

Tudeh News

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A Happy New Year To All The People And Progressives Around The World

The Tudeh Party of Iran wishes a happy new year to all the people around the world and hopes that the year 2002 will be full of success in their struggle against the reaction around the world.

To the United Nation High Commissioner on the Status of Refugee in Turkey

(From the the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No.624, 22nd Nov 2000)

The dangerous situation that the Iranian refugees are facing in the Yogart refugee camp rises out concern. We have been informed that the UNHCR officials, on Dec 26, 2001, will be visiting the Yogart camp to assess the security and well being condition of the Iranian refugees.

We call upon the UNHCR officials – as the organizations, which are responsible to help and provide a secure place for the victims of political persecution and violation of human rights, the victims of a theocratic regime – to do everything in their power to assure the health and security of these refugees.

According to our information, many Iranian refugees, along with their spouses and children, with no assurance of their final destination, live in this camp. This lack of security about the future and the prospect of being returned to Iran have created a difficult and tense atmosphere, and have created a good ground for the activities of the Iranian security forces to pressure the refugees.

We have been informed of the activities of certain elements of the security forces of Iranian regime. This includes spying on the refugees and information gathering about the ideas and the organizational affiliation and the political activities of the refugees.

We demand from you, in order to prevent a serious catastrophe, to take practical measures to protect the well-being and security of the refugees.

We know that many of the Iranian refugees, with no future stability and under the threat to be returned and a dangerous situation due to the activity of the Iranian regime's agent, live under very difficult conditions.

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As a political party, which is committed to the struggle for democracy and democratic, and human rights, Tudeh Party of Iran demands your intervention to protect the refugees who have escaped from Iran as a result of the ongoing violation of human and democratic rights.

We call upon the UNHCR to act on:

- ☞☞ Insuring the physical and political security of the Iranian refugees in Turkey. Providing the refugees with the necessary facilities for a healthy, secure and humane life.
- ☞☞ Insuring immediate action in regards to the settlement of the Iranian refugees in those secure countries that accept the settlement of the refugees. These victims of the Islamic regime are in dire need of settlement to start to bring their lives in order.
- ☞☞ Insuring that no Iranian refugees will be returned to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The regime's agents have reported the ideas and political and organizational affiliations of many of these refugees to the security officials. This raises our concern about those who are forced to return to Iran.

Sham Trial of National – Religious Forces

(From the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 623, 11th Dec 2002)

Last week, behind the closed doors and by previous announcement, the trial of the national-religious forces started. The trial started while some of the lawyers defending the accused were not permitted to read their client's files. The trial of the national-religious activists, who are all well-known political and cultural figures, ignited a wide range of criticisms inside and outside the country. The Socialist Party of France, called the trial "violation of Human Rights" and supported the demand of the "International Federation of Societies for Defense of Human Rights" to allow the international observers to observe the trial proceedings. The detention and solitary confinement of the prisoners and then the court proceeding behind the closed doors have intensely attracted the public attention. On the verge of these trials, wide range of support and activities has taken place by the Human Rights groups. Among others the following organizations could be named: the Journalists without Borders, Human Rights Watch, the Committee for the Defense of the Prisoners of Conscience and the International Federation of Societies for the Defense of Human Rights. Also many internet sites reflected on the proceeding of these unjust, medieval and illegal trials. The trial was also widely covered by the Farsi language publications outside the country.

In Iran, despite the wide limitations on the news regarding this trial, some of the publications related to the reformist faction of the regime took some steps to inform the public. Hashim Sabbaghian's son said that in the first two sessions of the trial, the indictment was read. Nargis Mohammadi also said that since the trial is not public, nothing could be said about the proceeding. On Thursday Jan 10, the second session of the trial was held and some of the families including the Sahabis, Rahmanis and Sabers and some other individuals were present in front of the courthouse. They expected to see the prisoners but the authorities did not even allow them to enter the courthouse and they ended up in the street. There has been protests and defenses by the defendants including Sahabi which its content, due to behind the closed door nature of the court, could not be revealed.

On Monday Jan 12, the "Society for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran" organized a protest rally in France. This rally was supported by major political organizations including the Socialist Party of France and Communist Party of France and other international human rights organizations. Other rallies in protest to these trials and in demand of freedom of all the political prisoner are being organized in other parts of the world including in

United States and Canada. Exposure of the sham nature of these trials and struggle for the freedom of all the political prisoners and the prisoners of conscience is a struggle for freedom and humanity and demands the support of all the freedom loving people.

Alarming News about the repeat of the "chain of murders" catastrophe

(From the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 623, 11th Dec 2002)

The speech by Alami, the MP from Tabriz, has alarmed all the progressive political activists. His speech emphasizes the present worries about the mobilization of the forces who a few years ago, planned and executed the so called "chain of murders." Alami, referring to the kidnapping of Nazemzadeh, son of one of the clergies in Qom, disclosed that in six days of his detention, after being transferred to an unknown location, he was asked to read a statement which included his admission of his relationship with Radio Israel and England. In that statement he was portrayed as Ayatollah Montazeri's mediator who had received money from the above two countries. Alami disclosed that during these six days, Nazemzadeh was injected with anesthetic and IV containing viruses. Alami's disclosure, published on the 14th of January, no doubt, will cast suspicion over the progressive forces against the dangerous games of the reactionary forces stronger than ever before. The progressive forces, in the process of the investigation of the "chain of murders", times and again emphasized that lack of a deep investigation into the event will keep the way open for its repeat in the future. The organized action of the elements behind these crimes, and include the highest officials in the regime, necessitates the immediate and consistent action of the true reformist forces.

The Tudeh Party of Iran Condemns the Attack Against the Communist Party of Chile

(From editorial in the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 624, 18th Dec 2002)

Tudeh Party of Iran intensely condemns the attack of the Chilean security forces against the central office of the communist party of Chile in Santiago. We condemn the violence and the force applied by hundreds of armed policemen against the people in the building and also the detention of forty party members including the first secretary comrade Gladis Marin. The purpose of this attack is to promote the atmosphere of fear and horror among the party members and all the forces who struggle for democracy and human rights against the neo-liberal policies of the government of Chile. This action is an indication of the concerns of the most reactionary forces in the Chilean ruling circles on the prospects of the extensive gains by the Communist Party of Chile in the coming elections.

Tudeh Party of Iran which itself has been a target of attack by the dictatorial regimes, demands immediate stop to the suppressive actions against the Communist Party of Chile. We also demand the immediate release of all those who have been arrested on Nov 28, 2001. We, along with other progressive forces around the world demand the government of Chile's assurances on non-intervention in the upcoming democratic election. The leaders, members and those who are in solidarity with the Tudeh Party of Iran once more declare their solidarity with the Communist Party of Chile and wish the success in their struggle for real democracy in Chile.

The Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran
Dec 5, 2001

Increasing Danger Of The United States Waging War Against Iraq

(From the supplement of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No.624, 1st Jan 2002)

By the relative end to the Afghanistan problem and the "success" of American policies in this country, the American officials have announced that they will continue their "struggle" against "terrorism" and will be present "wherever necessary". After the "success" in Afghanistan, the U.S. government has warned Iraq that they will spread the war to their country. The U.S governments pretext this time is not the participation of Iraq in the event of Sept 11, but is their reluctance to allow the military observers to search for chemical or other weapons of mass destruction in their country.

George W. Bush has said repeatedly that "Afghanistan is only the beginning" and the war will be long. About Iraq he said: "Iraq has to allow the military observers to go back or wait for its consequences."

Bush has also expanded the definition of "terrorist" and includes all the governments who "use the weapon of mass destruction". Of course, this definition more than any other country, matches the government of United States, a country that has the most number of nuclear weapons at its disposal and continuously strives for its expansion and sophistication.

George Bush, addressing the U.S. special forces said: "America has a message for all the world...If you support the terrorists, you are terrorist, and if you train a terrorist or arm them, you are a terrorist and if you supply the terrorists with food or help a terrorist, you are a terrorist and will be guilty in the eyes of America and its friends." He did not mention any particular name but according to New York Times, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Syria fall in this category (New York Times 22 Nov, 2001). In this relation, John Bolton, secretary of arms control and international security said that he thinks that Iraq has been producing and storing biological weapons. He in accord with Romsfield the Defense Secretary and his deputy, Wolfwitz, defend the idea of attacking Iraq and see the timing the most suitable.

Threats by the United States against Iraq and inclusion of other countries in the attack list are in

the framework of American attempt for world domination and in this framework those who are don't agree with American positions are the enemy of United States. This is a serious danger that threatens the peace and security of the world and can put the lives of millions of people around the world in danger.

The Appalling Crisis Of Unemployment: The Economic Policy Of The "Velayate-Faghih" Regime Is The Main Factor Of Growing Unemployment.

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No.623, 4th Dec 2002)

One of the most important and root problems in Iran is the growing rate of unemployment. Unemployment, its huge magnitude and its unpleasant consequences are a very serious danger to the future of Iran and its young generation.

From this point of view, offering a practical solution that matches the societies needs and necessities is of vital importance. According to the studies conducted between 1996 and 2000, the unemployment rate was over 14%. Based on the same studies, even though the work force supply to the job market was in average 3.7 percent, the job availability, under the best circumstances, was estimated at 1.7 percent.

In the latest survey done by Iranian Census Centre, the unemployment rate in the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was 13.5% and 14.3 %, and for the six months of the year 2001, it was more than 13.8 % percent. Furthermore, the Organization of Management and Planning, in its recent report, describes the depth and scale of this catastrophic crisis from different angles and states that: in the years 1375-1379 (1996-2000) an average of 633,000 individuals entered the job market and the number of unemployed people rose from 1,500,000 to 3,000,000. This report also states that the unemployment rate will rise in the year 2001-2002 to more than 16.5 % percent.

The growing rate of unemployment and the government's inability to control and solve the

ensuing crisis indicates that the causes and the roots of this phenomenon must be found in the economic policies, or more precisely, the economic and social orientation of the "Velayate-Faghih" regime. Many solutions and plans have been put forward by different officials and institutions, but none practical and fruitful. One of the most recent of these plans is Khatami's order to create the position of Deputy of Employment in every ministry is bound to nourish the bureaucratic system and result in more paper work between ministries and organizations.

The issue is that without digging the main roots of unemployment, and only by setting administrative rules, no serious steps can be taken to solve the problem. Other studies also points to the growth of this destructive phenomenon among different layers of the society. On Nov 14, 2001, the Siasat newspaper quotes Mostafa Moeen saying that the unemployment rate among the university graduates in the year 2001-2002 is around 21% percent. This number has been around 16% percent in the last four years. In addition, the economic deputy of the Minister of Finance stated that the unemployment rate among the women is very high. He said that 62 percent of the university graduates in this year are women, a big portion of whom, face no prospect for job opportunity.

The president of the Research institute of the Ministry of Cooperatives, in November, told the reporters that the 20 million students currently studying in Iran will gradually to enter into the job market. From a population of 64 million in Iran, 70 percent are below thirty and the youthful character of the population add further to the concern over unemployment. In order to get a better idea of the catastrophic dimensions of unemployment in Iran, the number of workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the present economic crisis, should be added to the number of those who enter the job market every year.

The roots of the growth of unemployment rate should be found in the economic policies of post Iran-Iraq war and the policy of "economic balance" which Rafsanjani government implemented under the banner of "construction" sowing lethal seeds into the nation's economy. The continuation of these policies in the framework of the "Third Development Plan", generally supported by the World Bank and IMF, will have no effect but the

continuation of what we have faced in the last ten years.

In keeping with the demands of the World Bank and the IMF, recently Tahmaseb Mazaheri, the Minister of finance and Mohsen Nourbakhsh, the Chief of the Central Bank of Iran, participated in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Canada. In addition to this meeting, Nourbakhsh and Mazaheri had meetings with representatives of some of the multinational corporations managers, foreign and Iranian businessmen and the members of Iran - Canada Chamber of Commerce in Canada. In these meetings, Mazaheri and Nourbakhsh revealed certain positions that are worth mentioning.

Mazaheri, in response to the questions of the members of Iran - Canada Chamber of Commerce about economic policies of "Velayate-Faghih" regime, beside praising the World Bank and the IMF, assured foreign investors of implementing the guidelines of the IMF stated in the organization's annual report. He stated that the trend towards privatization, trade liberalization and investment facilitation would continue. Nourbakhsh also, in a similar speech, gave the news of private banking and private insurance Act, which he promised to be rapidly implemented in the near future.

In annual conference of World Union of Communication in Johannesburg, South Africa Ahmad Motamedi, minister of communication, in accordance with Nourbakhsh and Mazaheri declared that the most important feature of the Islamic Republic economic plan was to provide some allowances to foreign investors and guarantee their investments. He also described that since Iranian companies have no such capacity and potential for investment, Islamic Republic is seriously inviting foreign companies to invest in Iran especially in the cellular phone market. On the other hand, at the 8th Conference of all country's urban planning students held in Ahvaz, Ahmad Khorram, the Minister of Transportation openly described government's views on privatization and said that: "our country will be saved only if we proceed with the privatization."

The worrisome and essential problem in Khatami's government approach to solve the unemployment problem is not to deal with the deep and essential roots and causes of the problem, but to protect and facilitate the interests of the capitalists. This

approach will only intensify the crisis of unemployment.

A good example of this approach can be found in the recent Act ratified by the cabinet. According to this Act, proposed by the Ministry of Labor and ratified by the cabinet on 18 Nov 2001, the employer's share of social security insurance will be reduced or they will be totally exempted. According to this Act which is in the framework of practical guideline of the Article 49 of the Third Five Year Development plan, in each various provinces, the employers get 60 to 90 percent discount on their share of insurance payment.

Workers facing these policies are under the economic pressures and see the "Velayate-Faghih" regime as an obstruction to their demands. A news item appearing in the , country's legal newspapers, stated that the Labor Chamber of Ahvaz under the pressure of the workers admitted that: "they are firing 12,000 workers every day and the parliament says nothing. The Parliament not only does not support workers but by ignoring the Labour Code is actually killing workers ... Boushehr Province representatives before the election were desperately searching for the support of the workers but after getting elected, they didn't even take the slightest step towards helping them..."

Undoubtedly, the unemployment phenomenon is directly related to the policies of "Velayate-Faghih" regime. The essence of the economic plan of Islamic Republic is providing security of the capital at the cost of eroding workers job security. We can talk of fighting unemployment only when the social-economic orientation has been changed and replaced by a democratic orientation that is based on social justice and economic growth.