

Tudeh News

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Fight to Roll Back the Death Sentences!

(Source: <http://www.tudehpartyiran.org/detail.asp?id=1011>)

Following the recent moves by the ruling reaction and their show trials, the Islamic Revolution prosecutor announced that the sentence to execute Mohammad Amin Valian, a member of the central council of Islamic Association of Damghan University, has been ratified.

The prosecution has considered this twenty year old member of Mir Hossein Mousavi campaign team in the provincial city of Damghan to be waging war against God based on Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi's views and sentenced him to death. Mohammad Amin Valian was arrested on Ashura [a holy mourning day in Shiite Islam] protest rallies and the judiciary officials relying on just one picture and unfounded claims by Makarem Shirazi have found him guilty and condemned him to death.

The death sentence for this student activist, close to the events leading to the [National Celebrations of] the last Wednesday of the Iranian calendar, is a calculated move by the reaction and the coup government to sow fear in the youth and ward off the protest actions on this day of national tradition.

In addition to the inhumane death sentence for Mohammad Amin Valian, a number of other compatriots of ours are also facing death penalty only because of their political views. One of those with a serious possibility of carrying out a death sentence is Shirin Alam Houei.

Furthermore, tens of other Kurdish political and social activists in various prisons in the country are in danger of execution.

Meanwhile, coercion, threat, and arrest of political, civil, and trade union activists continues in full force. The continued incarceration of a

number of Mourning Mothers and their supporters, heavy sentences for the student activists, incarceration of film director Jafar Panahi on unwarranted pretexts, physical threats against some of the incarcerated activists like Mansour Osaloo, Ahmad Zeid Abadi, the arrests in the last 48 hours, and the summons of two members of Tehran "Vahed" Bus Workers Syndicate are among the tactics used by the putschists to contain and suppress the popular movement. The reactionaries should not be allowed to reach their ominous goals through inhumane death sentences and increased pressures on the political prisoners.

Let us fight together to put an end to the death penalty and end the atmosphere of terror and blackmail. The call to immediate release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and an end to suppression are of top priority for the popular movement in current critical moment!

Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the death sentences for the incarcerated activists and political prisoners irrespective of their viewpoints and fights against the death penalty!

March 3, 2010



Day of Solidarity and Struggle of Transport Workers

2nd March 2010 was declared as the day of solidarity and struggle of the transport workers by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). In this course, as an organizational component of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the International Transport Workers' Federation issued a call to invite all transport workers' associations, organizations and unions to: "show solidarity and struggle in a unified approach, by considering diverse difficulties and needs of each country, company and work environment."

In this declaration it is stressed: “The International Transport Workers’ Federation, a member organization of the World Federation of Trade Unions, deeply believes that by considering specific and diverse difficulties and obstacles in each country, protesting and confronting the policies that the workers and masses of people are facing, the unions have a duty to unite the workers and organize a world-wide struggle.....”

In connection with this and in the transport workers’ day of solidarity and struggle, by sending a letter to the Islamic Republic government’s official authorities and also international public media, the World Federation of Trade Unions’ Secretariat (WFTU) has demanded the release of Mansoor Osanloo, President of the Trade Unions of Public Transport Bus Company of Iran.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Athens, March 3, 2010

To the Government of the Islamic Republic of IRAN

Cc: International Press

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions (W.F.T.U.) we demand the immediate release of the trade unionists Mansour Osaloo, President of the Trade Unions of Public Transport Bus Company of Iran.

The WFTU is stable in favor of the free trade union activity and the free action of all the trade union organizations. The arrest of a trade unionist is an obstacle to his right to freedom and it is a threat for his life and personal safety.

We demand the immediate release.

The Secretariat

The Women’s Movement, the Ruling Reaction, and the Gender Discrimination

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 837, 1st March 2010)

In line with its other actions to impose medieval and obsolete views on the society, and parallel to introducing and passing articles 35 and 23 of the so called “Family Protection Bill” in the parliament, the coup government of Iran has laid down in its agenda the plan for gender segregation in universities and promoting marriage and re-marriage of girls in schools. Following the reaction of the Supreme Leader’s representative in universities to the presence of boys and girls beside each other in classrooms without observing Islamic norms, and demanding gender separation in higher education institutes, the anti-national government of Ahmadinejad announced that it is drafting a plan for “gender-specific national university”. According to this plan, and through enormous spending, gender specific – men and women - universities will be formed and exams will be held separately for men and women. Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) reflected the opposition of the majority of social organizations, and women’s movement in particular, with this reactionary plan and reported in December that “a trend and school of thought is emerging that does not believe in and recognize the awareness and intelligence of thousands of boy and girl students, and proposes the gender segregation plan. Those who set such views forward are somehow trying to get revenge from the students and universities for being vibrant.” This report stresses that “the thought of gender-specific national university defies the human dignity and decency.”

Women’s activists firmly believe that gender segregation in universities will certainly be defeated. The purpose of this plan is to put pressure on students and to hinder the active presence of the youth, and particularly female university students, in the social scene. Anyways, such plans will face strong resistance in the society. Any kind of gender separation and the so called gender specific universities will lead to cultural and scientific degradation of the nation. At the same time that gender segregation in universities was announced and instigated a widespread opposition to it, the Ministry of Education of the coup government

announced that it was drafting a program to make provisions for marriage of female schoolgirls. Emphasizing on the need to “set right the culture of society”, Zakaria Yazerloo, the head of Tehran’s Board of Education, stated that “if conditions are ready for schoolgirls, they should get married. We recommend the marriage of schoolgirls.”

Gender separation and segregation, and any kind of discrimination against women, have been and will be challenged with resistance and militant reaction of women across the nation.

Last December ILNA reported the Minister of Education response to the question of ILNA’s reporter regarding the program being developed for the schoolgirls to get married: “there is no problem with the schoolgirls getting married and we will be glad and welcome their marriage.” Shortly after these words that met with a strong reaction by students and their parents, the superintendent of Family and Women Affair Center of President’s Office published a part of government’s plan to promote marriage and provisional marriage (concubine) in schools and high schools. ILNA reported last December that “the acting superintendent of Family and Women Affair Center of President’s Office is in favor of marriage of schoolgirls and deems it as the solution to prevent the spread of immorality in the society...This authority is of the opinion that the provisional marriage of schoolgirls is acceptable, if the girls’ father gives permission, and must be encouraged.”

This anti-human and reactionary plan has been rejected and regarded unacceptable by families and popular organizations. The Scientific Society of Medical Group viewed such plans as deeply taking the society backward. One of the members of this society told ILNA that “on the basis of which logic they are talking about provisional (temporary) marriage of high school girls? Are they trying to upset the society and its norms? Would those authorities who talk about such issues in the country be willing to have their own child get provisionally married and put her in misery with their own hands?”

Also, the head of Scientific Society of Iranian Social Workers stressed that “there is a close connection between the economical and earning matters on one hand, and marriage and

provisional (temporary) marriage on the other hand, particularly among the low income families. Considering that the living of society is facing hardship, some are following their own interests by promoting provisional marriages.”

By introducing and promoting outdated thoughts, the ruling reaction tries to bolster and strengthen its own position and the position of well-off and rich layers of society who are its backbone. The women’s movement and all the national and progressive parties and organizations of the country have decisively fought and will continue to fight the strongly reactionary views and policies of the coup government and its main supporter, i.e. the Supreme Leader. The Iranian society, and particularly its well-informed, vibrant, young generation, will never submit to such dark and outdated views. Gender separation and segregation, and any kind of discrimination against women, have been and will be challenged with resistance and militant reaction of women across the nation. Undoubtedly, the reaction will once again meet the power and might of women’s movement to discard class and gender discrimination.

Joint Statement

In Solidarity with the struggle of Iranian working people

We have followed with concern the important developments in Iran over the recent months. We express our solidarity with the communists, the members and friends of Tudeh Party of Iran, the working people who struggle for the people’s social and democratic rights, for democracy and social progress.

We condemn the repressive policies and measures that under the responsibility of the Iranian government and the security authorities have led to the death of at least 8 people and the arrest of more than 1000 of the activists of the popular movement. There are reports that a number of those arrested during the recent protest demonstrations are to be executed. Amongst those detained are well known activists of the women’s, students and workers movement.

We demand a halt to execution of political prisoners, the immediate release of the arrested people and generally the political prisoners who struggle for the people’s interests.

At the same time, we explicitly reject every attempt to take advantage of this situation for the escalation of the imperialist intervention in the region. In any case it is only the Iranian people who have the right to determine the future course of their country themselves.

The development of the anti-imperialist struggle in the region with the labour movement at its forefront constitutes a prerequisite for the repulse of the imperialist plans and every attempt of the bourgeois forces to manipulate the people so as to bring about positive changes in favour of the people.

26 January 2010

1. Algeria – PADS
2. Communist Party of Uruguay
3. Jordanian Communist Party
4. Union of Communists of Ukraine
5. Communist Party of Germany
6. Communist Party of Peoples of Spain
7. Communist Party of Australia
8. Communist Party of Estonia
9. Communist Party of Israel
10. South African Communist Party
11. Communist Party of Britain
12. Communist Party USA
13. Tudeh Party of Iran
14. Communist Party of Ireland
15. Democratic Progressive Tribune of Bahrain
16. Communist Party of Bangladesh
17. Workers' Party of Bangladesh
18. Workers' Party of Belgium
19. Party of the Bulgarian Communists
20. Communist Party of Bolivia
21. Workers' Communist Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina
22. Communist Party of Pakistan
23. Portuguese Communist Party
24. UPG, 'Galizian People's Union' (Portugal)
25. Communist Party of Turkey
26. Communist Party of Russian Federation
27. Communist Party in Denmark
28. Communist Party of Canada
29. Colombian Communist Party
30. Socialist Worker's Party of Croatia
31. Unified Communist Party of Georgia
32. Sudanese Communist Party
33. Communist Party of Sweden (SKP)
34. Communist Party of Finland
35. The Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL), Cyprus

36. Communist Party of Iraq
37. Lebanese Communist Party
38. Communist Party of Luxembourg
39. Communist Party of Poland
40. Communist Party of Malta
41. Hungarian Communist Workers' Party
42. Party of the Communists, Mexico
43. Popular Socialist Party of Mexico
44. Pole of Communist Rebirth in France
45. People's Party of Palestine
46. Communist Party of the Philippines (PKP-1930)
47. New Communist Party of Netherlands
48. Communist Party of India
49. Communist Party of India (Marxist)
50. Communist Party of Greece
51. National Liberation Front of Bahrain
52. Socialist Party of Lithuania
53. Communist Party of Brazil

Statement of the C.C. of the Tudeh Party of Iran:

The Brutal Assault and Rampant Violence by the Despotic Regime and the Tasks ahead of the Movement

Reflections on the Statement No. 17 of Mir Hossein Mousavi

Militant Compatriots!

Events of the recent days have undoubtedly displayed new dimensions of the viciousness and violence of the ruling despotic regime. The violent and bloody assault by the despotism and obscurity thugs on the people over the Tasoua and Ashura days of protest, who oppose the illegitimate continuation of the government risen out of the widespread election fraud and intervention of the Revolutionary Guards, Basij militia and police, left tens of dead and wounded and hundreds of arrests. This was followed by arrests of hundreds of political activists and the assault of paramilitary thugs on the campuses of the universities which once again showed the desperation of the despotic regime and its defeat in suppressing the mass popular movement which has seriously challenged the theocratic regime in the recent months.

The deep and unprecedented divide amongst the vast array of religious forces who took power after the triumph of the 1979 revolution has been so

severe that the despotic mercenaries cannot tolerate even the critical grand ayatollahs and after several days of raiding their offices are now after discrediting their religious credentials. The ever increasing military nature and the scope of the brutality unleashed by the Supreme Leader and his thugs have exposed the movement with serious challenges. The heads of the coup regime are undoubtedly pursuing to intensify the violence and decimate the popular movement at any cost; hence the regime's plots should be countered with vigilance and alertness.

What is certain is that seven months after the election coup and instigation of duress and brutal crackdown of the justice-seeking masses, the coup government under the leadership of the Supreme Leader has not been able to alter the balance of forces in its favor, and weaken and halt the protest movement. The deepening of the democratic and liberation movement of the people and the increasing hope and self-confidence amongst the protesters has caused great challenges for the reaction to maintain the status quo.

In such a critical and momentous situation, it is of most paramount necessity to take such stands that could aid in ever isolating the headquarter of the coup and the Supreme Leader himself and at the same time deepen the rift amongst the supporters of the coup, and as much as possible abate, repel, or defeat the deceitful maneuvers of various factions of the ruling reaction. Evaluating the very delicate and complex situation at hand and considering the level of organization within the popular protest movement and the existing weaknesses in tying the protest movement of the youth and students with the labor and women's movement, our party believes that the unrealistic slogans far from present objective and subjective conditions should be avoided, and the continuation of the popular movement should be maintained through patience and with emphasis on the key demands of the movement. Objective, realistic, and all comprehensive grasp of the prospect of society and movement is of utmost importance. If the socio-historical background and the virtue of the events and the role and position of social classes and strata and the interactions of different phenomena are not well understood, then the focus and attention to the immediate and urgent tasks at hand, and therefore determining the main tasks, would be erroneous

and the movement will digress due to subjective and voluntaristic conclusions. Thus, it is of paramount importance to pay close attention to the present stage of the movement, its peculiarities and features, and to devise appropriate policies according to the realities of the moment in order to smoothen the path of the struggle for people's rights.

In his communiqué number 17, while emphasizing on the need to acknowledge the existence of the crisis, Mir Hossein Mousavi has declared: "I openly declare that until the serious crisis in the country is recognized, there won't be any way out of the current troubles and problems. Not acknowledging the existence of the crisis in the country is a justification for the continuation of the current suppressive approach..." And he adds: "...We want a government and system which is truthful, forgiving, and compassionate stemmed from the popular votes which looks at the differences not as a threat but as an opportunity. We deem the invasion into the people's private lives, inquisitions, searches, and closing of newspapers and restricting the media against our progressive and liberating religion and in contrast to the constitution emanated from this religion..."

Mir Hossein Mousavi's communiqué sees the solution in transparent and trustworthy election laws which put at their core the provisions for participation of the entire nation irrespective of differences in views and beliefs, as well as in releasing the political prisoners and restoration of their good name and dignity, freedom of press and media, and recognizing peoples' rights to assemble and formation of political parties and associations. Obviously, these are parts of the key demands of our people. Our party finds the main tenets of this communiqué to be in defense of the interests of the popular movement under the present circumstances in the country that highlights the ideals of the movement to achieve freedom and democratic rights. It is clear that the Tudeh Party of Iran and other progressive and democratic forces of the country have always their own distinct views on the popular governance in the country and consider the continuation of the theocratic regime as a main obstacle to fundamental changes towards freedom and popular rule. We did emphasize during the "reform" government [of Khatami] as well that with the continuation of the Supreme Leader regime, it would not be possible to be optimistic about serious changes in favor of the masses.

Reforms and fundamental changes under this system are not but delusion. Therefore, the point is not that our party or other progressive and freedom-loving forces are “optimistic” about changes within the framework of the anti-people theocratic regime of Supreme Leader. But the point is to take such vigilant and effective positions that will open up the path to progress towards the ultimate elimination of the main institutions and elements of despotism, superstition, and backwardness in the society for freedom, democracy and social justice.

Conscious and Militant Compatriots!

The main tasks ahead of the movement are to secure the conditions for the continuation of the struggle, strengthening the movement ranks through closer ties between the movement of working people and the youth and women’s movement, and to make the best use of each and every possibility, opening, and situation to exert more pressure on the ruling despotic regime.

The demand for immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners and halting the severe crack down of the popular movement is the first stage in this difficult and long-term struggle. In this arduous path full of ups and downs, the key to victory is being loyal to the peoples' rights and their demands, independence and national interests, and conscious progress towards strengthening the ranks of the movement on basis of unity and common struggle of all national, progressive, revolutionary, and patriotic parties and forces in the country.

*Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran
January 3rd, 2010*



Solidarity with the Struggle of Iranian Women

WIDF expresses its solidarity to the women and the whole people of Iran for its heroic struggle for freedom, democracy and social justice against the dictatorial theocratic regime of the country that aims to repress the Popular Movement into bloodshed. WIDF unites its voice with the people of Iran. We strongly express our support to the fighters of the women’s movement, to their demonstrations and to those who have been arrested and imprisoned. According to last

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information, the imprisoned women are even becoming subjects of indescribable violence from the regime while the lives of the leaders of the women’s movement are in danger.

The developments, which followed the disputed elections of the 12th of June 2009, were boisterous. Today the huge majority of the Iranian people are struggling in the streets, facing the violent reaction of the suppression forces. The gap that has been created between the bourgeoisie and the regime during the last years can offer a chance to the Iranian people to shake off the stifling oppression and to open a new path for its country that will secure the national independence, democracy, political and syndical freedoms and the rise of the working people’s standard of living. At the same time, the fighting people of Iran are determined to repulse any attempt of intervention from the imperialistic centers.

The women of Iran particularly have more reasons to demonstrate in the streets. They are still deprived basically human rights under the pretext that they oppose in the Islamic law. Even conquests that had been achieved in the past years have been canceled and the ideals of the revolution in 79 have been denied very fast. The women in Iran have not the right to divorce their husbands, to have the guardianship of their children, or to travel without the permission of their husband. They are not allowed to become judges in courts either.

The death punishment in Iran is even applied for minors as it is also the medieval practice of stoning up to death. Iran is one of the three Islamic countries (with Sudan and Somalia) that denies signing the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against Women and insists to keep the woman's population as citizens of second category. The publication of books or the publications on the internet of feminine subjects is prohibited. The reaction to all mobilizations of the women’s movement was punished through brutal violence and torture.

WIDF condemns the actions of the Iranian government and we call the government to stop immediately any executions, to release without any terms all the arrested demonstrators and to remove all restrictions of briefing.

WIDF calls the women of the world to condemn the violent reaction and the authoritarianism of the Iranian authorities.

26 January 2010