

# Tudeh News



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## **TPI Strongly Condemns the Latest Rounds of Organized Violence and Repression by Velayat Faghih Regime**

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 647, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002)*

Our country is going through a very worrying and critical time. An extremely volatile world situation and the possibility of a massive and dangerous military escalation close to our borders which can easily spillover into Iran in conjunction with the latest wave of organized attacks by the reactionary forces supporting the despotic regime have resulted in a highly unstable situation in our society.

Execution of freedom fighters in Kurdistan, attacks on prominent personalities within the reform movement such as the incarcerations of Abbas Abdi, sentencing of Hashem Aghajari (member of Islamic Revolution Mujahedeen) to death and massive preparation for arrest and bloody suppression of section of the reformist in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Khordad Front are all parts of a unified strategy aimed at wiping out the reform process and ensuring the survival of a regime which is facing serious crisis.

Sentencing of Hashem Aghajari to death for speaking out against the medieval beliefs of the ruling forces and his inquisitional court trial by the regime's judiciary are parts of an ongoing criminal acts repeated throughout the history of the Velayat Faghih. Our people have not forgotten that every time in the face of mounting popular opposition this regime has relied on its corrupt oppressive judiciary

and the "law", sentencing activists and freedom fighters to long term imprisonments and executions.

The death sentence of Hashem Aghajari in 2002 without due course of justice, in reality is the perpetuation of the same criminal behaviour that allowed regime's judiciary in the summer of 1988 to sentence thousands of freedom fighters and political prisoners to death - each trial lasting no more than a few minutes, followed by one of the worst massacres of political prisoners in the history of Iran. Then during that period, silence of certain sections of political forces in our country led to a national tragedy. Again, such a silence would have disastrous consequences for the present day popular movement and the reform process in Iran.

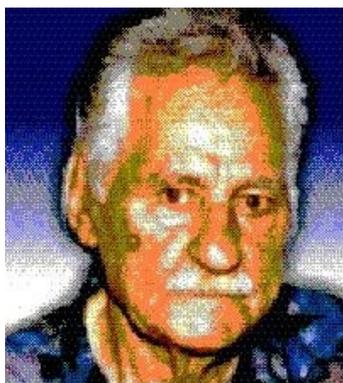
The Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the recent rounds of repression and intimidation in Iran. We call on all humanitarian and progressive forces in Iran and worldwide to voice their protest against these acts of aggression.

Widespread organized popular protest with strong participation of social forces is the only assured way of opposing the ruling reaction's attempts to defeat the popular movement.

Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of  
Iran  
November 10, 2002

## Farewell to Safar Khan, a Man of Resistance and Extraordinary Endurance

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 647, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002)*



At the age of 81, Safar Khan is finally laid to rest. Our heroic Tudeh comrade, Safar Ghahremanian was a symbol of resistance and endurance. Because of his resistance and struggle against injustice, tyranny and colonialism, he spent 32 years of his life in the Shah's prisons.

Safar Khan was born in 1921 in the village of Shishvan in West-Azerbaijan, north west of Iran. Early on from a young age he joined the Azerbaijan Democratic Front and actively participated in the struggle against large landowners and feudals. He achieved the rank of a Captain in the Azerbaijan Democratic Army.

Following the bloody attacks of the Iran's Royal Army, suppressing the national movement of Azerbaijan (a province in Iran) and the brutal massacre of its people - Safar Khan along with other freedom fighters escaped across the border into Iraq but was soon arrested and imprisoned. Two years later he fled from Iraq and returned to Iran. In March 1948 he was rearrested and put into solitary confinement in the city of Urumiyeh. He was court marshaled in 1950 and sentenced to death for participating in an armed revolt against the Shah's regime.

When Dr. Mossadegh came into power, Safar Khan's verdict came under review but after the shameful coup of 1953 his sentence was only reduced to life imprisonment.

During the 32 years of his incarceration Safar Khan remained committed to his beliefs, resisted his torturers pressure and didn't plead guilty or ask clemency from the Shah. He became a symbol of people's resistance against Shah's despotic rule. During the long years of imprisonment, his Tudeh comrades within and outside Iran never failed in their efforts to obtain his freedom. As a result Safar Khan became well known abroad. In 1977, a delegation from the international Red Cross visited Iran to investigate the conditions of its prisoners. After exerting pressure they were able to see Safar Khan.

In solidarity with the people's uprising and protest against the bloody massacre in the summer of 1978, Safar Khan was one of the prisoners who went on hunger strike. Finally with the victory of 1979 revolution the people broke into the prisons and Safar Khan along with other political prisoners and people's heroes were freed.

Comrade Safar Ghahremanian became a member of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran during its 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary session and remained committed to his beliefs till he passed away. His death will be a great loss to all the patriots and freedom fighters in Iran. The Tudeh Party of Iran conveys heartfelt sympathies to the family of comrade Safar Khan and to all Tudeh comrades. Safar Khan's name and his struggle will be forever recorded in the chronicles of Iran's struggle for freedom.