

Tudeh News

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Two years after the election coup

The Econo-Political Bankruptcy of the Supreme-Leader-Installed Government

(Abridged from "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran, No. 870, 6th June, 11)

June 12th of 2011 marks the second anniversary of the election coup perpetrated by the Supreme [Religious] Leader and the security and Guard forces against the will of millions of Iranians who cast their votes in the hopes of changing the anti-people and reactionary government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. During the past two years, tons of witness documents and data have been released and made public about the extent of the election rigging orchestrated by the Supreme Leader in collaboration with the security forces and Guard Corps and the Council of Guardians of Constitution the reaction that clearly reveal the Goebbels-inspired lies of Ahmadinejad, the propaganda apparatus of the regime and the outspoken and shame-faced supporters of the regime.

The election coup of the Supreme Leader not only was a demonstration of violent trampling of the votes of millions of citizens, but also burst any illusion about the realization of the principle of Republic in the theocratic regime of Iran. The goal of the Supreme Leader and the ruling reaction, that was fearful of yet another May 23rd [when reformist Khatami was first elected in 1997] in Iran, was to crush the popular movement and establish a paramilitary regime in order to stabilize its political power and to secure its long-term rule. The powerful

and magnificent popular movement that came to the scene to protest against this anti-national and violent coup not only wrecked the plots and plans of the perpetrators of the coup to “calm down the situation” and “political stabilization” of the regime, but also proved that despite a four-year repression by the Ahmadinejad government, the anti-despotism and powerful social movement is still alive in the society.

The bloody and harsh suppression of the popular protests against the infringement of the votes of millions of citizens, which led to killing and injuring a large number of people and the arrest of thousands of freedom campaigners, although could impede the widespread protests and street demonstrations against the regime, but could not subdue the freedom movement and drive it into isolation as the regime leader would have imagined. The continuation of the struggle by the masses, and the eruption of extensive popular protests, for instance during the funeral of Nasser Hejazi, the popular football player, and the funeral of Mr. Sahabi [a leader of Freedom Movement of Iran], and later massive protests against the hideous crime of the regime that led to the death of Haleh Sahabi [in her father’s funeral], all proved that the popular movement is still alive and learning from its experiences will employ various shapes and forms of struggle against the reaction.

The two-year report card of the Supreme-Leader-appointed government is the one of a discredited and bankrupt institution, both in ethically and econo-politically, which today is confronted with broad and growing criticism of its past allies. Pursuing anti-people and devastating economic policies to

protect the interests of the parasitic and bureaucratic capitalism, exacerbation of poverty and destitution, growing social malaise, and ever deepening of the gap between the poor and the rich, along with the increasing political crisis which is growing deeper due to the attempts of Ahmadinejad and his backers in the leadership of security forces and Guard Corps to concentrate the economic-political power in their own hands, are all indications of the immense failure of the theocratic regime of Iran in stabilizing the political grip, and are all a reproduction of the serious and chronic crises that the regime has been dealing with in the recent decades.

There is no doubt that the global situation, and particularly the popular movements that swept the carpet from under the despotic regimes in Egypt and Tunisia, and recently in Yemen, and shook the pillars of the reactionary regime of Bahrain and other states in the region, would certainly have an impact on the political developments in Iran.

To gain a better understanding of the situation in Iran, let's have a look at the socio-economic state of the society and the increase of pressure on the lives of millions of Iranian families. At the start of his term, Mahmud Ahmadinejad was planning and hoping to attract the support of a vast majority of the disadvantaged population for his government by voicing populist (demagogic) slogans about the fair and just distribution of the nation's wealth and addressing the destitution of the people. However, over the time, when the orientation of Ahmadinejad's government in line with the interests and demands of the grand capital of the country was exposed, and amid the aggressive implementation of neo-liberal economic policies such as "economic liberalization", "targeted subsidies", and hasty privatization of the industry, the working class and the working people of Iran soon realized the true nature of Ahmadinejad's administration as a government against the interests of the underprivileged of the society and launched, here and there, the struggle against these policies in various scenes. The

economic statistics released in the recent two years clearly indicate the outcome of the government policies and the shocking reality of the current situation in Iran. Devastating growth of unemployment is one of the consequences of the "economic liberalization" which has created difficult conditions for millions of Iranians, and particularly the youth. In the latest 2010 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Program, the unemployment rate in Iran is reported at 33%. According to this report, the rate that the youth entered the job market in the recent years did not match the rate of created job opportunities. Among the total number of the employed, about 43% have informal or temporary jobs. As reported in last December by the [reformist] Kalemeh site, "the official rate of absolute and partial unemployment in the country is 30.1%."

With the economic liberalization and the elimination of subsidies, the rate of unemployment increased, and that is why the coup government is not willing to publish the official rate...

Among other important economic indices which could be considered clear criteria to measure the success of the policies of the current administration, are the economic development rate, the inflation rate, and the amount of cash liquidity. According to the Central Bank of Iran and other official statistic sources, while the inflation rate has exceeded 18%, the economic rate in Iran has plummeted and at the same time, the volume of cash liquidity has increased. The increase in liquidity in the past two years has been more than 23%, and with the elimination of the subsidies, this volume will sharply increase, leaving a major part of the cash in the hands of non-productive capitalism of Iran, and particularly the grand mercantile capitalism....

The increasing exacerbation of the economic situation, the clash between the Ahmadinejad administration and his security-Guard backers for the share of the

wealth and political power, and also the upcoming parliamentary “elections” and after that the presidential “elections” in which by law Ahmadinejad cannot candidate, has stirred new challenges and tensions among the various factions of the regime.

The recent altercation between the Supreme Leader and its appointed government sparked by the action of Ahmadinejad to dismiss the Intelligence Minister, and consequent to that, intensified clashes between the Majlis (Parliament) and the government and eventually Ahmadinejad apologizing to the Supreme Leader, not only did not mitigate the current political crisis, but also weakened the position of Ahmadinejad’s government and made it even more difficult for the regime to go on with the status quo.

June 12th of this year arrives at a time when the popular movement once again gets ready for a new battle with the Supreme Leader regime, and the encompassing econo-political crisis is shaking the pillars of the installed government, and in general the discredited theocratic regime. The deep divide among the traditional forces of the regime who were once the “pillars of the legitimacy”, including a large part of the clergy chiefs who denied to openly and clearly recognize the government that was installed through the Supreme Leader coup; the shaky position of the Supreme Leader himself and the matter of his succession; along with the ever increasing role and intervention of the chiefs of the security forces and Guard Corps in the affairs of the country and econo-political decision-making, have all developed a new dynamism in the political developments of the country which will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the future events.

Illusion about the nature of these rifts, including the tensions between Ahmadinejad and parts of the clergy who support Khamenei [the Supreme Leader] is what the popular movement should avoid consciously. The main task of progressive and freedom-loving forces is to strive for more and more harmony in the struggle, qualitative improvement of the level of organization of the social forces, and in

particular the working class, and taking advantage of the increasing divisions among the factions of the regime. As a result of the escalation of the economic crisis and the increased pressure on the shoulders of millions of working people, the people will lose their patience more than ever, and our nation will move towards a social explosion. We must fully prepare ourselves for the future battle against the anti-people regime of Iran●

Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran

On the death of Hoda Saber: Another Tragedy Perpetrated by the Mercenaries of the Dictatorship

According to the latest published reports, Hoda Saber, journalist and one of the religious activists who went on hunger strike along with Amir Khosrow Dalirsaani- one of the other freedom fighters and political prisoners in Iran- to protest against the death of Haleh Sahabi, died earlier today of cardiac arrest. The death of Hoda Saber is yet another tragedy perpetrated by the judicial-security apparatus of the theocratic regime in Iran. The inhuman conduct of the prison guards and authorities towards the detained activists and campaigners, once again depicts the deeply anti-people character of a regime which has turned Iran into a large prison for millions of the citizens of our homeland.

Like numerous other freedom fighters, Hoda Saber was arrested on several occasions in recent years and sent to the torture chambers of the regime. He was arrested once again last August following the election coup of the Supreme Leader and the suppression apparatus of the theocratic regime. After the death of Haleh Sahabi, Hoda went on hunger strike as a protest action against the crimes of the mercenaries of the regime. In a message to the people of Iran, he said: “In protest against the tragedy of Wednesday

June 1st and the assault leading to the death of the eldest daughter of Mr. Sahabi, who was motherly and sisterly serving the people and the victims of the events of the past two years, we two members of the ideological-political National- Religious- group will go on wet strike as of the evening of June the 2nd in ward 350 of Evin Prison without any personal demands, and will only take water, tea, sugar and salt.” According to the released reports, the specialist doctors deemed the negligence of the prison authorities to transfer Hoda Saber to hospital as the main cause of his death. According to the same reports, the judiciary officials and the officers of the Intelligence Ministry have refused to turn over the body of Hoda Saber to his family.

Tudeh Party of Iran once again strongly denounces and condemns the criminal act of the mercenaries of the theocratic regime in Iran and the suppression apparatus ruling our homeland. Expressing our deepest sympathy and solidarity with the comrades of Hoda Saber and his family, we call upon all the freedom-loving and humanitarian forces across the world to protest against the crimes committed in the prisons of the Iranian regime. The efforts for immediate and unconditional release of all the political prisoners must be doubled. The regime of ignorance and felony should be stopped from perpetrating more tragedies.

Long live the honoured memory of Hoda Saber and all the martyrs of the struggle for democracy and human rights in our homeland! Shame on the ruling criminals!

Central Committee

12th June 2011

Statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran

On the Occasion of the Passing Away of Ezzatollah Sahabi and the murder of Haleh Sahabi

Tudeh Party of Iran sends its sincere condolences on the occasion of the passing away of Ezzatollah Sahabi, a prominent figure in the popular and liberation movement of Iran, to the

people of Iran, his family, his comrades, and his friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Sahabi was one of the unrelenting activists of the national movement, and one of the leaders of the National Movement of Iran, who spent long years of his life in the prisons of the Shah regime, and later on in the prisons of the theocratic regime of Iran, and despite all the pressures and restrictions imposed by the current regime, refused to compromise the defense for the rights of the people and the freedom movement in our country.

Mr. Sahabi was born in 1930 in Tehran and was one of the prominent leaders of the Council of National-Religious Activists of Iran. He was one of the few national figures in the Revolution Council [1978-1979], a member of the very first Constitutional Assembly, and a member of the very first parliament, after the revolution, elected in the capital Tehran. After a short period of time during which he was the Director of the Budget and Planning Organization in the administration of Mehdi Bazargan [the very first government of Iran after the 1979 revolution], Mr. Sahabi began publishing the well respected “Iran-e Farda” [The Iran of Tomorrow] magazine, and in the recent decades was always one of the outstanding individuals who defended the reform process and was a daring critic of the theocratic regime of Iran and its anti-people policies. The passing away of Mr. Sahabi is a loss for the popular and freedom movement of our nation.

Dear compatriots,

The ruthless attack of the dark-minded thugs on the funeral of Mr. Sahabi caused yet another disaster. This incident was an indication of the brutality of a regime that is still in power against the will of the overwhelming majority of the nation. Amid the physical assault on the attendants in the funeral, including Haleh Sahabi, the daughter of the late Mr. Sahabi, this relentless activist of the women’s and peace movement in the country was martyred.

Haleh Sahabi, was a member of the “The Council of the Mothers for Peace” and one of the political activists and those prosecuted as a result of the events of the post presidential election of June 2009 who was summoned to Evin prison last winter to spend her 2-year term in jail. According to the numerous eyewitness reports, consequent to the brutal raid of the security forces on the funeral procession on June 1st and their attempt to disrupt the funeral, Haleh was severely beaten by the security forces, [collapsed as a result] and was martyred due to heart attack.

Tudeh Party of Iran condemns the criminal actions of the security forces of the theocratic regime of Iran and expresses its sympathy with the Sahabi family, and calls upon all the progressive and freedom-loving forces of Iran and the world to intensify their protest against the Iranian regime more than ever before. Such crimes are committed at a time when we are approaching the second anniversary of the electoral coup of the theocratic regime of Iran to impose and re-install the anti-people government of Ahmadinejad. The current disastrous economic and social situation in Iran, the continuation of the political crisis in the country, and intensification of the suppression atmosphere are the most vivid indications of the conviction of an anti-people regime which resorts to any means no matter how inhumane, to stay in power.

The memory of the national figures and activists such as Ezzatollah Sahabi and his daughter Haleh Sahabi will always remain in the memory of our people. It is the reactionaries, the perpetrators of this horrendous crime that are and will be damned and doomed in the court of the public opinion in Iran and the world as a bunch of dark-minded criminals.

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

3rd June 2011

Visit by the Private Sector Economic Delegation of IR of Iran to the US

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 870, 6th June 2011)

After the parliament of Iran, during the readings of this year's budget, approved the import and sale of oil products in the country by private sector and declared it legal, Iran's media reported that in response to the invitation of American investors and a few transnational cartels, a delegation of private sector, i.e. Islamic Republic's Chamber of Commerce, would travel to the United States. On May 11, Ilana News Agency reported: “In response to the invitation extended by the American private sector, a sixteen-member Iranian private sector delegation will travel to Kansas City to attend the three-day Futurallia Forum [16th International Business Development Forum]... Eight hundred trade delegations from thirty countries around the world will attend this economic meeting, which could lay favorable ground for Iran's private sector to develop exports and international exchanges.”

Ilana then added, “Iranian delegation consists of experts from different industrial and monetary-financial fields, such as home appliances, monetary, chemicals and food products. Preparations for obtaining American visas for this delegation have been completed, and the delegation will have no problem to travel to the United States. Futurallia Forum is an annual international gathering for acquiring trading partners in order to find strategies for large and small economic trade exchanges, establish commercial, financial, strategic or technological alliances, and to develop international trade.”

According to the published reports, invitation of the Iranian delegation was recommended by the International Monetary

Fund's (IMF) to the American authorities. The implementation of "economic liberalization" plan based on the prescriptions dictated by the World Bank and the IMF by the theocratic regime of Iran, and planned rapid execution of the Supreme Leader's order regarding Article 44 [of the Constitution] and privatization of the strategic industries are among the reasons behind the invitation extended to the Islamic Republic's delegation. During a recent visit by the Director of the Islamic Republic's Central Bank to Washington to attend the IMF's annual meeting, the World Bank authorities expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the "Targeted Subsidies" but also called for deregulation and reform of the banking system. Attendance of a delegation from the Islamic Republic's Chamber of Commerce, centered on individuals such as Nahavandian and Asgaroalady, demonstrates the burning desire of the ruling reaction to expand its economic and trade relations with the United States, and its invitation extended to the international monopolies to invest in major industrial sectors such as oil, gas, petrochemical, steel and aluminum. In addition to covering economic issues, the visit of the Islamic Republic's Chamber of Commerce delegation will certainly have political meaning and significance in this historically critical moment.

NATO's Deployment to the Persian Gulf Region, Serious Threat to the World Peace

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 870, 6th June 2011)

In the heat of the NATO's military aggression on Libya and bloody conflicts in North Africa, international press reported on the efforts of the United Arab Emirates Sheikhdom for close military-security cooperation and setting up a permanent mission of the Sheikhdom in NATO. The media in the region and Iran have also published reports and articles on this matter, confirming the United Arab Emirates' action and effort for extensive cooperation with NATO.

On May 21, Ilana News Agency reported, "RIA Novosti News Agency and the Arabic paper "Gulf Times" wrote: During the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan's recent visit to Europe, the essential agreements for Emirates' representation in NATO have been reached. For the first time in the history of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), permanent mission of an Arabic country, i.e. United Arab Emirates, will be established in this organization... After meeting with his Emirate counterpart, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs stated: We are pleased that the United Arab Emirates would be the first Arabic country to establish its representation in NATO."

Close, strong and long-lasting cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and NATO will intensify the tensions in the Persian Gulf region and fuel the arms race in this region. Establishment of a permanent mission in NATO and exchange of military and security intelligence between Emirates and NATO violates the principle of good-neighborliness and mutual cooperation between the Persian Gulf states and directly threatens our country's national security.

With the objective of gaining trust and cooperation of the NATO member states- in particular the United States and Britain- the United Arab Emirates, on one hand, is trying to shield itself from the storms of the region's popular movements, and on the other hand, as an instrument of international monopolies, attempts to gain an international support for its phony claims and dangerous ambitions in the Strait of Hormuz. United Arab Emirates' action in opening a permanent mission at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization- NATO- could not be acceptable by the region's states.

In general, expansion of NATO to the Persian Gulf region in any shape or under any pretext is a threat for the independence and sovereignty of the countries and the cause of tension, war and instability, and threatens world peace.