

Tudeh News

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New Iranian Year, High Prices, Inflation, Economic Pressure, and Continuing Concerns of the Working People

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 917, 25th March 2013)

Normally at the end of a year and the start of a new year, everyone expects that the hope for the improvement of the socio-economic circumstances of the people, would present positive outlooks. Although during the 30+ years of the rule of the theocratic regime in Iran such perspectives has been a great yet unachievable expectation, but negative and worrying developments in the past few years and particularly since the implementation of the anti-people plan of "targeted subsidies" [i.e. elimination of subsidies] and escalation of imperialist sanctions (under the pretext of the nuclear program of the Islamic regime), has created even broader and more extensive problems and concerns compared to previous years, which will undoubtedly continue in the New Iranian Year (starting March 21st). There is no promising sign based on which an optimistic analysis could be possible. It is exactly due to this situation that a brief browsing through the domestic and international media would reveal sensitivity to these problems and concerns.

About the situation of the working people of our nation in the last year, the data published by the official organs of the regime, and not guesswork and unofficial information, clearly shows that the mounting pressure not only has not declined, but its growing process is very concerning. The Central Bank report published in early March lists the level of incomes and expenses of the people in the year before last. Donyaye Eghtesad (World of Economy) paper wrote about this report: "in the past 3 years, the gap between income and expense has had an

ascending curve. Two years ago the deficit of a household was more than the 2 years before that..."

...This gap must be carefully reviewed because in those mentioned 2 years, factors like the implementation of "targeted subsidies" and economic sanctions did not exist. Even before the "targeted subsidies" the income-expense gap in working families was around \$156 [as a reference: the minimum wage for the current year is \$152]. At that time, although there was no sanctions and elimination of subsidies, but the astronomical oil income was in place... Since the Central Bank reports are published one year later, we have to wait another year to see the data for this past year. In another report, the Central Bank published the price indices for consumer goods and services in urban areas of Iran, which attests to the living condition of the people. According to this report, only in "seven months of last year, the index increased by 27% compared to the same period in the year before." Also, "the inflation in the period ending the end of summer of last year is 24.9%". The alarming point is that the fluctuation of prices is noticeable compared to the month before, let alone comparing to the same month in the last year. For example, the Report reads: "in the first month of the autumn, the price index of food and beverage increased by 4.1% compared to the previous month." Such an increase in only one month is a very telling fact. The concern is that these increases impact the most immediate needs of the people, including food, beverage, housing, utilities, health care and transportation. Compared to the same period in the last year, there has been a price increase of 42% in food and beverage, 45% in clothing and shoe, 15% in housing and utilities, and 25% in health care. The Report categorized the percent change in price index on a basis of month-over-month for each province as well. The least increase was 3.4% in Lorestan, and the highest increase was in Hormozgan with 7%, which shows

a similar trend across the country... Comparing to Hormozgan [a smaller province] price increase index in Tehran [where the capital city is] during the same month was 4%... Normally this was the other way around, and usually the large cities and particularly the capital cities experience higher fluctuations. To better understand the depth of the economic disaster in Iran, let's compare the price of one food item. According the report of the Central Bank, the percentage change of the price index compared to the previous month for fish and sea food was 612.8 in Hormozgan while 445.8 in Tehran. The province of Hormozgan traditionally has been one of the main fishing cores and many of the local people work in fishing and other related industries. The main dish of the people in this province is naturally seafood... The same trend could be seen in the northern province of Mazandaran as well. This precarious phenomenon might possible be related to the economic



approaches of the regime in the past which has been heavily founded on non-productive and parasitic modes... Those who follow up the economic situation in Iran are well aware that debt (loan) payment to banks is one of the problems that the regime is facing. Donyaye Eghtesad, referring to about \$22 billion that are owed to the banks, wrote: “much of these debts are due to hefty loans that have not been utilized in the manufacturing and production sector and this is the result of the weakness of the government’s monitoring system and inefficient power of the banking system.” Such approaches will lead to phenomena which were noticed in comparative statistics between Tehran and

Hormozgan provinces. The growth of parasitic operations and businesses in Iran’s economy has definitely had an adverse impact, even in local economies of various areas across the country. Another example is the bad news we hear about the tea-farmers, which is due to the same approaches among the higher officials of the regime. The same is true about the rice-farmers of the Northern provinces. In January there was a report in Ebtekaar paper on the occasion of the death of the “King of Sugar”. Ebtekaar wrote: “Iran’s ‘King of Sugar’ purchased many of the sugar manufacturing factories by getting millions of dollars bank facilities such as so-called ‘crisis loans’ with very small or no interest. Then after a few months he claimed bankruptcy, laid off all the workers, and started building construction on the land of the factories and pocketed millions more.” Certainly the “King of Sugar” is not the only person who took this devastating approach. In the theocratic regime of Iran this has become a normal phenomenon... The presence of astronomical cash in the society that belongs to these parasitic groups and is in no way utilized in productive businesses is due to such approaches. In January, Bahar paper quoted a member of the Industry and Mining Commission of the parliament that: “according to a recent report of the Research Centre of the parliament, about 70% of industrial plants, whether state or privately owned, have been closed down.” Mentioning that besides the problem of securing raw material, the production units in the country are faced with other challenges as well, he counted shortage of cash in industry as one of these challenges. Another paper quoted Alireza Mahjoub in February that out of each 10 manufacturing plant, 8 are in crisis. And yet another report in Bahar paper in early March about economic course and its impact on the working people of the nation noted: “It is true that in those years the motto of the economic planners was to care for marginalized economic strata like workers, but the political polices were drafted and implemented in a way that workers and other marginalized groups were penalized more than all others by these policies. There is no doubt that in today’s world workers can enjoy a desired and relative welfare only in a manufacturing-based economy.” In February, Fararou website quoted the Statistical Center of Iran that “67 to 76% of all unemployed

are the youth between 15 to 29 years of age.” Such economic disasters do not happen without the knowledge and approval of the highest ranks of power in the regime. Ali Khamenei [the Supreme Leader] in a speech reported in summer of 2012 confirmed such policies by saying that “if the policies of the Article 44 of the Constitution are implemented as it was meant to [i.e. privatization] it will certainly not lead to despicable capitalism, and capitalism becoming the axis of decisions in the country... we must be careful not to allow the socialist outlooks become the dominant economic views.” There is no doubt that Iran’s economic plans are not socialist, and it must be said that they have been and will be anti-socialist, but the claim that the implemented plans are anti-capitalist is the continuation of the same trickery and deception of the regime in the past 2-3 decades. Just a cursory comparison will reveal that what has been implemented in Iran at various levels since the Rafsanjani government is nothing but the prescriptions of the economic neoliberalism that has led to economic bankruptcy in other countries- like Iran- whose latest example is Cypress. Despite all the international pressures and in spite of all the direct and indirect pressures exerted on the working people due to such economic policies, one should not suppose that the regime will revise its economic policies. The implementation of the first phase of the elimination of subsidies and insistence on implementing its second phase proves this point. As a result, despite the rhetoric of the regime officials, including the Supreme Leader himself, about “resistance economy” and attempts towards “national production”, different routes could not be expected. Therefore, it is expected that in the new [Iranian] year, the upcoming trends would be the continuation of the same policies and as a result, more poverty and misery for the people of Iran. This assumption must not find its way in the analyses that the current developments will automatically lead to collapse of the regime. There is no doubt that discontent will grow amid these approaches, but fundamental changes require certain mechanisms, most important of which is organizing the masses ■



Press Release of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran on: Holding the 6th Party Congress

The 6th congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran was convened with participation by cadres, party officials, and members of the central committee. The 6th congress began its work with a minute of silence in honor of the party martyrs and all those who have lost their lives for the liberation of the nation. The delegates then discussed and exchanged views and comments about the New Program of the party and after some revisions, ratified it. Next, the central committee’s Political Report and the reports of various departments were heard by delegates. The Political Report included topics like The Developments of Iran and the World since the last congress (past 9 years), the Outlook of Future Developments, and Policies of the party. The delegate comrades carefully critiqued and reviewed and revised the Report which was later ratified by the congress delegates. A significant part of the congress was allocated to critical review of the performance of departments and commissions of the Central Committee. After listening to the reports of departments, the congress made specific decisions to improve and expand the function of the departments. The next document that was reviewed by the congress was a special document on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the raid on Tudeh Party of Iran by the suppressive apparatus of the theocratic regime of Iran. At the beginning, Comrade Khavari gave an extensive and thorough report to the delegates of the congress about the Party’s situation after the revolution, the performance of the leadership of the Party at the time, the raid on the Party and extensive arrests, fleeing of the Tudeh members and supporters from the country and the challenges the Party was facing on the way to re-organize its ranks. Afterwards, the comrades discussed about various aspects of the raid on the Party and the ongoing plots and machinations of the security machinery of the regime, and after some modifications of the document, unanimously ratified it.

The other item on the agenda was to elect the new members of the Central Committee of the Party. The Election Commission of the congress counted the ballots until late in the night and announced the

results. The election of the new members of the Central Committee was approved by the congress amid the sensational applause of the delegates. Then the newly elected Central Committee held its first plenary session and elected its Political Bureau and the heads of various departments.

52 inspiring and thrilling greeting and solidarity messages received from the workers and communist parties around the world on the occasion of this congress, was an indication of exceptional credibility of the Party in the world communist movement and the significant role of the Party leadership in the global arena of the struggle of the labour camp against the monopoly capitalism and world imperialism. The 6th congress of our party was undoubtedly a turning point in the history of the Party. 30 years after the widespread and barbaric attack of the forces of reaction and obscurity against the party of the working class of Iran to wipe out and eradicate it from Iran, the Tudeh Party of Iran has not only been able to successfully defeat the plots of the reaction, but also has been able to effectively pass through difficult ordeals and keep the glorious and victorious flag [of the noble martyrs] of the Party raised, as evident and proven by its struggles in the past 30 years which coincided with the most difficult times for the workers and communist movement in the contemporary history. The delegates of the congress rightfully highlighted the fact that our party and nation are facing critical and decisive times, and Tudeh members and sympathizers should prepare themselves, with the fortified solidarity of their ranks, for the upcoming decisive developments.

The triumphant convening of the 6th congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran signifies the successful movement of our Party alongside the popular movement of the nation in order to reject the despotic theocratic regime of Iran and laying the ground for fundamental, sustainable and democratic developments in our country.

Secretariat of the C.C. of Tudeh Party of Iran
23-February-2013 ■



*Message of the 6th Congress:
To the Communist and
Workers' Parties of the World*

Dear Comrades,

The 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran was convened in February 2013 and, despite the difficulties arising from the Party's clandestine situation and the dangerous security environment in which it operates, delegates from party organisations were able to attend, participate and contribute to its success. The 6th Congress discussed and ratified important political documents including the 'Report of the Work of the Central Committee in the Period between the 5th and 6th Congresses', and the new 'Program of the Tudeh Party of Iran'. The new program reflects the prevailing political conditions in Iran, the current socio-economic situation in the country, the balance of forces within Iranian society and the demands of the working class, urban and rural working people and other popular and patriotic strata of the society. The new program has been developed and formulated on the basis of allegiance to Marxism-Leninism and a creative understanding and interpretation of it. It sets out the path of the victorious and historical struggle of our party for peace, democracy, sovereignty, freedom, social justice and socialist orientation in our country.

Dear Comrades,

The 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran coincided with the 30th anniversary of the repressive and treacherous attack on our party by the theocratic regime in Iran (Feb 5th of 1983). In this attack, the great majority of members of the Central Committee of our party and hundreds of its veteran cadres were either executed or killed under torture. In the same brutal attack, thousands of party members and supporters were arrested and incarcerated. Restoration of party organizations and the revitalizing of its disciplined operation in the wake of this deadly offensive were only possible with the self-sacrificing efforts and selfless endeavours of surviving Tudeh members. At this time, the moral support of the fraternal parties was certainly a significant factor in helping

our party to rise again. Hence, the 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran recognized once again and resolutely underlined the importance of the tireless and continuing solidarity of you, the fraternal communist and workers' parties, with the struggle of working people of Iran for peace and democracy, and in particular your support for the resumption of the our party's struggle for the rights of working people, for progress and for socialism.

Receipt of messages of greeting and solidarity from 52 communist and workers' parties from all five continents on the occasion of our 6th Congress was a magnificent demonstration of the unparalleled international solidarity that our party has been proud to enjoy during its 71-year life and particularly in the three most recent decades. Delegates at the congress repeatedly acknowledged your resolute messages of solidarity with the life-and-death struggle of Iranian communists with applause and tears. The generous and gracious support and solidarity of the communist and workers' parties of the world with the struggle of our party during the past three decades, including through tens of joint statements bearing your endorsement, as partners in our struggle for peace and socialism, has had a distinctive manifestation. Your support and solidarity has always given and continues to give hope to Tudeh militants, supporters, members and cadres in their gruelling struggle for fundamental national-democratic developments, on the path towards the achievement of long-term and strategic changes in favour of the working people of our homeland.

In its more than seven decades of endeavour and struggle, the Tudeh Party of Iran has always strongly believed in the integrity of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and has kept the bloodied red flag raised at all times defending the interests of workers and working people and engaged in the ceaseless struggle for fundamental developments in Iran. In the annals of this harsh struggle that is being waged in the complex circumstances of our country, golden pages of the world and Iranian communist and workers' movement are being turned and inscribed with the name of the Tudeh Party of Iran.

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of all the members and supporters of the Tudeh Party of Iran, the 6th Congress of the Party

would like to express its appreciation and gratitude for the solidarity and support of the communist and workers' parties and of revolutionary individuals and organizations across the world. The Congress further reiterates that today our party, in the course of its complex struggle for decisive developments and in keeping the banner of peace, sovereignty, democratic rights and freedoms, and social justice raised, as well as relying on the eternal strength and vitality of the people of Iran, needs your continued support and backing.

The Tudeh Party of Iran values greatly your coordinated and effective international solidarity with the struggle of the working people of Iran against the cunning, interventionist and warmongering ploys of global imperialism towards Iran, including your condemnation of the debilitating economic sanctions whose victims are the most vulnerable and oppressed strata of the society. Your solidarity with the movement of the people of Iran for freedom and justice and against the repressive, anti-people, anti-worker and deeply reactionary policies of the ruling theocratic regime of Iran, which has severely repressed any form of popular, broad and strong organization, has significant importance for this movement and for Iranian militant political forces.

The bloodied history of the peoples shows that when the voice of protest and the power of international solidarity are combined with popular struggle and revolutionary forces of any nation, the gates of prisons are forced open, the flag of peace is raised higher, the militant march of working people is stronger, the blade of the executioner is blunted, and the thrust of those who fight for freedom, sovereignty and social justice is sharper.

Victory to the struggle for peace, socialism, and progress!

Long live the international solidarity of communist and workers' parties!

All power to the defence of the movement of the Iranian people by the freedom-loving and progressive forces of the world!

**The 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran
February 2013 ■**

Greeting and Solidarity Messages to the 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran

Tudeh Party of Iran was proud to receive 53 messages from the fraternal communist and workers' parties across the five continents on the occasion of its 6th congress. The following parties sent their fraternal greetings and solidarity messages to our congress and its delegates:

Ayenda Movement of Afghanistan, PADS (Algeria), CP Australia, CP Austria, Progressive Democratic Tribune in Bahrain (Al Menbar), CP Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party of Belgium, PC do Brazil, CP Britain, CP Canada, PC Catalonia, CP Chile, Socialist Workers' Party of Croatia, AKEL (Cyprus), CP Czech Republic, CP in Denmark, CP Egypt, CP Finland, CP France, CP Germany, CP Greece, PPP Guyana, CWP Hungary, CP India, CPI (M), CP Iraq, CP Kurdistan- Iraq, CP Ireland, CP Israel, CP Italy – Refoundation, Party of Italian Communists, CP Jordan, Kuwaiti Progressive Movement, CP Lebanon, CP Malta, CP Mexico, New Communist Party of Netherland, CP Pakistan, PP Palestine, CP Philippine (1930), CP Portugal, CP Russian Federation, CP South Africa, CP Spain, CP Sudan, CP Sweden, CP Syria (Unified), Attajdid Tunisia, CP Turkey, CPUSA, NCP Yugoslavia.

Below are excerpts from a few of the messages:

As a party that has always led the struggle against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and fought for social justice, democracy and socialism – we feel a special affinity and admiration for your own glorious struggle for national liberation, democracy, secularism and socialism, as well as against imperialism and foreign intervention in Iran. **(Communist Party of Israel)**

[T]he KKE rejects categorically every imperialist intervention in Iran, which regardless of whatever pretexts, will seek to promote the plan for the “Greater Middle East” at the expense of the peoples of the region. We defend the right of the people of Iran to determine the fortune of their own country. **Communist Party of Greece (KKE)**

The Tudeh party, which historically has undertaken the struggle in Iran for socialism, peace and progress and progressive transformation, fully understands the challenges of the region and national context of Iran. **(South African Communist Party)**

[O]ur party pays tribute to the unwavering determination of the Tudeh Party to uphold the banner of democracy in Iran as the key prerequisite for the advance to a society based on social justice and equality. **(Communist Party of Britain)**

It is to the credit of the party that in spite of the brutal killing of many leaders, thousands of its members and declared illegal, the Party still continues to work among the people of Iran. It is this unbending, courageous attitude, of the TPI that inspires the world communists. **(Communist Party of India (Marxist))**

The Communist Party of the Russian Federation expresses its solidarity with the Tudeh Party in its struggle for social justice and progress, for the interests of the working people, for socialism. **(Communist Party of the Russian Federation)**

Iraqi Communists... remember with pride the special relationship between our two parties that has grown stronger over the past decades, as both of them faced the repression and terror of successive anti-communist and reactionary regimes. **(Iraqi Communist Party)**

[A]n attack on Iran would not only be a disaster for the Iranian people, but would also bring with it the danger of a generalized war of a much bigger scale than the one in Iraq, which would be catastrophic for the whole Middle East area and beyond. The CPUSA pledges to keep struggling to prevent such an attack on Iran from happening, and to end sanctions which only hurt ordinary working people in Iran. **(Communist Party of the USA)**

The Tudeh Party represents the most progressive and forward thinking forces in the country. It is carrying out its struggles in very difficult and repressive conditions. **(People's Progressive Party of Guyana (PPP))**

We wish every success to the 6th Congress of the Tudeh Party of Iran, and hope that your Anti-Dictatorship Front would soon gain strength and triumph over the oligarchic forces of exploitation, despotism, religious obscurantism and backwardness in your country. **(Philippine Communist Party (PKP- 1930))**

CPP is confident that this 6th congress of Tudeh Party will study, in depth, the national and international situation and will evolve the most suitable strategy for the people of Iran, the entire region specifically and the world at large. **(Communist Party of Pakistan)**

The inner situation in your country- Iran- now is also very critical, and the role of your party is becoming more central in the struggle against the theocratic system and for democracy, progress and social justice. **(Palestinian People's Party)**