

# Tudeh News

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

## **On the occasion of the May Day, the day of the militant solidarity of the working people of the world!**

### **The Noble Working People of Iran!**

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran greets you and all the progressive forces across the world on the occasion of the May Day, the day of the militant solidarity of the workers and working people of the world, the day of commemoration of the auspicious and historical traditions of more than a century of struggle of the world labor movement against the capitalist exploitation, war, tyranny, and gender inequality, and for equal rights and liberation of labor from the yoke of capital.

The year that passed, was a year of continuing deep crisis of the world capitalism and the increase in hardships on the working people across the world. Three years after the onset of the deepening crisis in financial, monetary, and economic system of the capitalist world, and despite all the claims by the theoreticians of this anti-human system about the outset of the process to overcome the crisis, all the indications show that the current crisis is not a short-term crisis due to the inefficiency of the capitalist mechanisms or failing to make proper use of them, but it is an exact indication of the breakdown of the most fundamental pillars of the capitalist system such as "free market", the ability of the capitalism to regulate itself, and at the same time the failure of the neo-liberal policies which have been implemented in the developed capitalist countries over the recent years. The continuation of a severe crisis in the developed countries such as the United States and in Europe, which has resulted in deep cuts in the social services such as healthcare, education, and social security, and had led to the direct intervention by the European Union to "save" Greece from total bankruptcy, are all strong indications of the continuation of the crisis that has engulfed the whole capitalist system

and has galvanized the growing movement of the working class and people against this system.

### **Militant Working People!**

Commemorating the May Day in our country is a reminder of more than a century of heroic efforts and struggles of the working class and toilers for liberation from absolute lack of rights and the rule of despotic and anti-labor regimes. It is about one hundred years since the very first labour trade unions were established in our country. The current struggle of workers and their independent trade unions are rooted in a history that spans over the Constitutional Revolution and establishment of the first trade unions, and the magnificent struggle of labour unions in the years before and after 1921, the difficult struggles during the suffocating years of despotic rule of Reza Khan, up to the years of growing and blossoming of the movement after the fall of Reza Khan, to the end of the oil nationalization movement and the years of the police state of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and the early years of the revolution. The secret of the incessant continuation of the trade union movement, in addition to its objective and subjective factors, lies in its reliance on such backgrounds as this prolific history and tradition of struggle. In all these stages and up until today, and despite all the hurdles and difficulties, the working class and its trade union movement has moved in a principled path, has fought in the framework of the interests of the national and democratic general movement of people, and has stayed as a faithful and steadfast member of the international trade union movement of the working people. Today too, the efforts, activities, and the struggle of the Iranian trade union movement is not separate from the struggles of the workers of the world.

This year, the working class and toilers of our country are welcoming the May Day at a time when the leaders of the despotic theocratic regime and the coup government did even permit the "Workers' House" to hold their yearly international Labour Day event. The regime, fearing the repetition of the

million-strong presence of the masses against the continuation of the despotic absolute Supreme Leader rule is adamant in preventing any mass gathering. Continuing the incarceration and harsh security measures against the labor activists, violent suppression of any attempt to organize independent labor organizations to materialize and safeguard the trade rights of workers and toilers, are all indications of the deep concerns within the leaders of the despotic rule about the power of the labor movement of our nation and the role it can play in the future developments.

It is the working class of Iran that is hurt the most by the policies and plans of the coup government, including the Economical Development Plan, the Executive Order for Article 44 [of Constitution, to advance privatizations], privatization and acceding manufacturing and service companies to military-security organs and above all to the Guards Corps [Sepah], and particularly the cutting of the subsidies that even the Secretary General of the Islamic Republic Workers' House was quoted to say on the eve of the International Labour Day that "...With the implementation of the subsidy cuts, the crisis in the production will be aggravated".

Furthermore, working people are objectively in favor of the strengthening of the production and manufacturing power and the development and growth of the national and manufacturing industries, and seriously oppose the parasitic and non-productive segments of the economy which the coup government advocates. A large part of the current problems that the working people are facing stems from the policies that promote non-productive and profitable activities and has weakened and devastated manufacturing and productive activities. Unrestrained imports and the growth of the brokerage economy are directly related to and have impact on the status and conditions of the working class and the trade union movement. Workers are well aware of the effects of the Ahmadinejad government's policies that have promoted non-productive economy. The outcomes of these policies are mass layoffs, slow down of factories, unpaid wages, temporary contracts, elimination of job security, and ever increasing number of the unemployed in our country. At the current stage of the struggle, the working people are in direct confrontation with those social layers and classes that defend the status quo and the non-productive economy. The political representative of these parasitic layers of capitalist class of Iran is the

Ahmadinejad administration and its supporters, especially the Supreme Leader; and the sharp edge of the struggle of the working people is pointed towards them! Contrary to all the claims of the Supreme Leader and its installed government, the record of the coup government in the last five years is a dark and anti-labor one which has resulted in deepening and spreading the gap between the rich and the poor, and has driven millions of Iranians, a large portion of which is comprised of the families of the working people of our nation, under the line of poverty.

The historical experiences of the struggles of the working people point to this fact that there is a strong and organic link between the fight for trade related interests and the general mass struggle of people against the despotic and anti-people regimes. The example of the February 1979 revolution and the strong and decisive participation of the workers in the revolution that eventually led to the fall of the despotic monarchy and the victory of the revolution, also resulted in improvements in the workers conditions, setting up of workers organizations, improvements in social security, and an increase in the wages of the workers in the very first years following the revolution. The present Labor Law- which Ahmadinejad government and reactionary rulers are decided to change- with all its shortcomings and weaknesses is the result of the outstanding struggle of the working class and progressive forces, particularly the Tudeh Party of Iran, in the years after the revolution.

In the coming year, the working people will be facing numerous difficulties as before in realizing their trade and political interests. However, what distinguishes the current year and must be the main and urgent task of the vanguard workers and trade unionist is the qualitative promotion of the role of the working class and toilers in the general popular struggle against despotism, combining the trade and political struggle, and confronting the primary factor for the destitution of the working people at the current moment in time, i.e. the government emanated from the coup. Hence, the strengthening of the bonds between the labour-trade union movement and the national anti-despotic movement is that grand historical task and responsibility that at this juncture of time falls on the shoulders of the labor movement and the militants fighting for rights and interests of the working class. One of the weaknesses that the general popular movement has suffered from in the struggles against the election

coup by the theocratic regime in the last year was the indistinct role played by the labor movement and working people in the demonstrations and the struggles against the election results. The regime and its propaganda lackeys have tried hard to portray the mass popular movement as belonging to the well-off strata and irrelevant with the demands of the workers and toilers, and prevent the forming of a strong bond between the social forces acting against the despotic regime. That was why our party on those critical days of the daily demonstrations against the brutal suppressions by the intelligence forces of the regime, in a communiqué addressing the working class and the toilers, stressed the necessity of strengthening of the bonds between the general movement and the working people, and reminded that: "Militant working people! Vigilantly and vigorously keep an eye on the vast arena of the struggle for freedom against the theocratic tyranny for your possible actions and maneuvers. The promised hour, in case the suppressive and tyrannical regime of Supreme Leader continues with its bloody crackdown, is approaching. Be prepared for tomorrow, when the necessity of using the decisive and triumphant weapon of your capable class will lead to issue its historic order. The regime should know that when thirty years ago you had the capability of halting down one of the largest war and military suppression machines in the world, today, after all these years, you are much more capable, experienced, and conscious. The regime must know that in this unequal struggle between the masses and the theocratic despotism, your capable class will not leave the masses alone and will play its winning card." ("Nameh Mardom", No. 819, June 22, 2009)

### **Militant Workers and Toilers!**

This year, following the recent accord between the parliament and the government, the Ahmadinejad government, with the full backing of the Supreme Leader, is after speedy implementation of the subsidy cuts law, and in parallel, privatizations through the executive order about Article 44 [of the Constitution]. These policies translate into poverty, unemployment, and trampling of the job security of millions of workers and wage earners in the country. It is only through a united and vigilant struggle in conjunction with the mass protest movement- which embarked upon a glorious chapter in the national liberation struggle in our country last year- that it is possible to prevent the

ruling reaction from reaching its objectives. Bringing down the coup government and rejecting the theocratic despotism are on the priority of the labor movement and all means possible should be employed to achieve this goal.

***Towards the Qualitative Promotion of the Role of the Working Class in the General Struggle of the People against the Despotic Theocratic Regime!***

The Tudeh Party of Iran, in all its sixty eight years history of struggle, has always considered the struggle for the realization of the causes of the working class and the working people the most important of its duties, and today, too, it is faithful to this glorious history in which outstanding figures of the working class movement have nurtured, such as Ali Omid, Shenasai, and Hossein Pour Tabrizi, to name a few, and continues on this sacred struggle alongside the working people of the nation. On the eve of the International Labour Day, the international workers celebrations, on the 1st day of May, let us in tune with the international trade union movement call for the trade union freedoms, the right to organize independent unions for all, an immediate end to the murder and prosecution of union activists, and the immediate release of all the political prisoners. Let us carry the flag for the immediate release of all the leaders and activists of the union movement in the country on this year's Labour Day. Workers and working people of Iran, let us hand in hand create the broad anti-dictatorship front against the united rank of reaction, despotism, and backwardness, and open the way for realization of social justice, freedom, and independence. Close to one hundred years history of the heroic struggle of the working class of our nation promises the victory of the people against the reaction and despotism.

***Glory to the May Day, the International Labour Day!***

***Towards the Qualitative Promotion of the Role of the Working Class in the General Struggle of the People!***

***Salute to the Glorious Memory of the Fallen of the Labour Movement of Iran!***

***Victory to the Struggle of the People for Rejecting the Theocratic Regime and for Freedom, Peace, Independence, and Social Justice!***

***Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran***

***April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

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## Dismissal of Trade Union Activists

*(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 841, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010)*

One of the ploys of the coup d'état government to confront the working class movement of our nation has been, and is, to craft a variety of unlawful constraints for the trade union activists. Case in point, last year with the extensive support of the judicial system, the illegitimate coup government prepared, and step-by-step executed carefully-plotted and organized offences against the working class and other working people. Firing and dismissing the imprisoned activists of the labour movement is one of the plots of the reaction that is aimed at generating an atmosphere of fear and terror in the workplaces. Last November, the management of Haft-Tapeh cane-sugar industry fired the jailed workers who were members of the workers syndicate for "unjustified absence" from work. In an interview, the defense attorney of these workers had said: "This dismissal must be annulled. Workers who have been detained because of work-related protests should not be fired on the grounds of unexcused absence." Following the firing of the members of Haft-Tapeh cane-sugar industry syndicate, on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> of 2009 Mansour Osaloo, president of the Board of Directors of Tehran's Sherkat Vahed Syndicate (the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Workers' Union), who is currently in jail, was fired by the ruling of the Administrative Justice Tribunal. Osaloo, who has at least 26 years of employment record with the Tehran's Bus Transit Company [Sherkat Vahed], will be deprived of his legal rights and benefits because of this ruling.

The syndicate and labour movement unwaveringly supports the jailed workers and strongly condemns their dismissal on the grounds of the so called "unjustified absence." Regarding this issue, ILNA (Iran Labour News Agency) quoted the worker activists at that time and wrote: "In dealing with work related and trade issues, employers should not be allowed to dismiss workers so easily...if a worker has been arrested because of trade-union issues, s/he should not be fired...according to the labour law, no employer is allowed to dismiss or fire a detained worker before his or her case has been resolved, because a guilty verdict issued by the judicial authorities could not be used as a basis for the dismissal of a worker..."

Firing the [socially] active and conscious workers

and trade-union activists, constitutes another link in the chain of the reaction's plots to confront the mass anti-despotic movement and the decisive and crucial role of working class movement in that movement. The main goal of the coup perpetrators in executing such policies is to confront the growing presence of working people in the mass struggle against the coup government and theocratic despotism.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the syndicate movement of the working people commemorates and expresses its gratitude for the jailed activists of labour movement, condemns their dismissal from work, and sets the struggle for their immediate and unconditional release from jail and their return to work at the forefront of their activities!

Dismissal of labour and syndicate activists from work is illegal and is condemned!

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On the occasion of the International Labor Day:

### **A Joint Statement by the Independent Labor Unions and Organizations**

*(Source: <http://www.tudehpartyiran.org/detail.asp?id=1052>)*

On the occasion of May Day, the International Labor Day, a number of independent labor unions and organizations issued a joint statement and declared the urgent demands of the working class and other working people of our nation.

The web site of "Tehran and the Suburbs Transit Workers Union" [Vahed] has published this joint statement. The opening of the statement reads: "May 1<sup>st</sup> is the international day of solidarity of the working class and the day of global protest of the workers against poverty, misery and inequality. On this day, millions of workers across the globe stop the work, take over the streets, and by expressing their rage and revulsion over countless miseries that the capitalist system has imposed on humanity, shout out loud for the liberation from oppression and for building a better world...In Iran, many of the workers who organized the May 1<sup>st</sup> ceremonies in 2009 are currently either sentenced to jail terms or are waiting to receive heavy judicial sentences, and tens of labor leaders and activists are accused of assembling labor organizations and defending their human rights are spending time in prison...We, the workers of Iran, have proved in the 1979 revolution and in the recent years that we would not tolerate so much misery and violation of

our rights, and in spite of jail terms and suppression, will resist, in front line of the Iranian people, the infringement on our most basic human rights... We are the core producers of all the wealth and prosperity in the society and we consider a life to the highest living standards of today's human as the unalienable right of ours and of the Iranian masses..."

Then the immediate and main demands of the workers have been highlighted and emphasized in 15 points, some of which are: establishing independent organizations... strike, protest, rallies, assembly and freedom of expression is our unalienable right; We consider the bill for "Elimination of Subsidies" (Targeted Subsidies) and the minimum wage of 303 thousand Toumans (about US\$300) per month as inflicting a gradual death on the millions of working class families and demand an immediate stop to the bill for "Elimination of Subsidies" and an increase in the minimum wage to one million Toumans (about US\$1000). The differed wages of workers should be immediately paid with no ifs and buts... Firing and dismissing workers, under any pretext, must stop... We demand the elimination of all the temporary and blank-check contracts, and job security for all workers and employees... We demand the abolition of capital punishment and the immediate and unconditional release of Ebrahim Madadi, Mansoor Osaloo, Ali Nejati and all the activists of labor movement and other protest and social movements from prison, and an stop to judicial prosecution of these activists. While condemning any attacks against the labor and people's protests, we consider the right for free expression and the protest against any neglect of rights as an inalienable right of the workers and all the people. We demand the elimination of all the discriminatory laws against women and the guarantee for complete and unconditional equal rights between men and women in all aspects of social, economic, political, cultural and familial life. We demand a prosperous life free from economical anxiety for all the retirees... and their access to social security and health care services. Child labor must be eradicated. By this statement we express our support for all the freedom seeking social movements and strongly condemn the arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of the activists of these movements. We are part of the workers of the world, and we condemn the firing and imposing of any discrimination against the immigrant workers

from Afghanistan and other nations. We appreciate the international support for the struggle of the workers in Iran and support the protests and demands of workers across the world; we see ourselves their allies and more than any other time, emphasize on the international solidarity of workers for liberation from the hardships of the capitalist system. May 1<sup>st</sup> must be recognized as a public holiday and be marked in the official calendar of the country, and all the restrictions to celebrate this day must be eliminated..."

This joint statement ends with the slogans "Long Live May 1<sup>st</sup>" and "Long Live International Solidarity of Workers".

This joint statement was signed and released by ten independent trade unions and labor organizations such as the Tehran and Suburbs Transit Workers Union, Syndicate of Painters, the conveners to reestablish the Mechanics and Metal Workers Union, the Electricians and Metal Workers Trade Union of Kermanshah, the Women's Council and four other organizations.

Tudeh Party of Iran – the party of the Iranian working class – expresses its resolute and inclusive support for the independent labor unions and organizations and for any and all effective and constructive activities to restore the union rights of working people, and once again stresses its unshakable determination for the struggle to realize the interest of the working class and other working people.

Salute to the Iranian labor-union movement!

For stronger alliance between the labor movement and the nation-wide movement against the dictatorship!

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**The Struggle of Educators for their Rights and Demands:**

## **Support the Hunger Strike and Rally of Teachers**

(Source: <http://www.tudehpartyiran.org/detail.asp?id=1051>)

With the release of the statement of the Secretary of Coordinating Council of Teachers Trade Organization of Iran, the struggle of freedom-loving and dedicated educational workers stepped into a new phase. During the recent years, the trade organization of educational workers have always been among the persistent opposition to the policies and plans of the ruling reaction, and for this reason, the suppression machine of reactionaries organized

and rendered a bleak and targeted suppression against the educational workers after the election coup. In fact, the tireless efforts of respectable and brave educational workers for their professional and political demands had never been, and still not welcomed by the coup government and the Supreme Leader. Detention, torture and all kind of constraints and dearth against the freedom-loving educational workers active in trade matters, symbolizes the type of relationship between the coup perpetrators with the education community of the nation. That is why the well-timed and completely rightful action of the Coordinating Council on the eve of the international Labour Day and the Teachers Week in Islamic Republic for an organized protest against the prevailing state of affairs was supported by the majority of the population and also the progressive and patriotic parties and forces.

The statement reads: "...how is that today, the educational workers who are the true children of the great Iranian nation...and their heart beats for dignity of humans and protecting the human rights, are convicted of outlandish sentences solely because of voicing their criticisms...Since some refer to Iran as 'the most open and free country in the world in which freedom is close to absolute', they must answer this question that why the most honest and committed teachers of the country are faced with sentences like execution, incarceration, suspension, dismissal, exile, severance, forced retirement, demotion, ban from teaching... merely because they criticize the current situation. The educational workers of the 'most open and free country of the world' (!) would like to know what crimes the likes of Balaghi, Khastar, Davari and Momeni have committed that must endure imprisonment under harsh conditions for months, without any conviction...What unforgivable wrongdoing have teachers like Kamangar [who was hanged on May 9th – TN] and Ghanbari committed that are dreadfully sentenced to death?...It goes without saying that the great community of educational workers of the county will in no way tolerate these sentences and we have no doubt that execution of such sentences will agitate the society and the education system more than ever, and will take away peacefulness from the education field..." The Coordinating Council statement continues by listing the demands such as ending the security atmosphere in the schools and the offices of boards of education, job security for educational workers,

discouraging spying and recruiting informants in the sacred place of classroom and school, and avoiding making cases against the critical educators, spending the oil and gas income on infrastructures like education and health, preventing the decline of quality of education in public schools and downgrading their status in society, elimination of any kind of discrimination inside and outside the education system against the holders of Masters and PhD degree in education. The statement then raises a few questions some of which are addressed to the authorities of the Ahmadinejad administration: "...Is converting the public schools to schools run by trustees legitimate and legal? If the answer is negative, then what urgent action is being planned and taken to protect the rights of students and their families? According to the resolution 673 of High Commission of Education Ministry, school principals must be elected by the education workers who work in the education institute. Why this resolution is not being followed?"

The statement ends with declaring that: "As a motion of protest to the illegal sentences of death penalty and illegal detention of our colleagues, from 2nd to 8th of May 2010 the members of the Central Council (Board of Directors) of the Association of Teachers and Trade Activists, and on the 2nd of May all of our colleagues, will go on full hunger strike..."

The struggle of educational workers for their rights and demands, both professional and political, is part of the struggle of the mass movement against the theocratic regime of Supreme Leadership. While fully supporting the conscious struggle of educational workers, this struggle must be aligned to serve the continuation of the popular movement against the "election coup".

Tudeh Party of Iran supports the progressive and dedicated teachers of the nation, and will utilize its domestic and international resources and means to defend their struggle.

April 27th, 2010

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