

Tudeh News

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The Regime Is Preparing To 'Kill' And Be 'Killed'

(From editorial in the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 596, 22nd Nov 2000)

In a speech in the city of Khoi, Ali KhazAli, member of the Guardian Council of the regime and a supporter of the supreme religious leader, declared: "I have a complaint to make about the President. Why was it that in response to the question: 'why don't you give interviews to the newspaper' he replied: 'Because they have been shut down'. It is a surprise when the country's president makes such statements. I hope that he (president, Khatami) will say that he has made a mistake. After all he is a Seyed (descendant of the prophet)". In another part of his speech, Ali KhazAli advised his followers thus: "If you see the faith in danger, tolerate imprisonment and hardship, accept to kill and be killed, but disseminate the message of the faith to all and defend it". He added: "I do not say terrorism is good. But people are at the end of their tether and have right to expect this. Meanwhile, I hope that the misguided writers will also wake up to reality" (Daily Hambastegi, 13th November 2000).

It is certain that KhazAli's utterances cannot have been made without coordination with other representatives of the regime and its security apparatus. According to the same report, Mesbah Yazdi (one of the theoreticians of Reaction and a

member of the Society of Theologians in the city of Qum) also declared: "When America (US) wants to infiltrate, it seeks out mercenaries from among the nation and sometimes in the revolutionary organisations and invests in them". Hussein ShariatMadari, the editor of the daily Keyhan, the mouthpiece of the regime's club-weilders and thugs whom the regime's leaders have called "the anonymous soldiers of the messiah" also made his views known on the subject. He said: "Today, we are facing a movement which is on the scene speaking two different languages. When facing one camp, it raises the banner of Islam; but when alone with satan, they speak their mind and open their heart". According to ShariatMadari, "these groups nest on the periphery of the safe environment created for them (by the theocratic faction), that is to say that if we ourselves do not give them room, they will not get the opportunity to make an appearance. This is one of the characteristics of these groups" (Aftab-e-Yazd daily paper 17th November).

The utterance of these words is not simply propaganda. Our experience has shown that the oppressive rulers of the regime will not stop at any atrocity to prolong their rule and will execute any plan with religious justification.

KhazAli's comments about the media and his incitement to terrorism and murder are nothing but the initial steps in preparations for a crackdown on the reformists in the regime. The spectacle of one of the highest ranking members of the regime inciting his followers to acts of terror signals the closing off of the previous routes for them. His open attack on the country's president and open expression of support for Sa'id Emami (the former deputy Information Minister who was imprisoned awaiting trial for the murder of opposition politicians, later said to have committed suicide in prison), are clear signals that the regime is preparing for a broader onslaught on political activists.

Recently, Hajarian, editor of the banned paper Sobhe Emrooz and advisor to president Khatami, was reported as saying (Hayat-e-now paper, 18th November) Despite all the events of the recent years, the most important development after the June 97 presidential elections, was the chain of assassinations of opposition politicians and dissidents". He added: "The assassination machinery, has turned into a cancerous tumour at the centre of the regime's nerve centre. The engine of this machine started long before the elections and had already taken many a victim. But the makers of the machine forgot to turn the engine off. Perhaps they did expect their machine to continue its work after the elections and will continue to claim more victims in future".

The Tudeh Party of Iran, without wishing to discount the possibility of suffering another blow, believes that the potential of the movement is still very high. But the problem at present is that there is the absence of a popular and democratic alternative, lack of organisation and definite political programme and one for the struggle to pave the way for reforms in Iran and

removing 'legal' obstacles in the way of reform. Reaction knows very well that the continuation of reforms and the strength of the popular movement is irreversible. The intensification of attacks on reform-seeking forces should be seen in this light. For this very reason, the threats of KhazAli and other henchmen of the regime should be taken seriously. As the date of the next presidential elections draws near, reactionary forces will intensify their anti-people measures. These must be countered by alertness and united action of all national, progressive and freedom-loving forces in Iran.

Regime's Mafia-Like Right Wing Faction And National Production

The economic crisis continues to intensify in Iran bringing with it enormous difficulties, and resulting in serious debate in political circles. The ultra right-wing faction in the regime proclaims that the only way out of the economic crisis is to turn a blind eye to reality and merely concentrating on the society's economic welfare.

Undoubtedly, the disastrous socio-economic state of the country is in need of a prompt, comprehensive and decisive policy for the establishment of social justice. It is clear that the ultra right-wing faction who were the main cause of these problems are trying to use these problems in pursuit of their political agenda. The regime's record, including that of Hashemi Rafsanjani's presidency, has proved that the acceptance of IMF's prescriptions caused the collapse of the economy and the destruction of national production. Today, the same faction is

trying to divert the people's movement and gain positions among people, pretending that they have people's welfare in mind.

In order to discover the facts it suffices that we consider the regime's latest performance on the economy's growth and national production which has brought sugar cane production to the verge of complete collapse. One of the vital parts of the industrial development of the country after the revolution was the development of the sugar cane industry in Khuzestan province. This important national five-year plan was aimed at the creation of seven sugar cane planting and processing plants in an area of 84 hectares and under the control of the ministry of Agriculture.

It is intended that this vast Industrial and Agricultural scheme will be followed by seven advanced agricultural-industrial units and twenty-two related factories and seven modern cane sugar factories. There are important industrial projects such as medium weight hard board factories, paper factories, liquid paste and biotechnological industries were all part of this scheme. The implementation of the entire project approximately 60 thousand people would have found employment and \$700 million saving on annual government's budget. So far the government has spent more than 5 billion Rials (\$1=8000Rials) with 17 thousand workers technicians engineers and specialists employed and yet after nine years it still remains unfinished.

In September 1999 Islamic parliament set up an inquiry into the scheme. The inquiry produced a report for the parliament, which has never been published. The regime's rulers wish to prevent the report from being published. According to one of the economists the domestic friends of

international Cartels are against the cane-sugar project.

It is clear that the ultra right-wing faction in Bazaar who enjoy massive power and influence are sabotaging the project. Other factions that benefit from the abandoning of a national project are the Islamic society of Bazaar, some of the bodies in the Agricultural ministry, the Guardian Council, Society for the Recognition of Expedience, the Foundation of the Martyr, Khomeini Assistance Committee and other parasitical groups and committees.

In short the ultra right-wing faction in the regime are against any progress towards economic development. They do not wish to solve the welfare of the people. The problems of the social economy is dependent on the growth of the national industry and this cannot happen without the rejection of the principle of the rule of the Supreme Religious Leader as main cause of the societal and economic underdevelopment in Iran for the past two decades.

Sixth Parliament and Expectations of more than 27 Million Voters

First official session of new parliament was held on May 2000. This was after weeks of attempts by the reactionary and pro-dictatorship forces to cancel hundreds of thousand of people's votes to eliminate people's candidates and to promote their own disgraced 'Guardians of faith' candidates. In the opening of the parliament President Mohammed Khatami talked about the electorate's expectation and hoped that the sixth

parliament could consolidate the rule of law. He also emphasised that the new parliament has the power to reject or investigate all acts. Against this speech Khamene'i the 'Supreme Religious Leader' issued a message expressing the hope that the sixth parliament would protect the regime and Islam as before and disappoint the enemy.

The parliamentary election of March 2000 was an important milestone in the people's struggle against the dictatorial regime. This election like the other elections held under undemocratic conditions and under the supervision of the reactionary 'Council of Guardians'. In spite of all restrictions, millions came out and rejected the supporter of the 'Guardians of faith' candidates of Islamisation. Again voters categorically announced their readiness for a process of reforms albeit very slow. The drop in the number of clergy in the sixth parliament to 33 means the lowest number clergy in the parliament since the 1979 Revolution. This clearly spells out the judgement of our people toward the ruling clergy and the disastrous result of its twenty years in power.

The Central committee of Tudeh Party of Iran, stated in its last plenary meeting stated that the vast majority of the masses expect the implementation of a minimum programme from the sixth parliament.

- a) Repeal of the anti-worker bill exempting workshops (under 5 worker) from the Act.
- b) Repeal of health services bill enforcing sexual segregation in the health service whereby women patients can only be treated by female doctors and vice versa, and other anti-women measures, civil rights, divorce right, child custody favourable to men and similar acts.

c) Repeal of censorship and anti-democratic measures against the media aimed at suppressing any voice of opposition.

d) Repeal of anti-democratic and anti-human rights of Islamic punishment.

e) Establishment of a body to monitor and protect human rights in Iran, independent of the judiciary and other governmental organisations to monitor the security forces.

f) Repeal of supervision and approbation of the 'Council of Guardians', which is an obstacle in the way of free elections or any progressive reforms in the country.

The realisation of these reforms depends on the continuation of the mass struggle.

It is clear that the regime of the rule of the Supreme Religious Leader with the unlimited power of the Leader, 'Council of Guardians' and 'Council for the Recognition of Expedience' will prevent any reform by sixth parliament.

Another danger is the instability and concession by some members of Khatami's wing which might make a deal with conservatives to protect the regime against the will of the people. The sixth parliament and its elected members face a difficult historic challenge. Without doubt moving toward the needs of people could prove the outstanding rule of sixth parliament in history of Iran. Any concessions made to the reactionary regime will cost the new parliament its creditability with the people, just as the previous parliaments did.

The Tudeh Party of Iran believes that by organising and consolidating of the social forces in the movement such as workers, toilers, youth, students and women in Iran could transform the future of Iran. A mass popular movement could guarantee the process of changes in Iran. We have to mobilise all our possibilities in this process.