

Tudeh News

International Bulletin of the Tudeh Party of Iran—Dec. 2007 - No. 249

International Dept. Address: BM Box 1686 London WC1N 3XX

Fax: (Berlin: 324-1627) (London: 208 -392 2653)

e-mail: mardom@tudehpartyiran.org - **URL:** <http://www.tudehpartyiran.org>



War and Peace, and the Urgent Tasks of Progressive and Freedom-loving Forces

(Abridged from "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 777, 10th Nov. 2007)

The dark clouds of conflict and tension are still hanging over our nation and serious concerns have gripped political and social forces in our country. In addition, augmenting the economic sanctions and the danger of its expansion amid the annual meeting of the Security Council and the review of Iran's case could lead to further pressures on the daily lives of the people of our country. Despite the distorted opinion of the leaders of the regime that "war is a blessing", the horrific experiences of the eight years of devastating war with Iraq that lead to a loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and the destruction of large parts of the south of Iran proves this fact that any new military confrontation, whether in small scale or in a wider scale, could have disastrous consequences for the region and Iran.

The destructive and war mongering policies of US Imperialism – specifically the Bush administration – in the past six years, has brought nothing but immense human catastrophe in the Middle East region and especially in Iran's neighboring countries, i.e. Iraq and Afghanistan. The "pre-emptive war" doctrine, with the excuse of "global war on terrorism" has left hundreds of thousands losses and casualties only in Iraq, and has turned significant parts of the region into military bases of NATO and its allies. The continuation of these policies along with the unconditional support for atrocious policies of the occupier Israeli government that continues to brutally violate the rights of millions of Palestinians, and also long-term planning for an extensive military presence in the Persian Gulf in order to control oil flow to

the West are a few of main reasons behind the current tension and crisis and serious concerns that have lead all progressive and freedom-loving forces of the world to react. The admirable efforts of the powerful international peace movement to mobilize public opinion and protest widely against these policies, in order to prevent a military confrontation, has had a pivotal role in defeating the plans of imperialism and thus the support and strengthening of this movement is a vital part of the struggle for



freedom- and peace-loving forces in Iran too.

While following international events and the plots of imperialism for Iran and the region with concern, we also witness the trend of imprudent policies adopted by the leaders of the [Iranian] regime and fanning the flames of conflict and tension by Ahmadi-Nejad government.

...However, the deputy chair of Jebheh Mosharekat [The Participation Front, a reformist organization], pointed out the dangers threatening the country and stated that "the reality is that the news from around the world and the manner our country's armed forces response to them shows that our country is in a state of danger. Everyone can understand this fact. However, some people ... ignore the issue. But, the realities of the outside world and the realities of the sanctions, severe economic pressures, and ... speak to the fact that the livelihood of the people is in at serious risk. The current horrendous inflation shows this fact. Therefore, everyone feels threatened..."

... [Former president] Rafsanjani expressed his concerns and said: "our region is in the middle of many problems and conflicts are worsening on every facet. The Palestinians are engaged in domestic conflicts. Various groups have been torn apart in Lebanon, and the situation in Iraq is very clear to all. The conflict between Turkey and the Iraqi Kurds is also on the brink of getting worse. There are also numerous confrontations outside the region, and it is yet unclear what the reasons behind them are."

While implicitly accepting the current dire situation in a speech, Ahmadi-Nejad attacked his political opponents and accused some of being “spies” and collaborators with the USA, and went on to say that “in the nuclear file, in addition to foreign obstacles we also had internal hurdles that we had to overcome and finally one day I will reveal these issues that are among the most sensitive moments of our nation’s history. Revealing these issues and events will be very helpful for future generations and will show what an intense fight took place.” He then added: “some would come and say that the war is inevitable and that they will attack us any day and what point is there to sacrifice the country; the centres of the decision making in the country were being pressured from various channels. They even went so far as to contact our enemies. They would contact the enemy so that our enemies would get regular and weekly reports from inside our regime. We even possess the conversation of one of them that says to the enemy: ‘Why stop now? Why are you delaying the issuing of the resolution? Why has the resolve of your actions weakened? Exert pressure so they [Iranian government] retreat’.” Add to this vicious and spiteful posturing the words of the military leaders of the regime to further illuminate the thought framework of the heads of the regime. The head of the Air Force, also pointed out to the dangerous situation in the region during a speech and said: “They are aiming at our revolution, but they don’t dare attacking Iran because they know attacking Iran is a point blank shot at the Americans. If they are the instigators of war, they will certainly not be the ones to end it, like the years of the Iran-Iraq war whose final winner was us.”

It is important to note here that incidentally during the Iran-Iraq war, incorrect calculations and irrational policies of the heads of the regime cost our nation dearly. Our people remember how after the liberation of Khorram-Shahr and defeat of the Iraqi army within Iranian territory, the heads of the regime with Khomeini at its helm did not heed the peaceful and rational calls by many progressive and freedom-loving forces (including the Tudeh Party of Iran), and with the thought of expanding Iran’s circle of influence and anti-national slogans of “War till final victory” and “War till the capture of Karbala”, hundreds of thousands of youngsters were sent to death and created a disaster by attacking Iraqi territory. Despite the claims of the regime leaders, those policies did not lead to victory, but to a humiliating defeat, admission of remorse and the “drinking of chalice” by the supreme leader of the regime [Khomeini] and eventually led to the strengthening of the criminal regime of

Saddam Hussein. Not understanding the complicated and sensitive situation in the region, and the dangers of the aggressive policies of imperialism for our nation, is akin to playing with fire and neglecting the best interests of our nation. We must confront these policies. While defending Iran’s natural rights to peacefully harvest nuclear energy, the progressive and freedom-loving forces of Iran strongly oppose and fight against any foreign meddling in our internal affairs, the adventurous policies and actions that eventually would lead to excuses for imperialism and its allies for a military intervention.

Today, a great spectrum of freedom-loving and nationalist forces of the country, as well as social forces, have realized the urgency of creating a broad movement to react against the threat of war and military action, and are making every effort towards it. This effort must be aided by all means and we must work to create strong ties between the peace movement of Iranian people, and the international peace and anti-war movement. Only through a united and coordinated front of all the peace-loving and progressive forces of Iran and the world can this disaster be averted.

NATIONAL NEWS



*(Abridged from
"Nameh Mardom",
Central Organ of the
Tudeh Party of Iran
No. 777, 10th Nov.
2007)*

Tudeh Party of Iran Condemns the Arrest, Prosecution and Sentencing of the Trade Union Activists

According to recent reports, in an attempt to continue its plans to put pressure on and to suppress the independent trade union movement of Iran’s workers, the regime of Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Leader) sentenced Mansour Ossanlou, the Chair of Board of Directors, and Ibrahim Madadi, the Vice-president of the Tehran and District Bus Transit Union (Vahed) to 5 and 3.5 years in prison, respectively...

Previously, the Bus Transit Union had released a statement and called for the defense of the legal and human rights of the detained workers. The statement read: “It has been 3 years since Tehran and District Bus Transit Union has gone under attacks, suppression and illegal restrictions, and union members have been threatened, fired, arrested and detained

because of their membership in the Union and supporting independent trade union activities. Currently, the Chair and Vice-president of the Union are in prison without any proof for the claimed charges, and are denied the right of having legal representation, for unknown reasons ... Defending the freedom of detained union workers, Mr.'s Mansour Ossanlou, Ibrahim Madadi, and Mahmoud Salehi, imprisoned worker, and all detainees during the International Labour Day events, means defending the union rights and freedoms."... Tudeh Party of Iran, together with the other national, progressive and freedom-loving forces of the country, condemns the unjust and inhuman sentences of the "injustice" courts of the Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Leader) regime against the activists of the trade union movement, and demands the annulment of these sentences and putting an end to the repressive policies and coercion of union activists.

Coercing and Framing the National Forces

In recent months, while the repression and suppression atmosphere in the country have soared, the national forces, parties and individuals have been targeted more than ever with threats, intimidations and coercions by the Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Leader) regime.

Following the meeting of Shirin Ebadi, Nargess Mohammadi and Mohammad Ali Dadkhah - the members of The Centre of Defenders of Human Rights - with the President and Vice-president of the International Federation of Human Rights, Iranian regime has launched a framing campaign against Ms. Ebadi and other human rights defenders.

National daily paper "Kayhan" in its October 30th issue and in a wholly fabricated article titled "Ebadi, Boycott Iran!" wrote: "Shirin Ebadi who received Nobel Prize because of her services to the west, called for the political boycott of Iran in an interview with French paper Figaro this Monday."

Continuing with its framing case, Kayhan used obnoxious terms as "traitor" to refer to Ms. Ebadi's emphasis on observing the human rights and social and individual democratic rights of citizens and emphasis on separation of religion from politics as "serving up the west" and "yielding to aliens".

This shameless framing...in conjunction with putting pressure on the members of the National Front of Iran inside the country ... indicates an escalation of pressures exerted on the national and patriotic forces and public figures of Iran. Our party condemns these framings and

coercion against figures who defend the national interests of Iran and fight for the national sovereignty of the country and calls for the united action of all the patriotic, progressive and freedom loving forces in the current critical state of affairs.

The myth of "Freedom of press and media": from deception to reality



It is now more than 2 years that an ever increasing pressure is being put on the media and journalists of the country. Not one day passes

without news about banning newspapers and other publications, or closing down of offices and locking internet sites and incarcerating journalists and reporters. It suffices to mention the fate of papers like "Shargh"...or halting the operation of ILNA (Iran's Labour News Agency), or clamping down on student press....or tens of other publications that have been banned in the past two years...and, the financial hardship of journalists and reporters and their shaky job security, in addition to self-censorship imposed on the remaining media. Therefore, any fair person who reviews the report card of the anti-freedom government of Ahmadi-Nejad would recognize the harmful function of this government in the area of press and media. What amazes one, is the claims of some of the known figures of the government...about the freedom of press and media in the country... Haddad Adel, the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament claimed that: "the role and position of media in running and administering a society is like water, bread, food, fuel and energy; i.e. the same way that we cannot live without these necessities...countries that like us have gone through a revolution based on culture...are in need of media more than others." After this mumbo jumbo, he goes on to claim that "Iranian media are free" or: "it is OK for the parties and organizations to have their own papers..." Making such presumptuous claims shows that Mr. Adel either does not read the paper and does not follow the news, or is deliberately closing his eyes on the reality of the life of media in the country, and blatantly lies...Presently, numerous papers and publications are banned, and hundreds of internet sites are locked up and people cannot access them from within the country...He says: "If we want the people to be in the stage (which we do) and to be determining factor in any stage with their votes, then the people must be informed, and this requires a fluid flow of information."

What sort of "fluid flow of information" it is that should any newspaper criticize the government,

will face prosecution. Or any site that intends to publish the news and analysis about the events in our nation would be confronted with internet lock up? ...

A valuable Step towards the Cooperation of Progressive and Freedom-loving People of Iran

Tudeh Party of Iran supports the launch of "National Peace Council"

(Abridged from "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 778, 24th Nov. 2007)

Despite all the serious warnings by the progressive and freedom-loving forces of Iran and world, the Iranian and international warmongers keep maintaining the momentum for conflict and tension, and the risk of a new military conflict and another disaster is still threatening the region and our nation. While warning about this condition in the recent weeks, our party has called upon all the progressive and freedom-loving forces of the country to work together and join their efforts to mobilize the public opinion of the nation and the world to prevent the heightening of tension and war risk. Furthermore, in the recent weeks a vast portion of progressive forces of Iran ... has also called for an organized movement to put pressure on the ruling reactionaries to move towards resolving the issues related to nuclear policies of Iran through negotiations.

On Monday November the 19th 2007, in a meeting organized by "Centre of Defenders of Human Rights in Iran" with the slogan of "No to War, Yes to Peace and Human Rights", a group of national figures and a number of patriotic and freedom-loving intellectuals and dissents announced the initiative to form "National Peace Council".



Ms. Shirin Ebadi, lawyer and human rights activist [Iranian Nobel Peace Laureate] pointed out that: "the evil sounds of war drums could be heard, though from far, and although we don't like it but the risk of war exists. During the past 30 years

there have been on revolution and eight years of war and people are exhausted and wish for peace and tranquility. If we unite and raise our united voice that we don't want war, this voice will have reflections. But this requires the

sympathy and cooperation of all, and based on this we decided to form the National Peace Council. We invite all Iranians and those who are concerned about Iran and don't want war to gather and work together to elect members of the Council. This council will present guidelines to avert war and to establish human rights."...

The statement of the "Interim Peace Committee" reads: "...undoubtedly the National Peace Council can have the voice of peace and friendship of the people of Iran heard by the world through solidarity of all the peace movements around the globe, in order to curb the dangers that threaten peace ... We believe that such a Council could condemn any action of the foreign forces that would threaten peace, and would ask the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept the resolutions of the Security Council of the UN and abiding by the international conventions and commitments, eliminate the context of the threats for peace."

This valuable and well-timed initiative is a fundamental step towards the strengthening of the actions of progressive and freedom-loving forces of Iran against the ever-increasing risk of war and pressures due to the economical sanctions against our nation! Our party, following its fundamental policies that always stresses on the unity and closeness of progressive, freedom-loving and national forces, parties and figures, supports the significant initiative of launching "National Peace Council"... Tudeh Party of Iran...hopes that this initiative will gain the support of all the patriotic forces and parties that are interested in the destiny of the country, and will provide a vessel for national solidarity against foreign threats and domestic repression and suppression! ... The context of the current tensions goes beyond the nuclear policies... The main issue is the strategic plan of imperialism...to control the Persian Gulf and its natural resources, oil and gas in particular. The way to deal with the dangerous plots of imperialism is not through threatening and counteraction, but through mobilizing the public opinion of Iran and the world and heightening the pressure on the warmongers...Heightening the tensions in the region and giving excuses to imperialism to implement its interfering policies could not benefit our nation. These policies must be confronted by all means. While strongly opposing any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the country, we believe that the joint efforts of all the peace- and freedom-loving forces of Iran and the region could avert a new disaster in the region.