

Tudeh News

International Bulletin of the Tudeh Party of Iran – November 2012 - No. 279

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

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

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



Devastating Sanctions: Imperialism Objectives, and Policies of Ruling Reaction

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 907, 5th November 2012)

Unwavering opposition to interventionist sanctions is inherently tied with the anti-dictatorship struggle. Under the current sensitive situation of our country, these two aspects have dialectical interaction with each other, and one cannot analyse them separate from each other. Opposing the sanctions and fighting against the theocratic dictatorship and the ruling reaction, complement each other.

With the recent decision of the EU, a new round of tighter sanctions against our nation began. The foreign ministers of 27 EU member states ratified new and harsher sanctions against our country in their meeting of October 15th in Luxemburg. The range and the extent of the new sanctions will have much further devastating impacts on the lives of the people, the national economy, and in general on the interests and national security of Iran.

According to the EU decision, the Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Energy, National Iranian Gas Company, National Iranian Oil Company, and the main and core companies affiliated with the Ministry of Oil, are now in the list of sanctioned entities. Also, the foreign ministers of EU states stressed in their October 15th statement that "the EU has agreed to prohibit all transactions between European and Iranian banks." In the new listing of sanctions, there are 34 financial institutions and banks, transactions with which have been fully prohibited. Therefore, the new interventionist sanctions have mainly targeted Iran's banking system, exports and oil industry.

The new sanctions, unlike what the EU states claim, more than anything will impact the livelihood of the people of our nation. A noteworthy fine point in the new sanctions of the EU is the removal of the names of a few major businessmen and companies from the listing of sanctions. For example, Mahmud Reza Khavari, the ex-CEO of Bank Melli of Iran and one of the main figures of the multi-billion dollar embezzlement and financial scandal, who has had close ties with the centres of power in the Iranian regime, and also Mohammad Jeddi, the CEO of Saderaat Bank and the past Minister of Labour in Ahmadinejad administration, are both removed from the list of sanctions. Furthermore, two transport companies, one electrical equipment company, and seven real persons have been exempted from the sanctions. This action points to a particular policy that is enforced under the guise of sanctions by the EU and the US. The intensification of sanctions and the claim of the European states and the United States that the ordinary people are not the target of the sanctions, occurs at a time when the General Secretary of the UN has clearly stated that the people of Iran are the victims of this inhuman and interventionist policy. Mr. Ban Ki Moon in his report of October 5th has clearly conceded that the sanctions have put pressure on the people of Iran and have made the life of the majority of the nation very difficult. Pointing to the unilateral sanctions of the United States and the EU on the banking system, he acknowledges cases like the high prices of basic goods, food items and drugs, which have made these items inaccessible for the people. What the Secretary General of the UN confirmed and reflected in his report

reveals the groundless claims of the EU and the US that the sanctions aim at “the ruling regime of Iran” and the “nuclear program of the IRI”.

Imperialist sanctions have further adverse and devastating impacts in various areas and dimensions on the present and future destiny of our nation. This misconception that sanctions will weaken the ruling reaction and therefore create the conditions for the opposition and for the growth of the anti-dictatorship movement, in the best case scenario is just naive and an illusion. The record of imposing sanctions in the past few years show that the policy of the United States and the EU about the interventionist sanctions, not only has not led to the augmentation of the popular movement and democratic and liberation struggle of the people of Iran, but on the contrary, has created a fertile ground for the growth of anti-national tendencies, while directly or indirectly equipping and strengthening certain factions in the regime. This is not a secret that so far sanctions have undoubtedly been beneficial for the non-productive and parasitic layers of Iran’s capitalism and the centres of power that are dependent on these social strata. The current economic situation of the country, including skyrocketing prices and devaluation of the national currency, begs this key question that “who benefits from this mayhem and who have suffered?”

The answer to this question for those who have the slightest, even shallow, familiarity with the developments in Iran, is in no way difficult. Who have largely benefited from the flow of large amounts of capital and cash toward the buy-and-sell of hard currency, gold coin, non-productive businesses, land and property; and which social strata and classes have suffered and their purchasing power and life standard sharply declined? Interventionist sanctions, including the new round of EU sanctions, have boosted both the economic power and political position of Iran’s reaction and the parasitic strata that it depends on.

The main objective of sanctions is to crush the backbone of the national economy, the

productive power, and the industrial and financial potentials and actual prospects of our nation. Only, and only the grand mercantile capital and its ally, i.e. the bureaucratic capital which is the main pillar of the regime, have benefited and will benefit from this policy. This is because the class interests of these parasitic and non-productive layers, both historically and materialistically, at this junction of time aligns with the interests of imperialism. The policy of the political representatives of this non-productive layers- who have the upper hand in the current Iranian regime- towards sanctions in recent years, and also at this point of time, i.e. on the eve of the presidential elections [of Iran, next summer] and escalation of clashes amongst various factions of the regime, show that the sanctions of the US and EU have always been a useful



pretext for them to advance their political agenda. The only reason the reactionaries fear from the intensification of sanctions is that the economic interests and political position of one faction is endangered against the other faction! This has not been hidden from the eyes of imperialism and has been a central point in their policy for imposing sanctions. Interventionist sanctions are also extremely shattering and catastrophic from the point of view of Iran’s national interests. For the United States and the main powers of EU, a shattered and weakened Iran whose back has been broken under the burden of sanctions, is preferred over a powerful, sovereign and progressive Iran. Sanctions gravely hurt the cultural-civic position of Iran and its effective role in a vast geographic area. One of the less noted and talked about impacts of sanctions, is this very significant issue. Due to the geopolitical situation of our country, imposing sanctions on Iran is nothing but injecting lethal poison in the body of a country which is effectual and important in the regional and global equations, in a critical period of the human history. Iran is one of the key oil producing countries and one of the founders of OPEC. Imposing sanctions

on Iran's oil will weaken Iran's role in OPEC and the entire energy market globally, and thus, weakens Iran's role in economic-political equations on the international scene. Could Iran easily regain the export market it has lost due to sanctions? In order to understand the depth and extent of the blow to the national interests of Iran caused by the policies of imperialism and the ruling reaction, a piece that appeared in Kaleme website on October 16th is noteworthy. Pointing out the consequences of oil sanctions and the very damaging role of the ruling reaction, and particularly the Leader's inner circle, Kaleme writes: "in the matter of international business, consistency is a basic principle... Once a portion of the market is lost, returning to the previous state of affairs will certainly be very costly and requires a lot of effort. Therefore, one cannot expect that Iran will return to its past position easily." In other words, the current sanctions will put multiple generations of the nation under pressure, and its devastating impacts will not be revamped easily and quickly.

In addition to what was discussed, we must stress that opposition and struggle against interventionist sanctions is not separate from the struggle against the theocratic dictatorship and the ruling reaction. Our party, along with other patriotic and progressive forces of the nation, has stated its unwavering opposition to any kind of sanctions and intervention in the internal affairs of our country. In our opinion, confronting the imperialist sanctions and fight against tyranny, revealing the objectives of imperialism and the policies of the ruling reaction, is the urgent task of all parties and forces who genuinely defend freedom, social justice and national sovereignty ■

Small Workshops and Article 191 of the Labour Law

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 907, 5th November 2012)

Article 191 of Iran's Labour Law which was passed into law in 2002 exempted small workshops from the provisions of Labour Law. Ten years later, this issue has become a very serious social predicament. This exemption

has paved the way for an absolute lawlessness against hundreds of thousands of working women and men, and has led to the compounded exploitation of child labour.

In the wake of this crisis and increasing opposition by workers, ILNA (Iran's Labour News Agency) reported last September on the consequences of exempting workshops with less than 10 employees from the Labour Law and wrote: "A labour activist criticized the passage and continuation of Article 191 of the Labour Law, and deemed it in favour of investors and employers... He considered the working conditions in small workshops and manufacturing plants as the main issue facing the working men and women in the country, and said that according to the Article 191 of the Labour Law, manufacturing workshops that have less than 10 employees are exempted from the application of the Law."

In another report on September 7, 2012, ILNA quoted a few labour activists that "planning and executing a new system to monitor and inspect the conditions in manufacturing workshops and plants is one of the necessities the lack of which is clearly noticed... All workshops across the country, especially the small ones, must be inspected by the inspectors of the Ministry of Labour. Currently small workshops employ more than 50% of the country's workforce, many of whom are deprived of the basic rights of health and safety, minimum wage as set out by the Ministry of Labour, etc."

Fierce exploitation of children in workshops with less than 10 employees, that are exempt from the application of the Labour Law, is another dreadful and tragic consequence of Article 191. A member of the board of directors of the "Association in Defence of the Rights of Children" told ILNA that "legal exemption of workshops employing fewer than 10 people took these units out of the legal jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour inspectors



and facilitated the exploitation of children and the young people working in such workshops. Paying low wages and extending the working hours were the first steps. Later, when the conditions were "right", assigning tough jobs to these children and youngsters became routine... I know a workshop where a 14-year old was working with a 19 ton press machine. While working more than 10 hours daily with this machine, he was paid only \$8. The results of such a law, as was expected from the outset, have been catastrophic."

The exemption of workshops employing 10 people and less from the Labour Law has been a part of the socio-economic plans of the theocratic regime of Iran. Programs such as economic adjustment, reforming the economic structure, and now economic liberalization under the name of "targeted subsidies" have laid the ground and created the framework for implementation of such anti-labour policies. It is not for no reason that now based on the direct decrees from the Supreme Leader and his clear instructions, plans and programs such as the master-apprentice and the Labour Law reform within the "economic development" plan, with a restriction on the privatization of the strategic industries, are being implemented... Such plans are not just the product of various administrations of the Islamic Republic, but have been and are the result of the strategic and key programs of the entire regime■

The Youth and Unemployment Crisis: Increase of Unemployment Rate among the Youth

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 907, 5th November 2012)

One of the outcomes of the deepening economic crisis in Iran is the increase in unemployment rate across the country. A significant finding in examining the unemployment rate is the high rate of unemployment among the youth and the rising trend of this catastrophic phenomenon.

Some time ago, several reports were published in the media reflecting on the increase in unemployment rate among the youth that has

now become a broad crisis. The news-analysis internet site "Fararoo" in a report titled "The statistics of the new wave of youth unemployment" reads: "The review of the existing statistical data on the unemployment rate and job situation of the youth in the last 7 years shows that during 2005 - 2011 this rate has stayed double the national rate... and the highest unemployment rate has been among the ages of 15 to 25."

At the same time, on October 9th Mehr News Agency pointed out the fast pace of increase in unemployment rate among the youth and its threats for the present and future of the society, and wrote: "in 2011-2012 unemployment rate for the youth between the ages 15 to 25, across the nation, has been 26.5%... Not only the unemployment rate among this age group as the main job seeking group is much higher than the national unemployment rate in the past 7 years, but also this difference and gap has grown even greater in 2011-12."

The above-mentioned report stresses that considering the economic situation of the current year the unemployment rate of the youth has increased even further and has turned into a full blown social crisis.

About the causes of increase in the joblessness of the youth, it is necessary to mention that since the population of Iran is young and the youth make up a high percentage of the nation, any change and development in the economic conditions directly affects their lives. More accurately, the disastrous effects of the anti-people policies such as economic liberalization, as well as imperialists' sanctions, have caused an increase in the unemployment of the Iranian youth and an uncertain future for them. There is a close relationship between the joblessness of the youth and the collapse of the production power and promotion of non-productive economy.



Statistical data show that parallel to the reduction of industrial and agricultural sections in the entire economy of the country, the growth of unemployment among the youth has been very steep. In fact, with the fall of job creation in key sections of industry and agriculture, unemployment rate among ages 15-25 has increased.

Based on the latest data and analyses, including the report by the IMF about Iran's economic conditions, unemployment rate will reach the high level of 15%. Undoubtedly, a significant portion of this jobless army will consist of the youth.

The youth are considered the human assets of present and future of any society. Safeguarding their lives, needs and future is the responsibility of any people-oriented regime and government. The theocratic regime of Iran has proven with its policies in the last 3 decades that it does not act responsibly towards the future of the nation and the lives of its youth, and basically, this medieval regime could not care less for the future of the Iranian youth, boys or girls.

Caring for lives and future of the young people should be reflected in various economic, social and cultural policies. With the current orientation of the theocratic regime of Iran, not only the living condition of the youth of our nation will not improve, but it will deteriorate even further. The increasing trend of unemployment among the youth is only one of the precarious aspects of their lives■

Workers of the World, Unite!

The Lessons of the Great October Revolution And The Challenges of Our Time

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 907, 5th November 2012)

With the deepening crisis of capitalism, and along with it, the escalation of the struggles of people around the world, finding solutions for the numerous problems of current times that are caused by the capitalism system, has occupied the minds of the progressive mankind.

Crisis-generation of the capitalism system and its consequences in the second decade of the twenty-first century is a known fact today. In the EU, austerity packages dictated by the governments have caused serious hardship and suffering for the people, and particularly the working people and working class. The main power poles of the capitalism system, drowned in crisis, are now faced with an uncertain future. Under such circumstances, revisiting and examining the past experiences, including the experience of the Great October Revolution has gained extensive ground in the public opinion. Today, this key question that what experiences and approaches are available for finding the way out of the current dire situation and realizing the true freedom for people is being asked more than ever...

...Contrary to the capitalism propaganda, the October Revolution was not a national and local occurrence; it was a significant event with far-reaching and global impacts. This characteristic makes it so important to pay attention to this experience in our times. October Revolution has changed the face of the world and has oriented the developments of the human society towards a new path. This is a path that now- despite the historic ups and downs and the setback caused by the collapse of the socialist camp- has carried on in new forms. In other words, the era that began with the October Revolution, despite all the failures and retreats, has continued...

The October Revolution put an end to the myth of capitalism immortality and opened a

new chapter in the history. One of the most important achievements and fundamental attributes of the October Revolution and its child, the Soviet Union, was the global balance of forces in favor of peace and social progress. Lenin called this characteristic of the October Revolution the "emancipation of humanity from the yoke of capitalism and imperialist wars".

The unparalleled and definite impact that the October Revolution had on the destiny of the nations across the globe, including our nation, is undeniable. On the eve of the October Revolution, our country was divided into the influence spheres of "Tsarist Russia" and "Britain". The country and its ruling regime were the puppet of interests and objectives of colonialism, and particularly Britain. The October Revolution and its child foiled the plot to divide Iran and recognized its national sovereignty and independence. Furthermore, the Great Socialist October Revolution essentially shattered the colonial division of the world, and created the conditions for freedom, independence and real progress for the nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Without the slightest doubt, the October Revolution was the origin and starting point of the liberation of the nations oppressed by the imperialism... The emancipation of more than one and a half billion people of the world from the colonial oppression was the direct result of the achievements of the October Revolution which is proudly etched on the history of mankind...

Just based on the undeniable achievements of the October Revolution, today more than ever this revolution is examined and analyzed. Particularly the enthusiasm of the new generation of anti-capitalist activists, who rely on the experience of the October Revolution, is promising. This is the generation who has passed beyond the failure of Soviet Union and is familiar with the inhumane nature of the capitalism warfare; the generation that is fighting very hard for achieving an alternative: "the socialism".

The October Revolution contains valuable experiences in various aspects of life, ranging from the struggle for peace, freedom, and

progress and prosperity of the peoples, to ways to build socialism, and the labour movement's struggle for social justice and the establishment of a new society free from exploitation. Today, there are many social movements, left and progressive parties, as well as communist and workers' parties that learn from the lessons of the October Revolution to optimize organizing mass protests against the catastrophic consequences of capitalism's inherent crisis, such as widespread poverty and injustice and robbing the social security system with austerity programs as done in the EU states. Additionally, in the difficult path of building socialism in a few countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba, and also in the experiences of left governments in Latin America, the valuable lessons and experiences of the October Revolution and its child- the Soviet Union- have been the focus of researches and analyses and have been considered seriously. The rugged and difficult path of building socialism in our times cannot be separated from the valuable experiences of the October Revolution. It should also be noted that in today's world, with its significant developments and with the discredit of global capitalism, and contrary to the claims of the reformists and opportunists in the labour movement, the fundamental characteristics and the idea of the October Revolution still remain valid and feasible, including the concepts such as the necessity for changes in favour of the progressive and forward-thinking forces of history, the concept of imperialism, social revolution, the class nature of the state, class struggle and the need for the vanguard workers' party.

The lessons of the October Revolution, in addition to the other achievements and historical experiences of the struggle of the working class, could very well be an effective and instrumental response to the challenges of our times ■

