central Bank and the IMF. The catastrophic austerity policies and measures imposed by the Troika have in effect condemned the Greek working class to severe poverty and hardship for the failure of the bankers, speculators and capitalist system that were the main contributors of the current crisis.

The struggles organised and waged by the KKE, PAME, KNE and other contingents of the working people of Greece during the past five years including the magnificent general strikes to defend the human and democratic rights of the Greek people and their sovereignty have won the admiration of the working class internationally. The Tudeh Party of Iran is proud of its close internationalist relations with KKE.

The Tudeh Party of Iran wishes fraternal KKE every success in the parliamentary elections of 25<sup>th</sup> January. In our view a strong, united, successful KKE is good for the future of Greece and its working people, for democracy in Greece, for peace in Europe and the world and for the success of the people's struggle for democracy, human and democratic rights and social justice in Iran and the Middle East.

With fraternal best wishes!

**The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran**  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

*Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran*

Tudeh Party of Iran condemns the continued repression in Sudan and calls for an immediate end to the regime of censorship and repression!

**Free all political prisoners  
in Sudan!**



The Tudeh Party of Iran is appalled to learn of the continued wave of repression targeting progressive and democratic forces in Sudan and in particular leaders, cadres and activists of the Sudanese Communist Party. We are particularly concerned about the systematic pressure applied by the security forces of the dictatorial regime in Khartoum on Al-Midan, the newspaper of the Sudanese Communist Party. According to the press statement published by the Sudanese CP, since 1st January three issues of Al-Midan were confiscated, after printing, by the security forces. Al-Midan editors are also being harassed by the security forces.

The Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the repressive measures employed by the Sudanese reactionary government against the Sudanese Communist Party, Al-Midan and its allies in the wider democratic and progressive forces in Sudan.

We consider the repressive measures adopted by the dictatorial regime in Sudan and the heightening of repression is aimed at particularly silencing the opposition and stifling its onward march to provide united leadership and focus to the national uprising of the Sudanese people. The regime is desperately attempting to stop, reverse and defeat the national popular movement for democracy in Sudan for bringing to an end the disastrous rule of the dictatorial Islamic headed by Omar Al-Bashir that has been gaining momentum in recent months and weeks.

The Tudeh Party of Iran resolutely condemns the repressive policies of the dictatorial regime in Sudan and wholeheartedly support the movement for peace, human and democratic rights, and social justice in Sudan. The TPI adds its voice to those of Sudanese democrats and progressive forces and others internationally calling for an end to terror and repressive measures against the opposition in Sudan.

The Tudeh Party of Iran calls for immediate end to all restrictions placed on Al-Midan newspaper and for the continued publication of this voice of the Sudanese working class and dispossessed.

We express our full and continued solidarity with the struggle of the Sudanese Communist Party and its allies for peace, human and democratic rights, social justice and national liberation.

**The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran**  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

