Tudeh News

International Bulletin of the Tudeh Party of Iran–March 2011 - No. 270
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

Dictators do not Learn from History

(Editorial of "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 862, 14th February 2011)

People chanting in demonstrations:

Mubarak! Ben Ali! Next is Seyed Ali!

Eventually after 18 days relentless struggle, and several months and years of efforts of freedom-loving forces, the anti-people and dependent regime of Mubark was ousted, as were Ben Ali regime and tens of other dictators doomed. The fleeing of Hosni Mubarak, like Ben Ali and Shah of Iran back in February of 1979, proves this historic and unavoidable reality that the destiny of anti-people and dictatorial regimes has been and will be the same.

The overthrow of Mubarak's regime coincided with the same day that our nation was commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the February revolution and the fall of the Pahlavi regime. Iran's revolution in the late seventies had remarkable impacts in the region, and seriously threatened the short- and long-term interests of the reaction and imperialism. Although it could achieve victory in its political stage by toppling the tyrant Monarch regime, but the revolution got stuck in that stage due to the blatant treason of the of the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran who rapidly monopolized the political power and imposed the reactionary and anti-people rule of Supreme Leadership on the popular and liberation movement of the nation. Thus, it could not bring about the necessary and urgent changes for a socio-economic development through fundamental changes in the infrastructure of the country in order to achieve economic and social justice. The establishment of a deeply anti-people and reactionary regime as well as the rule of grand mercantile capital and the new bureaucratic capitalism that was growing within the state apparatus, very soon sacrificed the slogans and causes of the revolution for social justice and establishment of rights and freedoms, for the benefit and interests of the grand-capitalism; once again the dictatorial regime was reproduced in our country, but this time with a different superstructure from the tyrannical Monarch regime.

Iran, 32 years after the triumph of one of the greatest freedom-seeking and popular movements in the region, is a nation clutched in the claws of a despot and deeply anti-people regime. Instead of enjoying social justice, the nation is suffering from a deep gap between the rich and the poor, deprivation, and million-strong unemployment, which is unprecedented in the contemporary history of our country.

The political, economic and social conditions are so tragic that even some of the ex-leaders of the Islamic regime and those who shared the power during Khomeini's time, deem the current situation unprecedented in Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Yusuf Sanei, one of the religious authorities in Qom and one of the individuals close to Khomeini, who also held the position of the Attorney General at

the time, in a meeting with the families of the political prisoners in recent days, said: "the autocracy that we are witnessing today, is historically unprecedented. This autocracy does not care about the God or the prophet, or the politics or students. This autocracy does not care about anything."

In his speech on the occasion of the February 11th, the anniversary of the revolution, Mahmud Ahmadinejad the sham and Supreme-Leader-appointed president congratulated and defended the struggles of the people of Egypt, and claimed support for the people of Egypt taking control of their own destiny, and stated that Iran is a friend of the movement of the Egyptians. And this was at a time when [3 days later on February 14th] the armed thugs and Basij bikers most brutally attacked thousands of people who were rallying in the streets of numerous cities of Iran to express their support for the struggle of the people of Egypt and other nations in the region. According to the latest reports, despite the security atmosphere and objection of the coup perpetrators to the independent and popular demonstrations in support of mass struggles in Egypt and Tunisia, tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Tehran and other cities of the country [on February 14th], and once again demonstrated the power, vitality and dynamism of the popular movement. As it was anticipated, the coup regime treated the frustrated masses with extreme brutality and violence. Raiding Amir-Kabir University and beating up and detaining the student, opening fire on the people in the streets, intentionally cutting the power off at Enghelab Street and then attacking the people in the dark are examples of the brutality that was executed today with prior planning. In the attacks by the plain-clothes and special forces, hundreds of people were detained and a number of people were injured. According to the published reports, a number of people were killed in Tehran. Leaning from the events of summer of 2008, the security forces used various maneuvers and concentrated all their efforts and forces to prevent the numerous outspread groups of people from joining forces. Despite all these preparations and the heavy security atmosphere, the masses showed their presence in the scene of events and came out proud from a tough test, and made the power and root of the movement clearer. In today's demonstrations slogans such as "Death to Dictator!", "Khamenei shame on you! See Mubarak's destiny!", "Police, part from regime! Police, come and join the people!", and "Mubarak! Ben Ali! Next is Seyed Ali!" were chanted.

According to news sources, besides Tehran, in Isfahan police attacked the rally in Enghelab [Revolution] square. The witnesses stated that the Special Unit Forces and a group of security forces were standing on guard hours before the rally, in Enghelab parking, beside cinema Sahel. In other cities, like Rasht, Mashhad, Kermanshah and Shiraz, too, Monday was a day of rallies and demonstrations against the despotic regime.

Today's protest demonstrations of thousands of frustrated people of the nation in Tehran and a number of other cities, in the face of the intense security measures of the regime, extensive arrests, and house arrest of Mousavi and Karrubi, proved that contrary to the claims of the regime, the protest movement of the people not only not dead, but will come to the scene with the slightest spark and window of opportunity.

The struggle of our people against the ruling despotic regime still requires organization, organizational maturity, and more than ever, active and broad participation of the working people and the working class in its ranks. The extensive struggles of the students and the youth, alongside the heroic campaigns of the women of our nation in the recent years, have had a significant role in advancing the struggles of our people. However, these campaigns are not enough by themselves,

and the progressive, freedom-seeking and vanguard forces of the society must be able tip the current balance in favor of the popular movement by mobilizing the working class, and the working people in the urban and rural areas, and bringing them to the field.

As our party noted in the recent weeks, we could and should learn from the events of the countries in the region and utilize them to advance the struggles of the people of Iran. Obviously, the conditions in our country, both in terms of the class texture and the class characteristics of the ruling forces, are significantly different from Egypt's. Therefore, it is wrong to simply copy these events. However, the events of the countries in the region, from Tunisia to Egypt, teach us that effective and coordinated participation of various strata of the society, solidarity of the freedom-loving forces, and effective and active participation of the working class could defeat the military and suppressive forces of the dictatorial regimes and open the road to the victory of the popular movement. This vital matter has to be organized and advanced with patience. The dictatorial regimes in the region and in our country will sooner or later end. The recent events in the region annunciate that it not too long before Ali Khamenei, Ahmadinejad and other regime figures would plan to flee the country, and our people would be able to gain their violated rights. Split in the regime authorities, narrowing of the regime's class base more than ever, the socio-economic crisis which will deeply exacerbate as a result of the policies pursued in the recent months, including rushing the privatization process, "human resource adjustment", and "implementing targeted subsidies", and growing separation of a number of forces who not too long ago were in the leadership of the Islamic Republic, as well as loss of even "Islamic" legitimacy of the ruling circle headed by Khamenei, all in all indicate the deepening crisis of the regime and the fact that the current autocratic rule will have no place in the future of Iran.

The historical destiny of the anti-people regimes is a considerable phenomenon that today even some of the forces in the regime should carefully study and learn from. The tyrannical regime of Shah was once known as the "island of stability" in the region. Hosni Mubarak government was a powerful ally of the United States and Israel in the region which violated the rights of the Egyptians for 30 years by establishing a tyrant regime. However, today there is no sign of that "island of stability", that powerful ally, and all that military and police might that used to portray those regimes undefeatable. Now, it is those dictators that are looking for a "safe place" to hide, fearing from the people's rage. The popular movement in Iran could and should carry out its historical duty to confront and fight against the theocratic autocracy by adhering to the clear demands of the people, maintaining its unity and united action, presenting a realistic plan, and laying the appropriate grounds for interaction among all anti-despotic parties and organizations. The experience of February 14th proved this reality●

Coup Regime Fears from the Popular Movement

(http://www.tudehpartyiran.org/detail.asp?id=1294 Feb 10, 11)

Detention of political activists and inflicting fear and terror in advance of Feb 14th demos

In recent days, the security-military institutions in collaboration with Justice Ministry, have detained and imprisoned another group of political and social activists.

After Ejeie, the Attorney General of the Islamic Republic announced that the call from Mir Hussein Mousavi and Mehdi Karrubi to march on 14th February to support people's uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt is a "divisive" action, in a prepared plan, a number of political and social activists were detained and suppression of

social movements and popular institutions intensified. On 18th of Bahman, more than 15 mothers of Laleh Park (Mourning Mothers) were summoned by Information Ministry to give so-called certain explanations. This widespread summoning is a clear indication of creating fear and terror among opposition groups and critics of the despotic regime. Soon after security-military institutions started pressing trade union movement. Security forces (Basij) stopped a number of members of the Haft Tappeh Neyshekar (Sugarcane) Union from returning to work. Also on 9th February, security forces (Basij) attacked the gathering of this union. Besides this, we're witnessing the detention of political and social activists. Saham News reported on 9th February that Taghi Rahmani a member of the National-Religious coalition and an active member Mehdi Karrubi Election Campaign was arrested at his house. Also on 9th February, Kalameh News reported that Dr. Mir Ahmadizadeh, a member of Baran Foundation and a student and supporter of Ayatollah Montazeri, was detained in city of Qom. He is accused of coordinating efforts among some religious figures in Qom and leaders of Green movement. At the same time, based on Internet news, Mohammad Hussein Sharifzadegan, member of Mousavi Campaign, Saleh Noghrehkar, Maysam Mohammadi and Omid Mohaddes have been arrested by security forces.

In addition, unfair convictions and increase pressure on political prisoners along with inhumane death sentences are tactics of creating fears that must be mentioned. Another tactic is to limit visitations for movement leader, such as preventing members of Karrubi family to visit him.

Various maneuvers and suppressive actions are actually the preparations of the anti-national and coup government to counter the popular movement and neutralize the call for demonstration on 14th February.

One can notice the degree of fear among coup leaders in a speech by Pasdar Hamedani, Chief of Greater Tehran Pasdaran Sepah (Revolutionary Corps), which warned the masses "We will confront any action with force…., We definitely know they are spies and counter revolutionaries and suppress them with force…. "

These threatening words above all reflect the fear and instability of the coup regime. Oppressive policies and creating fear and terror will not deter the will of masses to continue the struggle to against the despotic and illegal coup regime. Mehdi Karrubi recently in an internet interview with New York Times said: "Movements in Tunisia and Egypt injected a new breath to the green movement which suffered gravely by regimes most suppressive tactics. Green movement is not only alive, but still walking strong and eager toward its liberation ideals."

Fear of the coup leaders is from this continuous struggle, steadfastness of the movement leaders in spite of excessive suppressions, and objective and subjective opportunities to create the widest united action among parties, organizations and popular, national and revolutionary movements in the country's political arena.

Struggle against despotic leadership, backed by forces of masses and use of all methods and tactics, to achieve freedom, social equality and sovereignty continues and will continue●

Worrying Condition of Osanloo in Jail

(http://www.tudehpartyiran.org/detail.asp?id=1295 Feb 12, 11)

Based on the news, including the report from Students Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, Mansour Osanloo, president of the Executive Committee of the Bus Drivers Union of Greater Tehran, has suffered a heart attack on Friday Feb 11th in Gohar Dasht Prison and was transferred to a Hospital outside of prison.

Based on these reports, even with critical conditions caused by heart attack, he still did not receive immediate attention. His family and doctors had notified prison authorities and justice official about his weak and poor health conditions.

Family of this union activist had requested many times from Attorney General Office to seriously pay attention to his conditions and release him. But these requests had been unfairly ignored every time. Mansour Osanloo has been in prison for defending the workers union rights. He like other political prisoners is the hostages of coup government and its reactionary forces.

Our party while demands the immediate release of Mansour Osanloo and all other political prisoners without any conditions, it holds the Supreme Leadership Regime, Justice structure and illegal coup government solely responsible for the conditions in which threatens the health and lives of prisoners and causes situations such as heart attack and critical health conditions that Mansour Osanloo faces●

The Youth and the Problem of Unempolyment

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 862, 14th February 2011)

Official reports show that with the rise of unemployment rate in the country, most of the youth are deprived of getting a decent job and making the needed income for their living. Some time ago (January 22, 2011), in an exclusive interview with the ILNA (Iranian Labour News Agency), Hasan Rohani, the Director of the Center for Strategic Studies of the Expediency Discernment Council, described the state of affairs of the Iranian youth as critical and said: "According to the Central Bank's latest report, the growth rate of gross national product is 2.5 percent and over 30 percent of the youth are unemployed…i.e. over 30 percent of the youth have zero percent income; and with zero percent income, peoples' living conditions could not be decent."

On the other hand, the United Nation's 2010 Human Development Index shows that during the last decade, the unemployment rate has been 33 percent. According to this report, the youth represented the largest group amongst the unemployed.

In November of last year, the Internet news site Kalame reported: "Unfortunately, the youth and especially the educated population of the country are the majority of the unemployed; at the same time, some of the employed youth are employed either in superficial jobs or work in areas which are not congruent with their abilities, education and skills, i.e. they are semi-unemployed. The situation of unemployment among the educated is becoming increasingly worse."

Now, with implementation of the "Grand Economic Surgery Plan" and elimination of the subsidies and starting the second phase of the Transformation Plan in the next Iranian year, the number of unemployed, especially among the youth, will increase, as a result of the bankruptcy and closing down of the industrial and manufacturing plants. Due to its socio-economical plan, Ahmadi-Nejad's anti-national government is incapable of creating suitable jobs with decent income for millions of students graduating from high school. The youth of our nation are so cramped in the crisis of unemployment that they are deprived of all the basic opportunities for a decent life in their adolescence years.

In addition to the problem of unemployment, patrol detachments of Basij Militia and security forces, and reactionary and medieval laws and regulations are also troubling the youth. In such circumstances, the increase of excruciating social abnormalities such as crime, addiction and others is not surprising at all. To these

Tudeh News

problems one must add the inevitable exodus of the Iranian youth from the country, and the discontent and unhappiness they suffer in exile. The youth are suppressed and their desire for political activity and struggle is being blocked; furthermore, they are socially captive inside the claws of a reactionary and horrible backward-thinking regime. Worst of all, the unemployment has devastated their lives and futures. Healthy development of the society depends on securing and guaranteeing the demands and rights of the youth. The theocratic regime of Iran is confronts the youth and their rights in every aspect of their lives.

In order to be able to lay the foundation of the future Iranian society with a healthy, just and advanced, and consistent with today's world, the interests and rights of the youth, particularly the youth from the deprived classes of the society, must be guaranteed. In this path, struggle against the theocratic despotism is the first step●

Pensioners Concerned about their Pensions

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 862, 14th February 2011)

Millions of retired workers and public employees and pensioners of the Social Security Office (Fund) are waiting to see how next year's pensions are being determined. In an article on 11th of January, ILNA (Iranian Labour News Agency) reported: "Considering the impact of the law of the "targeted subsidies" (i.e. the elimination of government subsidies) on the peoples' lives, the pensioners are expecting to see an increase in their pensions. Even if the Social Security Office considered this year's inflation rate as a basis to determine the increase of the pension payments, there should have been a ten percent increase in the pensions. However, the Social Security Office has agreed to only a six percent increase in the pensions. The retired workers and other pensioners of the Social Security Fund are already worried about their next year's pensions."

The pensioners are seriously concerned because the workgroup to reform and re-assess the Labor Law ratified a change in the make-up of the Supreme Labor Council. The rulings of the Supreme Labor Council about wages have usually been used as a basis for calculating the pension payments of the pensioners covered by the Social Security Fund. However, now with the change in the make-up of the Supreme Labor Council, and under the economic liberalization plan, it is not clear how and on what basis the pensioner's pensions will be calculated and determined.

With the launch of the "targeted subsidies" (elimination of subsidies for electricity, bread, fuel, etc.), now the calculation method of workers' minimum wage and pensioners' pensions has become unclear. Recently one of the deputies of the Minister of Labor spoke of changes in the decisions to increase the wages. He noted that with the cash payments of the government [in lieu of subsidies], there is no reason for a yearly increase in wages and payments of the pensioners of the Social Security Fund.

Furthermore, it must be mentioned that so far the Social Security Office has made no effort in paying the pensioners' overdue payments.

Pensioners are rightfully worried about the amount of their pensions. And the government, the Ministry of Welfare and the Social Security Office are not making any effort to alleviate this concern.

With the elimination of the subsidies and increases in the cost of the basic goods and public services, and the social impact of these policies on families, the issue of the pensioners' pensions will become more critical in the following months. The pensioners must be supported and protected against the anti-people policies of the theocratic regime of Iran●

Tudeh News