Tudeh News

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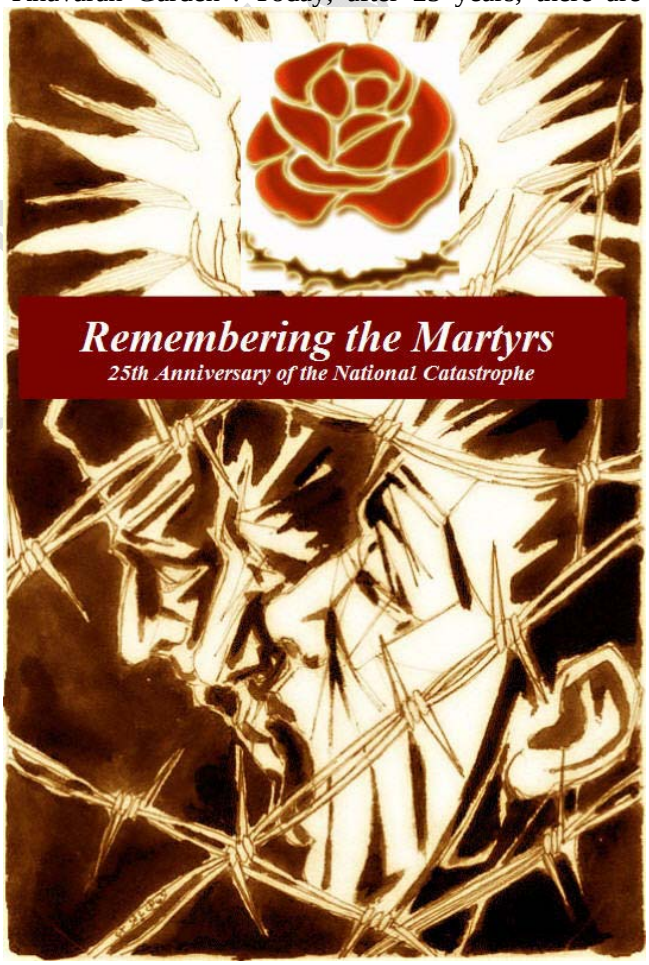
Excerpts from Statement of the C. C. of Tudeh Party of Iran

On the 25th Anniversary of the "National Catastrophe", the Massacre of Political Prisoners in Iran

Summer of 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the merciless massacre of thousands of political prisoners and true fighters for freedom and prosperity of the nation by the criminal theocratic regime of Iran. Massacre of thousands of political prisoners, on the direct orders of Khomeini, which was rightfully named the "National Catastrophe" by our party, has been one of the most shocking political crimes in the contemporary history of Iran, and is a clear indication of the nature and the practice of the authoritarian ruling regime in our country. In recent year, despite all the efforts of the regime leaders to hide the reasons and perpetrators of this horrible crime, heaps of official and semi-official documents have been released that reveal bits and pieces of this crime against humanity. Nonetheless, 25 years after committing this outrageous crime, not only the regime leaders have not responded to the demands of the very many grieving families, but also we now see that today one of the main culprits of this political massacre has been shamelessly appointed as the Minister of Justice in the "Moderation" and "People-Oriented" government of Mr. Rowhani.

All the existing documents and evidences and also a range of remarks in memoirs of some of the Iranian leaders and authorities indicate that 25 years ago, upon the doomed defeat of the disastrous policy of "War, War till Victory" which was imposed on the nation by the regime leaders against the opposition of majority of the people and national and freedom-loving forces of Iran, and upon "poison drinking" of Khomeini in order to avoid the upheaval of the protest movement of the people, the regime slayers decided to kill thousands of freedom fighters and a great many of prominent leaders and cadres of our party and other political organizations that had a significant role in the victory of the 1979 revolution, and as a result, spread an atmosphere of intimidation and suppression and to silence and subdue the people of Iran... Those who boast about establishing "the world's exemplary system"... trampled even the sentences issued by their own courts of "justice" and executed, in large groups, thousands of political prisoners who had been tried and sentenced to long jail times. Then, out of fearful of the rage of people, they mass buried the bodies in trenches, where it is now called the "Khavaran Garden". Today, after 25 years, there are



still unknowns about the horrible conditions in the jails in those bloodied days... in which the prisoners were forced to recant or get executed. The massacre of political prisoners was organized and executed in a few weeks in the locked up prisons and under a complete media silence and without advising the families of the status of their loved ones, and with the knowledge of the high ranking regime leaders like Khomeini, Rafsanjani, Khamenei and others... 25 years after that

atrocious crime, the families of the victims of the National Catastrophe have still not been able to bury their loved one as they desire and the way they are deserved...
Our party lost hundreds of its leaders, outstanding cadres, members and supporters, among whom were a number of prominent figures who had spent more than 25 years in deposed regime of Shah, renowned scholars, intellectuals, writers, translators, artists, military officers, trade unionists and representatives of working people who sacrificed their lives on their pledges with people. Our party and other national, democratic and freedom-seeking forces deem their revolutionary and humanitarian duty to tirelessly continue their efforts to reveal this horrific ploy in the recent history of Iran until all the perpetrators of this heinous crime are known and put on trial...
Continuing persecution of dissidents and barbaric tortures in the dungeons of the regime, chain killings, continuing secret executions, committing crimes against the students in attacks to universities in 1999, and later, continuing the same trend in bloodied suppression of the protest movement of the masses against the election coup of 2009, bogus courts for a number of the leaders of the reform movement and victims of torture, are the consequences of destructive and irresponsible silence against such crimes.

Efforts to break the silence about the National Catastrophe have to be heightened. The continued fight for opening the cases of this crime, and efforts to shed light on various dimensions of it, addressing the demands of the families of victims of this heinous crime, undoubtedly have a significant and deciding impact on the struggle which is currently being waged in our country for freedom, democracy and social justice. It is the moral, humanitarian and historic duty of all progressive and freedom-seeking forces to boost their efforts for these causes.

- We salute the glorious memory of the brave struggles of the fallen heroes of the nation!
- We salute the families of all the martyrs of the National Catastrophe of killing political prisoners!
- Shame on the perpetrators of massacre of the true fighters for freedom and prosperity of nation!

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran
August 23rd, 2013

Excerpts from the

Intervention by Tudeh Party of Iran

At the Meeting of the Communist and Workers Parties of the Middle East Region

19 June 2013, Athens, Greece

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With thanks to Communist Party of Greece (KKE) for facilitating this meeting and for its defending the rightful struggle of the people of the region.

Middle East is currently going through a very critical and dangerous chapter of its history and recent developments could have important consequences for the Syrian and Palestinian peoples. Turkey, Iran and Iraq also will not remain unaffected.

This important event is taking place on the 10th anniversary of the US and British criminal war and occupation of Iraq. It is also a time of unprecedented tension in the region signified by the escalating military conflict in Syria, open threats of military attack on Iran, instability in Pakistan and Iraq, and growing popular protest in Turkey. In April the new US Defence Minister, Chuck Hagel who was visiting Israel announced that "The bottom line is that Iran is a threat, a real threat." This extremely dangerous and provocative statement came only two days after the Pentagon admitted it was finalising arm sales contracts totalling $10 billion to strengthen the military capability of Israel and two of Iran's key adversaries – Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It is also very important to note that the threat of a so called “limited military strike” against Iran by US or its puppet, the right wing government in Israel, still persists and recently the US Senate has announced its support for Israel if it decides to carry out a military attack on Iran alone.

During the last three years, following the peoples’ movements in the Arab countries which toppled the American backed regimes of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Ben Ali in Tunisia, we have witnessed ongoing Imperialist intervention in the Middle East in different forms ranging from the use of brute and direct military force in Libya and Bahrain, to a covert proxy war (up to this moment) in Syria. The results of these hegemonistic policies are always the same: death and destruction for the peoples of these countries and

further setbacks in their struggles for transmission into a National Ddemocratic stage.

The fact is that the policies pursued by the US and its EU allies have ensured that instability is dominating the region. Libya, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq are all gripped by various degrees of political crisis, all as a result of imperialist direct interventions and interference. The situation in Syria is directly influenced by what is taking place in its neighbouring countries and also by the shameful and reactionary policies pursued by Turkey. And in Iran, the people are being strangled by various ruthless economic sanctions and military threat for "regime change" under the pretext of Iran's nuclear danger. The US is determined not to allow any force in the region to be able to challenge its hegemonistic rule or the aggressive policies of its strategic ally, i.e. the state of Israel.

The consequences of a US planned and desired "regime change" in Syria would be serious destabilising element in the entire Middle East. We are concerned that the developments in Syria could directly or indirectly result in military conflict between the US and its NATO and their regional allies which will involve Iran's theocratic regime. As you are aware, Iran has a strategic cooperation agreement with Syria going back to 2006, covering energy, economic and military matters. This would offer the ideal justification to the US and its allies to launch a military attack on Iran, if the latter would not fall in line to accept the emerging "New Middle East Plan". Although this military adventure on the part of the US and Israel may not take the form of a full scale war, it will no doubt be aimed at strategic facilities and infrastructure targets that could cause serious damage in Iran and further destabilise the region. This is what the US and its allies want: an unstable Middle East which in turn justifies imperialism's direct political – military and economic involvement for years to come, followed by the militarisation of the region that would perpetuate the current underdeveloped socio-economic conditions in the region. The Middle East's oil and gas reserves, vast and untapped markets and its strategic geo-political position make the region one that imperialism considers as vital for its plans to exercise its hegemony.

Tudeh Party of Iran alongside all progressive forces in Iran is totally against any military adventure in the region which no doubt will have catastrophic consequences for all people struggling for genuine democracy, progress and social justice.

In the past 34 years we have had first-hand experience in dealing with various forms of Imperialist interventions. From the victory of the great Iranian revolution in 1979, to the present day we have had almost constant interference in the affairs of our country. The Iraq – Iran war which was instigated by the Imperialism through Saddam Hussein in 1980 lasted for 8 years, left over a million dead and injured and massive devastation of infrastructure and displacement of millions of people in both countries. The right of Iran to develop nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes has been exploited by the US and its allies as a means for creating tensions in relation to Iran endangering the security of this country. This in turn strengthens the hands of ruling dictatorship in Iran to divert attention away from the internal contradictions. Today Iranian people face devastating intrusive US economic sanctions which have brought nothing but poverty, unemployment and misery to the millions of ordinary people, including harshly affecting the health and well being of the majority of the population. Therefore our people have first-hand experience of what imperialist intervention means. The devastating inhuman effects of these sanctions have inevitably impacted the ways that the people would desperately seek to reduce the misery inflected on them – the results of the recent presidential election on June 14th is a good example. The regime was able to manipulate the peoples' deep concerns about the damaging imperialist sanctions in these elections and on the June 14th the struggle for democracy in Iran effectively became the victim of these interfering sanctions which were skilfully exploitation by ruling theocracy.

We believe that the heightened tensions and standoff between US imperialism and its allies with the Iranian regime in recent years has very little to do with Iran's nuclear policy and the West's concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in our region. The real issue behind the current standoff has more to do with the long term strategic plans of US imperialism to control the Persian Gulf and its vast energy resources. The military occupation of Iraq, toppling of Libyan regime, attempts for "regime change" in Syria, and the vast US military presence in the Persian Gulf region is a clear indication of the long term plans of the US. Furthermore the US backed policies of the Israeli right-wing government against the Palestine cause remains a core reason for tension and military conflict in our region.

The peace activists in Iran, along with all the progressive forces in the region, have been calling and struggling for a nuclear weapon free Middle East. However, to achieve this, it is not for Iran to give up its peaceful nuclear programme, but it is paramount that the key allies of US, namely Israel and Pakistan, fully disarm their atomic weapons of mass destruction.

The Iranian progressive forces, including TPI, have made it clear that the peaceful use of nuclear energy by Iran, or indeed any other country is their legitimate right and does not require the permission or approval of the US or European governments.

Clearly, the way to get out of the current crisis which could seriously impact world peace and result in other conflicts, is not by the threat of military strikes but through meaningful and genuine dialogue, International negotiations and trust building exercises.

We are strongly against any sort of aggression and war against Iran. As mentioned earlier, the Iranian people still bear the deep scars of the 8 years of the Iraq – Iran war and are deeply concerned about a military conflict.

It is also important to understand the complex situation in Iran and the struggle of the progressive forces and peace loving activists against the theocratic dictatorship which deliberately seeks to create tension and isolates our country. This policy over the last 3 decades has been used by the ruling regime for internal consumption to divert attentions from massive internal issues under the pretext of the foreign threat. Over the last 4 years since the rigged elections in 2009 to forcefully reinstall Ahmadinejad as the president, we have witnessed an intensification of the suppression of human and democratic rights. This has manifested itself in the security clamp downs of Independent trade unions activists, women's rights activists and the presence of security forces inside Iran's universities. In addition there has been the widespread closing down of independent newspapers, media outlet and internet sites. Under Ahmadinejad rule with the backing of the Supreme Leader (Ali Khameneie) IMF model for the so-called economic adjustment was vigorously implemented and Iranian people suffered major devastation as a result of the right wing economic shock therapy. Iran has remained an import-led economy with a single export commodity, i.e. it is crude oil**.** Therefore it is highly dependent on the dollar's exchange rate. The economy is dominated by highly corrupt non-productive merchant capitalism in an unholy alliance with the high-ranking bureaucratic bourgeoisie within the powerbase of the regime. The powerful political factions that represent these oligarchic economic powers while they all pay homage to the "leader", Ali Khamenie but compete with each other for greater political influence to secure their economic interests. They all are the beneficiaries of a highly unjust political economy that is protected by bruit force of the dictatorship. The progressive forces are severally crushed and independent trade unions are strictly forbidden. Elections are highly undemocratic. The recent presidential election on June 14th was carefully engineered in order to ensure the perpetual continuation of the theocratic dictatorship. The influential and powerful factions within the regime do compete and sometimes confront each other heads on but the internal dynamics of the ruling regime has reached a sufficiently mature stage that it ensures in the final analysis all factions work towards the unity for survival of the ruling theocratic dictatorship.

The presidential election of 14th June was held at a time that Iran was facing unprecedented multi-faceted crisis. Economic bankruptcy as a result of the macro-economic policies pursued by the regime, as well as unprecedented corruption in the state apparatus, devaluation of the national currency, manufacturing downturn and bankruptcy of manufacturing plants, unemployment of millions of workers, were key features of this crisis. Economic sanctions have brought the economy to its knees. The regime had made it crystal clear that it was not prepared and willing to let a dissident or real pro-reform candidate participate in the elections. Any candidate who could pose any challenge to the key policies of the regime was barred from standing prior to the election. The candidates allowed appearing on the ballot papers were all tested and reliable servants of the interest of theocratic regime.

The regime's supreme religious leader had in advance of the election clearly indicated that no pro-reform or progressive candidate or indeed anyone who pose a challenge to him and the theocratic regime could contest the election. Rowhani, the secretary of the Supreme Council of National Security for 16 years and Khamenei's sole personal representative on this powerful body since 1988 won the "engineered" election with 51% of the vote. Rowhani's election in fact indicates the people's desire for a radical change of the current situation, and as well, for exiting the deadlock that has encompassed the society politically as well as socio-economically. This is also the result of 8 years of disastrous policies of Ahmadinejad government and the macro policies imposed by the regime. Back breaking economic pressures and particularly the sanctions imposed by the Western countries and their dire impacts, and other economic policies such as the removal of subsidies from basic goods and energy carriers, have all created such a horrible and unfortunate situation in Iran that people reach for any window of opportunity in order to liberate themselves from this dire situation.

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It goes without saying that our nation is in need of significant political, economic and social changes.

It is also important to note that despite the Anti-American rhetoric voiced by the theocratic regime in Iran all the major socio –economic policies of the regime, including their latest attack on workers' rights, are nothing but right wing reactionary policies prescribed by the World Bank and the IMF.

Having stated these facts we strongly believe that the struggle of the Iranian people against theocratic dictatorship is a matter only for the Iranian people to pursue and advance. The pro peace forces in Iran therefore strongly condemn any outside interference in our country's internal affairs under any pretext.

We believe that it is only through mobilisation and the pressure of world public opinion against the disastrous ambitions of Imperialism and its allies that we can stop another military adventure in the region. In this vital and critical struggle, the progressive forces have a major responsibility, to mobilise the widest spectrum of social forces in opposition to war, militarism and imperialism's interventionist and aggressive policies. We are only as effective as our ability to bring people to the streets to fight for peace, bread and jobs.

- Long Live the struggle of the Iranian people for peace, democracy and social justice
- Forward to the struggle for peace and progress in the Middle East and across the world
- Long live international solidarity

Recent Presidential Election in Iran

*Excerpts from interview with comrade **Mohamad Omidvar**, spokesperson of Tudeh Party of Iran, by Akhbar-Rooz, Iranian online political/News outlet*

Shortly after the results of the June Presidential election in Iran was announced, Akhbar-Rooz interviewed, among others, cde Omidvar about the assessment of Tudeh Party of Iran on the election.

About the result of the election, cde Omidvar said: "…The disastrous policies of the Ahmadinejad administration and the macroeconomic orientation of the Islamic Republic, which is directly dictated to governments by the Supreme Leader and his economic advisors, besides the intervening and inhumane sanctions of imperialist states, overall created such a harsh circumstance for tens of millions of Iranians that our society was heading towards a serious social revolt. Implementing policies that protect the interests of grand mercantile bourgeoisie and bureaucratic bourgeoisie, strong dominance of commanders of the Guards Corps and other security and police forces over the critical economic arteries of the country against the interests of an overwhelming majority of the working people of Iran, has had dreadful impacts on the society. 3-million unemployed and jobless, tens of millions living under the line of poverty, uncontrolled inflation, devaluation of the national currency "Rial" against foreign currency that has had straight impact on the price hiking and reduction of purchasing power of people, bankruptcy of manufacturing sector, unprecedented widening of the gap between the rich and the poor, and isolation of Iran in the international scene, include some of the indications of the serious crisis that Iran was faced with in the weeks leading to the June presidential election. Based on this analysis, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of the people of Iran wanted a change in the existing policies and the governance practices in Iran… The fact to consider is that the nature of the Supreme Leadership regime has not changed. If this regime was willing and capable of conceding to the will and election of people, would have not perpetrated the violent and bloodied coup against the 2009 Presidential election… Under the circumstances that the regime did not allow any of the figures or leaders of the reform movement, and not even Hashemi Rafsanjani, participate in the election, we see the 18-million-strong vote of people to Mr. Rowhani not as a vote to him, but a vote for fundamental economic, political, and social changes. The engineered election of June 2013 can become a real victory of the people only when the vast social force that came to the scene during the election and voted for change, stays in the scene, organizes itself, and fortifies its social pressure for change."

In response to the question "why Hassan Rowhani was qualified" by the Council of Guardians, comrade Omidvar said: "…Qualification of Mr. Rowhani by the Council of Guardians should not be surprising for anyone. Mr. Rowhani has been directly appointed representative of Khamenei [Supreme Leader] for many years [in the National Security Council] and it was obvious that he would be in the approved list."

Comrade Omidvar was asked if Mr. Rowhani was the symbol of change in the policy of the regime. He said: "…Clearly it is expected that in some areas, such as and particularly in foreign policy of the regime, steps would be taken towards normalizing the relations with the West to alleviate pressures and lift the economic sanctions… Obviously we will support any policy whose goal would be detente in the extremely critical situation in the region and lifting of economic sanctions whose burden is first and foremost on the shoulder of the working people. With Mr. Rowhani's administration in office, and without the organized pressure of social forces from below, one could not have high hopes for fundamental and essential changes at current circumstances… Even during the reform

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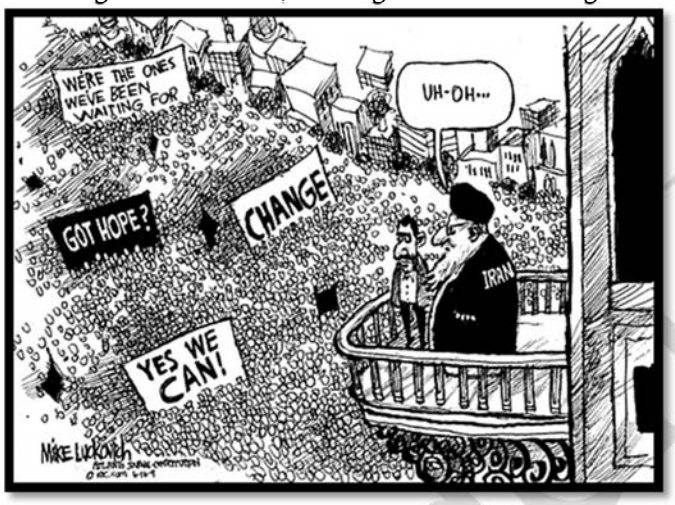
government [of Mr. Khatami] in office and the reformist-dominated parliament, unfortunately no serious and fundamental steps were taken towards changes in the orientation of macro policies of the state and moving toward social justice, and this was one of the issues that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, with his demagogic slogans for justice and bringing the oil money to people's table, took advantage of during the 2005 Presidential election."

On the matter of social democratic rights cde Omidvar said: "The demand for immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscious and political prisoners, ending the house arrest of Mr. Mousavi, Mr. Karrubi and Mrs. Rahnavard [detained during disputed 2009 Presidential election], recognizing the right to assemble and organize for labour unions and other social and trade organizations, ending the suppression atmosphere and discrimination against women and ethnic and religious minorities, moving towards relieving back-



breaking economic pressures from the shoulders of workers and working people have been and are undoubtedly among the core demands of the popular movement. Any thought about realization of these demands within the framework of Mr. Rowhani's administration and continued existence of the Supreme Leadership regime, without a broad and organized and politically structured struggle, would be an unrealistic thought."

When asked about how the elected President could be pressured by the people, comrade Omidvar explained: "We have always believed and continue to believe that the people are the main driving force in advancing the society forward. The experiences of the contemporary history of our country… and the social struggles in the recent two decades prove that whenever the people came to the scene organized and with specific demands and struggle slogans, they have been able to impose their demands on the ruling reactionaries… The reality is that there is still a long way ahead of achieving such social movement and readiness based on which fundamental developments could be made. The dialectic of social movement teaches us that with realism, patience and avoiding volunteeristic perceptions, efforts must be made, using a concrete and minimum [common denominator] political-struggle program, in order to gather the broadest change-seeking forces and to challenge the present regime, which has ample military, economic and political resources."

Regarding the release of the leaders of the Green Movement, cde Omidvar pointed out that "…In response to a question about ending the house arrest of Mr. Mousave, Mr. Karrubi and Mrs. Zahra Rahnavard, Mr. Rowhani suggested that decision about this issue was beyond the means of Executive branch of power, and mentioned that this matter could only be realized through collaboration of the 3 branches of power and naturally the final approval of the Supreme Leader."

Comrade Omidvar concluded the interview by saying that "both those who did not vote in the election (e.g. close to 50% of Tehran's population) and those 18 millions who voted for Mr. Rowhani, undoubtedly plea for the end of the current disastrous situation and demand fundamental changes… The way out of the current disaster is the joint and organized struggle of all those who desire to move towards social justice and realization of democratic rights and freedoms. Any and every effort has to be made to make this happen."■

The Urgent Tasks and Objectives of the Labour/Union Movement at the Current Stage

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 924, 1st July 2013)

With the conclusion of the 11th presidential elections and clear demand of the nation for a change in the disastrous policies of the Supreme Leadership regime in the recent years, certain changes have been made in the political arena of the country and we are witnessing new equations in this arena. As such, the popular movement is facing with new tasks and priorities of which the most important ones are purposeful and mindful move toward reconstructing the social mass and reviving the social movements based on specific and realistic demands in line with current phase of developments.

The labour movement in our country, as an influential and pervasive movement has a serious responsibility and role here. In fact, considering the political developments, the power equations, and the current unstable and complex relations in the regime, the scattered protest movement of the workers and working people should be organized through careful and conscious actions. By raising the immediate and urgent and demands of the working class and other working

people, the ranks of the labour and union movement could also be strengthened.

The working people of the nation are already expressing some of their most significant and urgent demands in various forms and shape, and are demanding clear responses from the new government. Abolishing the temporary and blank-signed contracts, reinstating the union rights, the right to establish labour unions and independent labour organizations, freedom of the imprisoned workers and other prisoners, and increasing wages in proportion to the real rate of inflation are among the urgent demands of the working class and other working people. Furthermore, subsequent to the implementation of the liberation of economy under the guise of "targeted subsidies" in recent years, the working people have lost their job security and purchasing power and strongly oppose this anti-people policy. Therefore, opposing the amendments to the Labour Law and revising the Social Security Law within the "targeted subsidies" plan, has always been one of the central struggles of the protest movement of workers. Thus, the direct involvement of the existing labour union movement and independent labour unions in preparing and drafting any changes and revisions in the Labour Law and Social Security Law, and obstructing the amendments to the Labour Law in favour of the grand capital, is one of the most urgent demands of the working people. It was not for no reason that right after announcing the outcome of the presidential election and victory of Hassan Rowhani, the reactions of the working people and union activists to the promises during the election campaign started. ILNA (Iranian Labour News Agency) reported on June 16th: "Reminding that the direct words of Mr. Rowhani about the low level of the wages of workers were effective in his election as President, an independent labour activists said that workers expect the new government to seriously respond to their legitimate demands... On one hand, private and state employers circumvent the key articles of the Labour and Social Security laws to their own benefit, and on the other hand, the monitoring and executive bodies are trying to shake off their legal responsibilities and duties by reforming the laws... No government can resolve the issues like inflation, unemployment and low wages without recognizing the right of freedom to assembly for workers." In another report on June 12th, ILNA quoted the president of the Union of Contract Workers and wrote: "Many promises have been made to workers, such as Edalat (Justice) Share and Credit Card, but none were kept. Therefore, the presidential candidates should know that all of their promises and pledges will be noted down and remembered, and if they promise and don't keep their promises, they will be responsible and accountable to the nation and country. Also, the media has reported that the Union of Contract Workers has asked the administration of Hassan Rowhani to address the issue of temporary contracts and their promotion which has destroyed the job security of millions of workers, and take workers' demands in consideration." Also on June 17th ILNA reported: "Stable employment, manufacturing growth, productivity in industry and agriculture, and preventing layoffs and labour force adjustment are among the most important labour demands that the head of the 11th government has to seriously address."

All of these illustrate the deep dissatisfaction of the working class and other working people with the current state of affairs and the implementation and enforcement of anti-people economic policies. The central point in examining the above-mentioned stances and, in general, the protest movement of the workers, is the emphasis on the union rights and the right to form independent unions and organizations. Without unions, the voice of worker's protests will not be loud enough, and workers will not be able to have their demands realized and protect their interests. Although

"Labour Organizations Must be Formed."

Hassan Rowhani had clearly stated during his election campaign that "in accordance with the Labour Law, workers' wages have to be increased in proportion to inflation" (ILNA June 9th), but without the organized fight of workers, these election promises and pledges could not be relied on, and the reality could not be ignored. What has been publicized from the statements and positions of the inner circle and advisors of Rowhani, show this fact that the economic policy of the new administration in its main lines is continuation of the main form and mode of the economic adjustment plan of Rafsanjani government which will now be developed and executed under the new circumstances, considering the sanctions and their impacts. Therefore, the priority for the workers and working people of our nation is to insist and stress on restoring the union rights and the right to revive and form labour unions, i.e. those rights with which the working people could protect their interests. Also, it is within this framework that working people would be able to actively and in an organized manner participate in various social arenas,

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and based on the close ties between their interests and the general interests of the freedom-seeking and democratic movement, help strengthen the social body in various ways. The interests of the nation's workers and working people are not and could not be detached from the general interests of the public movement.

Other important matters that activists of union movement should carefully watch are: autonomy of unions and independent organizations, and preserving the class character and orientation of them. Knowing the scale, dimensions and depth of discontent of working people, the reactionaries, and in general the theocratic regime of Iran, have tried and will try to divert the protest movement of workers, or curb it, through devious tactics.

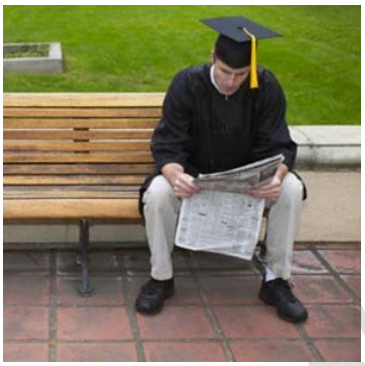
The new government under Hassan Rowhani is being assembled now. By strengthening its ranks, and by careful and wise use of cracks and gaps [in the system] and the available resources, the labour/union movement should organize the current scattered protests and as an independent and influential social force, participate in the social and political encounters in the county and defend the rights and interests of the broad spectrum of working people. Utilizing the utmost responsibility and struggle to achieve the urgent and immediate demands of working people, within a realistic and proper analysis of the political arena and the power balance, is the duty and goal of the labour movement of the working people of our nation at the current stage■

NEWS BRIEFS

Soaring Rate of Unemployment: Uncertainty of the Future of Nation's Youths

One of the disastrous consequences of the social-economic policies of the Supreme Leadership regime is the soaring rate of unemployment, particularly among the youth.

Recently, just before the new administration headed by Hassan Rowhani was assembled, the figures about the growing rate of unemployment were reported. In mid-July, Mehr news agency reported: "Based on published statistics by the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI), between the years 2006 through 2012, on average 783,000 people entered in the job market every year. In other words, during this period 5.5 million new people joined the pool of job-seekers, while the number of unemployed increased by about 300,000 in seven years." On the other hand, according to the statistics released by official institutions of Islamic Republic such as SCI, the number of unemployed is between 3 to 4 millions. The economic experts, though, estimate the number to be much higher. In an analysis of the unemployment situation, it has been clearly stated that between 2011 and 2013, 25% of Iranian families had no one working in the family. This clearly shows the depth of the crisis and the increasing rate of unemployment. On June 27, in a report titled "The table of 3 million job requests from Rowhani – The number of unemployed increased" Mehr news agency wrote: "One of the most important challenges of the job market in recent years has been the unemployment of 3 million young Iranian job seekers, who are mostly university graduates. Because of the growing calls of society and families to solve the employment issue among the youth, this issue has become one of the main pledges and core tasks of the governments in recent decade... Imposing gruelling conditions for collecting statistics from employed and unemployed, as well as using standards that are not compatible with the nature and situation of job market in Iran, have led many experts in the field of employment to call the unemployment statistics "unrealistic". They estimate the number of unemployed to be twice as much, i.e. about 6 million.



In unemployment statistics, the most concerning aspect is the rate of unemployment among the youth. Based on the official statistics, this rate is 22% for ages between 15 an 22, which is about twice as much as the average national rate.

Thus, unemployment is considered one of the main social challenges and one of the most serious social issues. Resolving the unemployment problem depends on boosting production, growth of industry and guaranteeing the rights of broad layers of wage earners. It should not be forgotten that one of the main reasons of soaring rate of unemployment has been the implementation of such economic policies as privatization of industries, deregulation, elimination of subsidies, and the so called "savings". The question is: with what policies will the new government tackle the unemployment issue? Would resumption of such policies as economic adjustment and "targeted subsidies" really solve the issue? Based on the experience of the last two decades of our country and experiences of other countries that pursued similar economic policies, one can definitely answer NO to such questions.

The youth of our country demand a solution for the unemployment problem and decent living conditions. Resumption of disastrous policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the future of our nation's youth will remain uncertain.

Massive Imports and Devastation of Agricultural

Millions of farmers and their families are living in a dire and bleak situation due to the economic policies of the Supreme Leadership regime. In recent months, the massive imports of agricultural products have caused severe destitution of a broad spectrum of farmers in the country. On July 6, 2013, in a piece titled "Rice farmers worried about market saturation by imported rice" ILNA [Iranian Labour News Agency] reported: "If the stock level of imported rice in consumers market is not lowered, rice farmers and farm workers will suffer serious damages... Due to lack of sufficient cash flow, most of the rice farmers have to borrow money to cover the cost of planting and harvesting. They have to sell their products as soon as possible to pay back their debts. Since harvesting the rice coincides with saturation of consumer market with imported rice, middlemen and wholesalers use various excuses to buy the products of these farmers at a very cheap price."It has to be mentioned that this year, because of the month of Ramadan, month of fasting, the government has imported thousands of tons of imported rice. This action has caused widespread bankruptcy among rice farmers, particularly in provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran and Fars.

On the other hand, the media reported about flooding the market with imported tea-leaf. Tea farmers are also in dire conditions. It was reported recently that 30 tea farmers in Gilan province have filed for bankruptcy due to lack of money and saturation of the tea market by imports.

Import of agricultural products is not limited only to rice and tea. Many agricultural products, from cotton and corn to various kinds of fruit are being imported into the domestic market in huge volumes. This has brought poverty and hardship for farmers. According to ILNA, July 5th, only in the first 3 months of this [Iranian] year, import of wheat has increased by 60%. ILNA wrote: "General Manager of the office of Grains, Beans and Livestock Feed at the Ministry of Agriculture announced a 60% increase in wheat import compare to last year... This increase is beyond the 600 thousand tons of wheat that was imported by the manufacturing and mining sectors… Government can avoid importing wheat to a great extent by purchasing from the domestic wheat farmers, but because of the low prices offered by government, farmers are forced to deal with middlemen, cattle ranchers and chicken farmers."

Anti-people economic policies such as widespread and unregulated import of products have had direct catastrophic impacts on the livelihood of millions of farmers of the country. With policies like these, the complete devastation of domestic agricultural sector and collapse of farmers' lives is expected.

Bill of Reform, or Regression in Education!

As we get closer to the start of school year, once again the performance of the Ministry of Education and the state of education system of the country have become a hot topic. This matter has become ever acuter as the 11th government of the Islamic Republic starts its mandate.

On July 5, 2013 ILNA reported: "Minister of Education emphasising that education has not been managed in a diplomatic manner said that... Bill of Reform was the most important action and unprecedented in the 180 years of history of education in Iran... Our approach to education was theocratic, national and Islamic in order to solidify the Islamic Republic..." Meanwhile and in a calculated action, Ahmadinejad, in the last days of his government, supported the privatization of schools and education system and sent to parliament the bill about the timetable for establishing not-for-profit schools. The goal of establishing private schools is to implement the dictates of the World Bank, which in the framework of reducing government's rule and deregulation, demands privatization of education system in all countries. At the same time, in an interview on June 21, 2013, Education Minister stated that by Mid-August reorganization of educational workers will be completed and with this in place, in addition to classification of teachers, "the largest surgery will be carried out on education system". This propaganda campaign is being waged at a time when the majority of teaches, and educational workers in general, are dissatisfied with current policies of the Minister and the performance of the Ministry. They oppose privatization policy and widespread presence of clergies and religious scholars in [civic] educational institutes. On July 3rd, 2013 Bahar newspaper published an article by a veteran teacher titled "Education, from words to deeds" in which the author has criticized the Islamic Republic education system and wrote: "In the last 4 years, if one had only listened to what Mr. Haji Babayee, Minister of Education or his deputies or

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appointees have said, and was not closely involved in day to day activities at schools, one would have undoubtedly presumed that fundamental changes or even a revolution or great revolutions had occurred, or at least was happening in the education system... What has been said by the Minister and others, and what has been happening at schools, are completely different. A number of teachers and experts in the field, who wrote articles in the media, have attempted as much as they could to explain and expose the differences between the words and deeds in our education system in these years." The article then points out other articles and discusses about the reasons of low quality of education, decline in the scientific and educational levels of schools, diminishing job security of teachers, and similar subjects.

The fact of the matter is that education system in Islamic Republic is miles apart from the education system of modern and advanced world of today. During the last eight years, through fortifying the presence of religious institutes in schools, the quality of education programs has regressed and has led to the problem of poor literacy. In its principals, the Bill of Reform of education is nothing but imposing regression on country's education system, and as a result, further decline in scientific and education level. The education system of Islamic Republic is benighted, outdated and the main reason for decline of the education quality and falling of our country behind the educational and scientific achievements of the today's world■

Joint Statement of the Regional Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties

We, the Communist and Worker's parties from **Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Turkey**, which participated in the Regional Meeting, organized at the initiative of the KKE in Athens on the 20th of June 2013, discussed the dangerous situation which is being formed in our region, focussing our attention on:

- The imperialist aggressiveness and the intense competition over the control of the energy reserves, the transport routes, the market shares.
- The development of the joint activity of the communist and workers' parties, the working class and the popular strata against the imperialist interventions and threats in order to deal with the danger of a new imperialist war.

The imperialists are seeking, each one for its own interests, to acquire the dominant role in the region, using every means, using threats, interventions and wars against the people's in the region.

The USA, the EU, NATO and Israel are playing a particularly negative role in the developments, as well as the bourgeois classes of Turkey and of the monarchies of the Gulf States.

These developments the imperialist wars in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Libya have caused thousands of dead and injured people, a great deal of destruction against the people and in the future the may provoke even greater bloodshed and material destruction, creating much suffering for the peoples. They are accompanied by the operation to repress the working class and popular struggles in Turkey, Greece, Iran, Egypt and other countries.

We, the communist and workers' parties condemn decisively the imperialist intervention of the USA, the EU and their partners in the region at the expense of Syria and its sovereign rights.

We are against any kind of foreign imperialist intervention at the expense of Iran including the harsh economic sanctions which are imposed on the people of Iran. We support the struggle of the Iranian people for labour, popular and democratic rights and we demand the legalisation of the activity of Tudeh Party of Iran. We express our solidarity with the struggle of the Jordanian people.

We, the communist and workers' parties address ourselves to the working class, the peoples of our region and stress that the promotion of their interests requires the development of an organized, coordinated struggle for the working class-people's rights, the joint struggle against the monopolies and the exploitative capitalist system.

We call on them to defend the right of the Syrian and Iranian peoples and all the other peoples to choose their own path of social and political development, the path that corresponds to their interests, to develop a multi-faceted activity so as to prevent the imperialist war against the peoples of Syria and Iran.

They must condemn the outlawing or restriction of the activity of the communist and workers' parties, as well as the restriction of trade union, democratic rights and freedoms.

They must reject the pretexts which the imperialists are using in order to justify their interventions and wars; they must strengthen their struggle against the bourgeois class in each country, the struggle to eradicate the causes which give rise to the imperialist wars, to abolish all nuclear weapons, so that the peoples can live in peace.

They must impede through their struggle the utilization of their countries (territories, airspace, national waters) for the unleashing of imperialist strikes.

The interests of the peoples are in opposition to the anti-people political line of the bourgeois governments which serve the interests of the plutocracy. The peoples

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are not responsible for the choices of the governments of the various states.

We, the communist and workers' parties express our solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people with all forms of struggle and demand the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all the occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, the complete dissolution of the settlements which were constructed outside the borders of 1967, the creation of a Palestinian state with the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

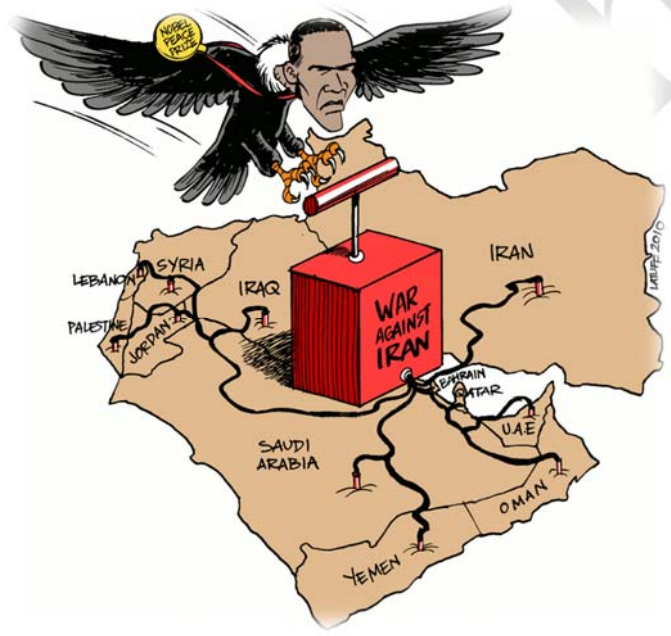
We express our opposition to the so called "exchange of territories" at the expense of the Palestinian people.

We demand the solution of the refugee issue. The return of the Palestinian refugees based on resolution 194 of the UN General Assembly and also according to the other resolutions of the UN Security Council.

We demand the lifting of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners and political prisoners of other nationalities from Israel.

We express our solidarity with the struggle of the Greek people against the assault of capital in order to place the burden of the capitalist crisis onto the shoulders of the working class, the popular strata.

We express our solidarity with the Cypriot people who are being sorely tested by the capitalist crisis and the anti-people memorandum and we support their struggle for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem which will lead to the end of the occupation and the reunification of



Cyprus in the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with a single nationality and a single international identity, without foreign bases and protectors. We are opposed to the plans regarding the integration of Cyprus into NATO's "Partnership for Peace" and into NATO.

We express our solidarity with the working class and popular forces of Turkey, who are struggling for their rights, and are coming face to face with the violence and repression of the bourgeois state and the Turkish government, in the conditions of the sharpening class struggle. We, the Communist and Workers' Parties, support the efforts of the CP of Turkey to organize the workers' struggle, to change the correlation of forces and to develop the class struggle in the direction of the socialist perspective.

Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism, AKEL, Communist Party of Greece, Tudeh Party of Iran, Communist Party of Israel, Jordanian Communist Party, Palestinian Communist Party, Palestinian People's Party, Syrian Communist Party, Communist Party of Turkey.

Statement of the Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran:

WE CONDEMN THE THREAT OF A NEW WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Tudeh Party of Iran has been following with deep concerns the political developments of recent days in the Middle East, and particularly the developments related to the bloody domestic conflicts in Syria. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons on August 21st that killed many civilians in the suburbs of Damascus, irrespective of which side of the conflict launched those attacks.

At the same time, Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the provocative, irresponsible and belligerent statements of imperialist powers about preparations of a military aggression against Syria. Such statements practically will engage the Middle East in a new devastating war whose first victims will be the Syrian people and the future of democracy and social justice in that country. The crisis in Syria does not have a military solution.

Tudeh Party of Iran condemns any kind of foreign intervention and arming the two sides of the conflict, and supports peaceful solutions based on negotiations and genuine democracy.

The Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran
August 25th, 2013

Excerpts from Statement of C.C. of Tudeh Party of Iran:

60 YEARS AFTER THE INFAMOUS COUP AGAINST POPULAR MOVEMENT IN IRAN

August 19th 2013 marks the 60th anniversary of the coup d'état of intelligent services of Britain and USA against the liberation movement of the people of Iran and the government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq. This coup laid the ground for brutal and bloody suppression of an new-born and growing democracy in Iran, after which an anti-people

and subordinate and dependent regime ruled the country for 25 years.

Heaps of articles, books and documents have been published about the Oil Nationalization Movement in Iran, the August 1953 coup and the 25-year rule of Shah dictatorship. During all these years, the coup regime tried hard to justify its betrayal of the national interests by distorting the historical facts, and spreading the seeds of distrust and division. After 60 years and publication of heaps of official and unofficial documents and evidences about the organization of the 1953 coup and transpiring the fact that one of the main objectives of the coup was to suppress the progressive and national forces and crushing Tudeh Party of Iran, there are still political currents who still deny the historic realities and aim the attacks against our party, and therefore, simply aid the imperialism and reaction plans to continue divisions between the national and progressive forces of our country...

60 years after the 1953 coup, this year on the anniversary of this historic occasion the CIA acknowledged its role in planning and executing this coup that led to ousting Mohammad Mossadeq, the then Prime Minister of Iran, and bloodied suppression of the liberation movement of Iran, and posted the documents related to this intervention on the US National Archive website. It is stated in these documents that the military coup that overthrew and its National Front administration was led by CIA as part of the foreign policy of the USA. CIA's code name of this operation to depose Mossadeq was T.P. Ajax whose success depended on the local lackeys over all the implementation phases. The CIA coup had a few core elements, namely negative propaganda to weaken the political stance of Mossadeq, extorting the members of parliament, organizing security forces and instigating public demonstrations. The initial attempt on August 16th was defeated, but after much effort, the coup forces pulled themselves together and made another attempt on the 19th... Other documents reveal that CIA agents worked directly with monarchist military officers, chose Mossadeq's replacement, staged bombings by Iranians who portrayed themselves as members of the communist Tudeh [Party of Iran], etc. According to New York Times of April 16th 2000, Allen W. Dulles, the director of central intelligence, approved $1 million on April 4 to be used "in any way that would bring about the fall of Mosaddeq"... "The aim was to bring to power a government which would reach an equitable oil settlement, enabling Iran to become economically sound and financially solvent, and which would vigorously prosecute the dangerously strong Communist Party [Tudeh Party of Iran]."

...What becomes clear after reviewing heaps of documents is the fact that colonial states staged and executed the August 19th coup in order to crush the national movement in Iran and subdue the party of the workers and working people of Iran, i.e. Tudeh Party of Iran. Lack of unison between the progressive and national forces, historical faltering of national bourgeoisie and its fear from uniting with left forces, inappropriate optimism and trust of Dr. Mossadeq with regards to the US state, and also aligning of parts of religious leaders such as Ayatollah Kashani with the coup perpetrators, laid the ground for the defeat of the movement and the disastrous imposition of 25 years of police state and dependent regime of Shah of Iran... Although 60 years have passed since that coup, but the lessons of that historic event are still valuable for the progressive forces and freedom-fighters...

The coup of August 19th 1953 is a clear and shocking example of anti-people and neo-colonial policies of the global imperialism, and particularly the US imperialism in the Middle East. It clearly showed this fact that any kind of interference of global imperialism in the internal affairs of the countries, under any pretext, will only lead to trampling of the national sovereignty, devastation of economy and culture and empowerment of dependent and authoritarian regimes. Contrary to all the deafening propaganda of the global capitalism media, ploys of imperialism against the liberation movements in the region and in the world not only have not ended, but also are going on in other forms. Consecutive plots of imperialism against the 1979 revolution of Iran, which eventually overthrew the regime that came to power after the CIA-waged coup, imposing several devastating wars on the Middle East region, the destructive policy of occupying Afghanistan and Iraq, anti-human bloodshed against the rights of the Palestinian people, imposing devastating sanctions against our nation, and also various plots for shattering the liberation movements in Arab world which, for instance, has led to human tragedies in Libya and Syria, all prove this fact that the nature and function of global imperialism has not changed at all.

The bloody suppression of the popular movement in Iran by the imperialist coup of August 1953 also illustrated that the blight of division among [social and political] forces and lack of unity among those who struggle for freedom and the interests of the nation, is the most important underlying factor in the success of the domestic reaction and enemies of freedom and sovereignty of our nation. Under the current fragile and critical circumstances, this historic experience should seize, more than ever, the attention of progressive forces and those who fight for freedom and interests of the nation.

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

August 19th, 2013

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