

Tudeh News

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**Season's Greetings to all Communist and Workers'
Parties across the world and all people
campaigning for Justice, Peace and Socialism!**

*We wish you success in the struggle for Peace and
Progress in 2009!*

**International Department of the
CC of the Tudeh Party of Iran**

December 2008

The Political-Economic Tsunami and the Insolvency of the Puppet Government of the “Supreme Leader”

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the
Tudeh Party of Iran No. 802, 25th October, 2008)*

Hashemi Rafsanjani, the head of the “Experts Assembly”...after rejecting the usual and simplistic statements of the proponents of Ahmadi-Nejad’s government about the victory of “the Islamic system” over the Global Capitalism system, stated that “We shouldn’t be happy. The economic tsunami is on the way ...”

...Analyzing various aspects of the financial crisis of the global capitalism, “Nameh Mardom” had mentioned that this crisis would have a severe destructive impact on the economic life of the developing countries, including our country, Iran...

Along with many experts in the field of economics, our party has in recent years warned about the shortcomings of the ailing economic system of the country. The weakening production capability and the increasing reliance of the economy and the national income on oil have pushed the country, more than ever, towards a single product economy and have deeply tied the economic life of Iran to the fluctuations in the global oil market. According to many economics experts, the dependence of Iran on the fluctuations in the global oil market is evident in many areas. According to regime’s official statistics, the share of oil income in the Gross National Product (GNP) is over 50%. Moreover, 80% of the imports of the country are purchased by the currency earned through the sales of oil. So the drop of oil price from \$140 per barrel to \$60 per barrel will have an immediate and deep impact on the country’s economy.

It is also important to point out that during the period of astronomical increase in the price of oil and Iran’s skyrocketing oil revenues, these revenues not only were not spent on improving the economic situation of the country, but were also mainly plundered by the heads of the

regime. Recently, Bijan Zangeneh, the former minister of Agriculture, Oil and Interior, referring to the critical situation of the country, mentioned about the disappearance of a significant portion of Iran’s Foreign Currency Reserves and said: “In 8 years of Rafsanjani’s term in office, from 1989 to 1996, the total oil revenue of the government was \$126 billion. During Mr. Khatami’s term, from 1997 to 2004, the government’s oil revenue was \$173 billion compared to \$198 billion revenue of the 9th government (Ahmadi-Nejad’s). According to country’s Development Plan and the legal authorizations issued, currently there should be \$96 billion in the Foreign Currency Reserve Account, but as per the official announcement of the former Minister of Finance, in March 2007, the balance of this account stands at only \$16 billion, although these days it is heard that this amount is only \$8 billion. So the question is that how the difference, which comes to \$80 billion, has been depleted.”

The four-year report card of Ahmadi-Nejad - who had structured his electoral campaign around the deep discontent of the toiling masses about the social inequalities, and had promised to “put the oil money on the kitchen table of the people” - is a clear indication of the insolvency of the economic, social and political policies of the dark-minded rulers of the country who have more than ever driven the country to an all embracing economic crisis by following neo-liberal economic policies and IMF and World Bank’s prescriptions. Increasing rate of unemployment, deepening rift between the rich and the poor, increasing inflation and decreasing purchase power of the toiling masses are direct results of the destructive policies of the policies of the “Supreme Religious Leader Regime”.

Despite all the promises that Ahmadi-Nejad made, the big piece of the \$196-billion oil revenue pie was put not on people’s kitchen tables, but on the kitchen tables of the regime leaders and the heads of military and security forces of the country. Only poverty and depravation has been the share of the people. There is no doubt that as a result of the deepening of the economic crisis, the political and social troubles of the regime will intensify. Discontents can once again result in broad social unrests and escalation of mass protests. The experience of the recent years has shown that if these broad mass discontents could be

organized, then the regime could be forced to retreat.

In the coming months, Iran will be moving towards an important election. The report card of the puppet government of Ahmadi-Nejad in the last four years has been so dark and antidemocratic that even large fractions of the pro-regime forces have real doubts about “re-election” of Ahmadi-Nejad and supporting his election campaign. Consultations are underway to nominate new candidates. Unlike the last election, this time around it seems that regime will have serious difficulties in installing Ahmadi-Nejad, even with large-scale vote rigging. Organizing a broad campaign to divulge the dark track record of Ahmadi-Nejad’s government and “Supreme Leader” regime is an important task before progressive and freedom loving forces, and every effort must be made to expand it.

The Revolutionary Guards, and Police Forces Prepare For Crack Down

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 804, 22nd November, 2008)

Patrols and spot checks by the Revolutionary Guards and the militia which were shut down a while back, have been restarted under the renewed leadership of the regional Revolutionary Guards, and in the eve of the tenth presidential elections. Thus the militia (Basij) and the Revolutionary Guards, as repressive hands of the “Supreme Leader” regime, reveal their roles in the political arena of the country and in support of the ruling despots and detriment to the masses, by creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, and trampling the democratic, individual and social rights of the citizens...

In the meantime, Iran’s Student News Agency (ISNA) reports that the commander of Basij forces has announced that security patrols will run from 12am to 6am in the first phase, and their operation will be extended from 10am to 6am if needed. These patrols will remain active permanently and road blocks will also be established fully equipped – especially in sensitive cases.

The return of the Basij hooligans as security patrols across large cities – especially Tehran – are clearly political and security related, and despite what the commanders of Guards corps say, have nothing to do with battling crimes, social security and drug trafficking. In fact, these patrols serve the ruling reaction, and are there to create fear and intimidation among the population and influence the political developments in the country.

Fearing increasing social unrest, and strong demand for changing the current social situation in the country, the ruling reaction has re-started security patrols and checkpoints and is posturing to scare the population and the progressive and freedom-loving forces. Creating a martial atmosphere over the society by installing closed-circuit cameras – which was announced by the deputy commander of the security forces... has clear political objectives. The ruling reaction and its repressive organizations like Basij and Revolutionary Guard, along with their appointed government, the anti-national government of Ahmadi-Nejad, have displayed their inability to keep their promises in all fronts, and aim to put the popular movement down by using shows of force like the police anti-riot exercise that happened in Tehran... The recent actions of Basij, Revolutionary Guard and the police force, especially their latest exercise is to further the aims of the ruling reaction and the only way to challenge such actions is to put up a united and joint struggle, and to continually reveal the maneuvers of the reaction in the current situation in any possible way.

Against the Imperialist threats and for Peace and Democracy in the region and in Iran

Resolution of the 10th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties- Sao Paulo, Brazil, 21- 23 November 2008

We, the undersigned parties and organisations, participants at the 10th International Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties held 22-24 November 2008 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, express

our grave concern about the continued military presence of US imperialism and its allies in the Middle East region and the continued US military build up in the Persian Gulf region and the continuation of the US militaristic and hegemonic stance in its conflict with Iran. George Bush, and his policies that were resoundingly rejected by the American people in the recent US elections, continues with its war mongering policies and in recent weeks has renewed the “emergency measures against Iran”. We believe that the US policy towards Iran in the past 8 years, as well as the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and threats towards Syria are all part and parcel of the US plans for the entire “Greater Middle East” and is aimed at securing the hegemony of the US over the region's extensive energy resources.

The current atmosphere of tension with Imperialism as well as the US interventionist policies towards Iran is being exploited by the Iranian theocratic regime to justify and extend its suppression of progressive forces, trade unions, women and youth and student movements. These same movements are crucial parts of the emerging movement for peace and social justice in Iran. We note with concern also the deterioration of human rights situation in Iran over the recent months. We have received reports of fresh attacks against the activists of women movement over the past few weeks.

We declare our commitment to campaign that the new incoming US administration, abandons the Bush aggressive policies towards Iran and adopts a new policy based on negotiations and non-interference. We once again express our total opposition to any military attack against Iran by the US, the EU or Israel.

The future direction of developments in Iran should be decided only by the people of Iran and no one else.

We call for the elimination of all nuclear weapons in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, strict observance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and declaring the region a nuclear weapons free zone.

We declare our solidarity with the struggle of the Iranian people for peace, democracy, human rights and social justice.

São Paulo, 23rd November, 2008

1. Brazil – Communist Party of Brazil – PCdoB
2. Algeria – Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism
3. Argentina – Communist Party of Argentina
4. Belarus - Communist Party of Belarus
5. Belgium – Workers’ Party of Belgium
6. Bolivia - Communist Party of Bolivia
7. Brazil - Brazilian Communist Party
8. Bulgaria - Communist Party of Bulgaria
9. Canada - Communist Party of Canada
10. Chile – Communist Party of Chile
11. Colombia – Colombian Communist Party
12. Cyprus – Progressive Party of the Working Peoples - Akel
13. Czech Republic - Communist Party of Bohemia & Moravia
14. Denmark - Communist Party of Denmark
15. Denmark - Communist Party in Dinamarca
16. Ecuador - Communist Party of Ecuador
17. Finland – Communist Party of Finland
18. Georgia – Unified Communist Party of Georgia
19. Germany – German Communist Party
20. Great-Britain – Communist Party of Britain
21. Greece - Communist Party of Greece
22. Hungary – Communist Party of the Workers of Hungary
23. India – Communist Party of India
24. India - Communist Party of India (Marxist)
25. Iraq – Iraqi Communist Party
26. Iran - Tudeh Party of Iran
27. Ireland - Communist Party of Ireland
28. Ireland - Worker’s Party of Ireland
29. Italy – Party of the Communist Refoundation
30. Italy - Party of the Italian Communists
31. Lao – Laotian Popular Revolutionary Party
32. Latvia – Socialist Party of Latvia
33. Lebanon – Lebanese Communist Party
34. Luxemburg – Communist Party de Luxemburg
35. Mexico – Party of Communists
36. Nepal – Communist Party of Nepal (UML)
37. Netherlands – New Communist Party of Netherlands
38. Norway – Communist Party of Norway
39. Palestine – Palestinian Communist Party
40. Palestine - Palestinian People’s Party
41. Panama – Party of People of Panama
42. Pakistan - Communist Party of Pakistan
43. Paraguay – Paraguayan Communist Party
44. Peru - Communist Party of Peru – ‘Patria Roja’
45. Peru - Peruvian Communist Party
46. Portugal – Portuguese Communist Party
47. Russia – Party of the Communist Workers of Russia
48. Russia - Communist Party of Russia Federation
49. Serbia - New Communist Party of Yugoslavia
50. South Africa - South African Communist Party
51. Spain - Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain
52. Syria – Syrian Communist Party
53. Syria - Syrian Communist Party
54. Sweden – Communist Party of Sweden (SKP)
55. Turkey – Communist Party of Turkey
56. Ukraine - Communist Party of Ukraine
57. Ukraine - Union of the Communists of Ukraine
58. United States of America – Communist Party of USA
59. Uruguay - Communist Party of Uruguay
60. Venezuela – Communist Party of Venezuela