

Tudeh News

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Statement of the Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran on Upcoming Presidential Elections

Dear compatriots,

The 10th presidential elections will be held in a few days, under very critical circumstances. Four years after coming to power of the anti-people and deeply reactionary administration of Ahmadi-Nejad - a president hand-picked and installed by the Supreme Leader and the sole and direct representative of military-security forces of the country - the people will be going to the polls at a time when an overwhelming majority of them are living under conditions much worse than before and faced with back-breaking economical pressures, deep suppression and severe poverty. Among the factors that have triggered the people's deep and extensive discontent against the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih (the rule of the Supreme Religious Leader) and its appointed administration are detrimental economical policies causing bankruptcy of the manufacturing sector; increasingly high unemployment rate and runaway inflation rate; unprecedented waste and misuse of astronomical oil incomes in the last 4 years by the parasitic organizations, by the regime leaders and their dependents, and by military-security system of the regime; heightened atmosphere of suppression and terror and ongoing attacks on the working class, women's, youth and students' movements; and intensified pressure on religious and national minorities. It wouldn't be such a baseless claim if we said that Ahmadi-Nejad's government has been one of the most reactionary governments in the thirty-year history of Islamic Republican regime.

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The Differences between the 10th Presidential Elections (this summer) and the Elections of 2005

The 9th presidential election in 2005 was held under very different circumstances from today. The serious inadequacies during the eight years of Khatami administration, the inability of that administration to deliver the promises they made and to advance the reforms, and inaction regarding improving the conditions of deprived people, the working class and low-paid in particular, made a large portion of social forces, who were disheartened and disappointed with the reform process, refrain from participating in the elections. Harmful divisions among the reformists in government and the decision by a large portion of opposition forces to boycott the elections, allowed the reaction to extensively organize all of its resources and engage the military and security forces in order to pull from the ballot boxes the name of the most fitting agent to press forward its agenda.

Four years into Ahmadi-Nejad's government, now substantial sections of the population, social forces, and opposition and freedom-loving forces of the society - having experienced the devastating policies of this government and its direct and indirect impact on their daily lives - are now approaching the elections with a different point of view from June 2005. Existing signs indicate the general will of the people to participate in the elections and to free themselves from Ahmadi-Nejad's government. In the coming days, the will of the people must be converted to a broad social force going to polls.

Possibilities, Hurdles and Complexities

With Mir-Hossein Mousavi's entry into the presidential race and with the sudden departure of Khatami, which undoubtedly was influenced by the direct or indirect assertions of the Supreme Leader, the process of the 10th

presidential election has been facing with serious hurdles and complexities. In the past few weeks, we criticized the vagueness of policies of the reformist candidates and asked for the clarification of the candidates' positions.

Standing against the reformist candidates, are Mahmood Ahmadi-Nejad as the representative of military-security sectors and factions close to Khamenei (the Supreme Leader), and Mohsen Reza'i representing sections of fundamentalist forces opposing Ahmadi-Nejad, who believe that four years of Ahmadi-Nejad government and its deeply monopolist approaches has undermined their interests. These two are participating in the elections against a background of serious disagreements among the supporters of the Supreme Leader regime over the incompetence of Ahmadi-Nejad administration.

What is certain is the fact that if the election is held without extensive interference and fraud on the part of forces affiliated with the Revolutionary Corps, the Basij militia, and the thugs attached to the office of the Supreme Leader, then individuals like Ahmadi-Nejad and Reza'i will face a heavy defeat. Received reports and evidence indicate that the ruling reaction, aware of this fact, is planning to organize extensive vote rigging in order to ensure that the name of one of its candidates is pulled out of the ballot boxes. This plot can be defeated only and only through the powerful presence of millions of people at the polls, and imposing their supervision on the process, that this plot can be defeated.

Today, having experienced the last four years, and considering the objective and subjective reality of our society, knowing the level of organization of social forces, and the role and power of political forces, it is not right to stay neutral in the course of the developments based on unrealistic perceptions, and decide not to participate in the elections. In the current conditions, staying neutral and adopting the role of a mere observer of the events will only serve the crisis-ridden policies of Ahmadi-Nejad's government. The election campaign is an important arena for struggle against the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih, and an avenue to expose the anti-people track record of the regime and its appointed government in various arenas. Furthermore, the election is an opportunity for mobilizing the social forces across the country,

for joint effort and cooperation of progressive and freedom-loving forces, and also for mobilizing and organizing various forces of the movement, and to extend its capacity and resources of the movement to counteract the plots of the reaction. Encouraging the people to stay at home and boycotting the elections under the pretext of "not legitimizing the regime", not only will not solve any problem, but also serves the policies of the reaction to control the outcome of the elections. Refraining from participating in the elections could only be justified if it could become an incisive tool in discarding the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih. Taking advantage of the limited possibilities available, in order to organize the social forces, and making an effort to impose the demands of people on the reformist candidates, is a step towards revitalizing the spirit of struggle and overcoming the setbacks due to the outcome of the previous presidential elections and the coming to power of Ahmadi-Nejad.

Election Candidates and our Party

Immediately after the candidacy of the two state reformists was announced, we stressed on the need for the clarification of their policies and viewpoints. In recent weeks, both representatives of the reformist groups have stated their positions and declared their viewpoints about political, social and economic issues. Our party examined the plans announced by the reformist candidates, and also reviewed the past track record of Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Karrubi, and hence believes that the capacity and capability of these candidates, even if they keep their promises and deliver the programmes they have proclaimed, could help the revitalization of the reform process only to a limited extent. Eight years of Khatami's government proved that preserving the existing power structure in Iran, compromise and submission to the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih, and lack of reliance on the masses is a serious hurdle against affecting positive developments in the society. The issue of observing the rights and freedom of people and moving on the path to fundamental and democratic developments is not possible in a country in which the law and executive power and military and security forces are exclusively in the hands of one person, i.e. the Supreme Leader. It is only with discarding this principle that the aforementioned changes could be made. The reform process is only about

creating opportunities for organization and growth of the popular movement and mobilizing and equipping such a social force that could eventually impose the will of people on the ruling reaction. On this basis, our party views the process of election not within the sole framework of voting for Mousavi or Karrubi, but to mobilise forces to defeat Ahmadi-Nejad and Reza'i as the candidates of the Supreme Leader's (Velayat-e-Faqih) regime. Voting for reformist candidates under the current circumstances means voting No to the Supreme Leader regime and its candidates in the election. We believe that people will succeed in vigilantly doing so.

The central committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran calls upon the politically-conscious people of Iran and all the forces that support reform, freedom and justice to join forces in the struggle to defeat the candidates of reaction - Mahmood Ahmadi-Nejad and Mohsen Reza'i. Succeeding in this task is one step, even though small, towards alleviating the current pressures and moving toward revitalising the reform process and rebuilding the social forces for the future crucial struggle to discard the regime of Velayat-e-Faqih. In these circumstances, the ruling reaction will do all in its power to prevent the realization of the people's will. Having had the experience of the 9th presidential elections, the ruling reactionaries are well aware that if they succeed in mounting a calculated propaganda campaign together with extensive interference in the elections, by their security forces such as Basij militia, and preventing the participation of a vast portion of the electorate alongside political and social forces, through exerting pressure on them, once again they will be able to pull Ahmadi-Nejad or his equivalent from the ballot boxes. The only way to confront these manoeuvres of the regime is the strong presence of millions of people at the polls, and organizing protest campaigns against fraud and interference of the forces of the Supreme Leader in the election process. The united will and action of millions of voters in this most crucial election could play an instrumental role in favour of the national interests and in resolving the country's serious socio-economic and political problems. This is not the time to stay at home and leave the ballot boxes entirely to the supporters of the Supreme Leader. The void left by millions votes of the people will be filled with manufactured

and rigged votes of the reactionaries monopolizing power. This must not be allowed to happen!

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran
4 June 2009•

The Elections, an Important Arena of Political Struggle to Expose the Anti-People Regime of Iran and to Mobilize the Social Forces

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran, No. 817, 11th May, 09)

With the heating up of the electoral campaigns, the reactionary forces have launched an organized offensive to change the outcome of the elections. Alarming news on the unprecedented increase of the number of mobile polling stations and numerous reports on preparations by the Revolutionary Corps, Basij militia and repressive forces under the direction of the office of the Supreme Leader, Khamenei, for the purpose of massive intervention in the elections and reinstallation of Ahmadi-Nejad as the "most desirable" president of the regime cannot be but disturbing signs for all the national and freedom-loving forces of the country. According to the media reports, Kamran Daneshjoo, the head of the electoral commission of the country spoke in a press conference on Sunday of the ten-fold increase in the number of the mobile ballot boxes...A watchdog committee member of Mousavi campaign is reported to say that "If this information is correct, it would be an indication and confirmation of the apprehensions of the presidential candidates about the safeguarding of people's votes. It is based on the same worries that the watchdog committees to safeguard people's votes have been formed. It is not at all reasonable that out of the 46,000 boxes, 14,000 of them are mobile and this is an issue that should be seriously dealt with."

These efforts by Khamenei and his cohorts to influence the outcome of the elections are also significant from this standpoint that anti-people record of Ahmadi-Nejad's government is such that even various spectra within the "devotees of

the Supreme Leader" are showing discord and disagreement on supporting Ahmadi-Nejad. According to...a daily paper: "yesterday all the efforts of the wise men of the right wing to cover up the divergence over nominating Ahmadi-Nejad was unsuccessful in the parliament and once again the supporters and opponents of Ahmadi-Nejad lined up against each other, and the extremist views of the faction dubbed as "Sweet Scent of Service" rendered any chance of resolution by "elderly advice" impossible...75 fundamentalists voted against Ahmadi-Nejad...eventually 80 MP's called for the support of...Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad.

On the other hand, the propaganda arm and media club-wielders of the regime have also organized a massive campaign against the reformist candidates in which Kayhan daily and its editor, the Information ministry torturer, Shariatmadari, is playing a prominent role. Kayhan, in response to Karoubi and in reaction to Mousavi's latest elections debate, attacked him fiercely and wrote: "Mousavi did not have any new thing to say against the president and the ninth government, and what he uttered were exactly - I emphasize exactly and no more or less - the same words that the known enemies of Islam and revolution have been writing and saying in recent years against Ahmadi-Nejad and are still repeating. But Mr. Mousavi, under the pretext of ruining Ahmadinejad, attacked many teachings of Islam and revolution and the unequivocal and direct words of Imam. Why does Mr. Mousavi slander the prestige and wisdom of the people and accuse them of receiving payments to greet their president?! That is exactly the same slander and accusations that have been long used by Israel, U.S., and the counter revolutionary exiles against the dignified and Muslim people of Iran."

In the recent weeks, while stressing on the current realities of the society, objective and subjective potentials of the popular movement, and the level of organization and capacity of the social forces and dissident and freedom-loving forces of the country, and in the meantime criticizing the real and serious shortcomings and problems of the reformist candidates and the policies advocated by them, we have emphasized and continue to do so that the elections are important arenas of political

struggle against the Velayat-e-Faqih regime, and to expose the track record of the anti-people regime and its appointed government in various areas. Also, the elections provide an opportunity for mobilizing the social forces, cooperation and renewed efforts of the progressive and freedom-loving forces, and also mobilizing and gathering forces and expanding the capabilities of the movement to confront the plans of reaction. Hajjarian has similarly given an analysis saying: "but in the competition environment induced by the relative opening of the atmosphere, the candidates and their cohorts have both been able to reveal the dark and ruinous activities of the government...In any case, in this election, much of the slime has come up to the surface and people have seen what has been going on in the background..." We do repeat that the current election is not only not free, but is a process imposed by the Velayat-e-Faqih regime and is being set and held under the control of the Guardian Council reactionaries and the direct and indirect intervention of Khamenei representatives and repressive agencies in an attempt to install a reactionary figure like Ahmadi-Nejad. In this narrow and monopolistic framework, expecting fundamental and democratic changes through the elections is a baseless and mistaken expectation, which could lead us to unrealistic and incorrect analysis of the current situation. On the other hand, one cannot tell the people that by sitting at home and staying out of this process they can achieve their main demands such as reducing poverty and deprivation, unemployment, inflation, and stark economic pressures on the families, and mitigation of the acute current repression. Utilizing the existing limited possibilities to organize social forces around popular slogans and to make efforts to impose these demands on the agenda of state reformists is a step towards rejuvenation of combative spirit and overcoming the retreats suffered as a result of the previous presidential elections and coming to power of Ahmadi-Nejad government. All the efforts must be focused on defeating the main candidate of reaction, i.e. Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad. Realizing this task will be a step, however trivial, towards reducing the current pressures and moving toward the revitalization of reforms and reconstruction of the social forces in preparation for the crucial future battle to discard the Velayat-e-Faqih regime●