

Against the Current

*Organisation of fedaian(Minority) -
Abroad Committe*

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30 YEARS LATER

30 years ago, on 11 February 1971, a group of Iranian revolutionary communists who opposed the current reformist and compounded tradition and who had intention to struggle against the system in a revolutionary manner, became founders of an organisation which called the Organisation for People's Fedaian Guerrillas. They found each other in practical struggle against the Shah's regime. 10 years later, when our organisation became the biggest communist organisation in the Middle East, a large group of this organisation turned its back to revolutionary tradition and communist aims and ideals but the remained group called it self Fedaian Minority which remained loyal to the organisation's revolutionary tradition and it's aims and ideals. This is a fact, which has proved to be true by 20 years of struggle. During all these years, so many changes and developments have taken place internationally which have been harmful to the working class and the world communist movement. A group of organisations and parties which called them selves communists, could not or did not want to struggle against the focused and wide spread attacks of bourgeois, they were either vanished or joint the army of class enemy, all these happened both in Iran and in the world. In Iran, there were few organisations that remained as winners in this struggle. And now, our organisation after passing 30 years of its foundation is proud that we are still struggling as a communist organisation. We have no intention to compromise with the current capitalist system. We are struggling against a system which is divided to exploiter and exploited classes, between riches and poor. We are struggling to over throw a system in which a minority called capitalists explores a majority of the society who are workers. We are struggling against a society that injustice rule between men and women. Our organisation is struggling in order to establish a communist system in which exploitation, suppression and strangulation has no place and in which all the human beings live in welfare and fortune. We believe that the World working class should do such task. Thus victory and achievements reached by working class in any country is our victory as well. We consider our selves as a part of the World communist and working class movement. But it is although obvious that we prioritise struggle for over throwing bourgeoisie in Iran and for the working class take power. This it self is an important part of our internationalist duty. Our organisation is interesting in the life and future of Iranian hard working masses and from working class's standpoint defending their interests and struggling for their demands. In Iran today, there is a regime ruling, which is symbol of barbarism and strangulation. This regime suppresses all the workers and toilers, women, youth and intellectuals. Our organisation, by a strategy of over throwing the regime, is struggling for fulfilling demands for full political and democratic rights of Iranian people and their general social and welfare related demands. Our organisation consider its immediate task as struggling for over throwing the Islamic Republic and establish a soviet state which is the most democratic form of state in the man kind's history. We hope we can fulfil our revolutionary task in the best way.

UNLOADED CANNONS

Recently some individuals, groups and publications supporting Khatami have spoken about a "referendum" on "reforms". Among them Ali-e-Mazroei, member of the Islamic reaction parliament and head of one of the groups supporting Khatami, said several days ago: "Should the minority wing resort to obstruction, sabotage and political intransigence to prevent the progress of the will of the majority of the nation

for reforms, the reformists would have no option other than going for a referendum on reforms and the result would determine the path of the system". He reiterated to the rival wing that "the reformists" have no objective other than "increasing the legitimacy factor of the regime and its effectiveness and "consider the ineffectiveness of the state in various fields the reason for reforms being necessary". There is no doubt in the fact that groups connected to the 2nd of Khordad Front, that form a state wing, have no objective other than saving the Islamic republic system and preventing its down fall. All know that. But the point worth considering in the statements of this member of parliament is proposing "referendum" on "the subject of reforms" in the conditions that from any direction it is irrelevant. If three years ago, several months after Khatami coming to power, when there was still illusions among some sections of the people about his and his supporters "reform seeking" claims and at the same time, confusion resulting from defeat among the opposite wing existed, the likes of this member of parliament claimed that if the rival wing tried to obstruct the advancement of their policy line, they would put the problem to a referendum. Probably some human beings, unaware of politics and unaware of the nature of "the state reformists", would have taken them seriously. At the same time maybe it would have had the property of compelling the rival wing to retreat. But in today's conditions of Iran this statement would only result in people laughing at them, because during this period even the most retarded sections of the people of Iran observed in practice what kind of "reformism" Mr Khatami and his supporters deal in. The mass of people saw in practice they were not able to implement the meagre reforms they had promised. The people saw how frightened and spineless the claimants of "reform" are that they have no stomach to resist and confront the rival wing even for the advancement of their own positions. All understand the fact that the wing claiming to be "reformist" is so reactionary and frightened of the people, that in no way it has a tendency of wanting to see the people enter the arena and play a role. Where ever the people entered the arena both wings, in unity, suppressed the people. They are so low, fearful and unable that they did not defend themselves in the face of rapid assaults from the dominant wing. They closed their newspapers but this lot did not do anything other than moan, they arrested and condemned their individuals, this lot only sufficed to issuing statements. They disrupted their assemblies, beat up their members and supporters, but this lot preferred escape to resistance. The more the dominant wing attacked the more they retreated in horror and called it "active calm". Finally it got to a point that Khamenehi's wing took the slogan of reforms of them too and now the heads of the three powers (legislative, executive, judicial) together with Rafsanjani, under the management of Khamenehi, have become responsible for advancing the "reforms". Therefore, even the last rites of government reforms have been performed. But it seems the mentioned member of parliament has just woken up and talks about "referendum" on the question of "reforms". A false claim that is obvious to all. If we look at this from the angle of people's interest, it is not merely an unloaded cannon, it is clear public deception. Usually referendum is meaningful where people enjoy freedom and their vote and opinion, even in the limits of the bourgeois system, are valid. In Iran where people are deprived of freedom and the ruling class does not recognise people's vote and opinion at all and rules with open dictatorship, suggesting referendum in any form is public deception. Even if it is to resolve the internal squabbles of the ruling group. Here only when the Islamic Republic regime is toppled in its entirety, people's vote and opinions are recognised and they can have the last word. Only by overthrowing this anti-democratic and reactionary regime could people decide their favourite regime freely. Nevertheless a group of Khatami's supporters who recently have propounded the slogan of referendum on "reforms" follows a certain objective. What is this objective?

Do they want to frighten the opposite wing and compel it to retreat? The answer is negative, since they and their rival wing know well that this an unloaded cannon. Power struggle of both wings in the past three years has exposed their hands to one another. In fact they are following another objective. There is a short time left of Khatami's presidency term. All openly say that in the period no change and improvement took place and no promise was realised. Neither the executive power nor the legislative power was capable of any action. Now the problem Khatami's supporters face is: with which slogans and promises could they attempt to drag the people to the ballot box. The referendum slogan over reforms that from now has become the slogan of Khatami's supporters is in fact their election slogan. They imagine with it they could bring the people to the ballot box. But the vast majority of people, that have put the experience of the past several years behind them, know well this is a hollow slogan. Neither these are reformists in the true meaning of the word nor the Islamic republic regime is reformable. Reforming the existing situation, before any thing, requires a revolution.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF VERDICTS ISSUED BY JUDICIAL ORGAN

AGAINST DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN BERLIN CONFERENCE

During the last few days, verdicts issued by judicial organ of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the delegation participated in Berlin Conference, have shadowed all other political issues on Iran. The judicial system in line with it's policy taken since some months ago in order to establish control over the situation, has sentenced some of the participants to fees, conditional imprisonment, exile and imprisonment. Among them, Akbar Gandji to 10 years prison and 5 years in exile, Khalil Roustam Khani to 9 years in prison, Ali Reza Afshari to 5 years and Shahla Lahidji and mehrangiz Kar to 4 years. Their charges and others with "milder" sentences are, participation in Berlin Conference or organising it, attempt to overthrow the Islamic Republic, co-operation with "anti-revolutionaries", insulting the holy leadership of the regime and.... The verdicts are verbally announced to the defence lawyers and defenders and the mass media are forbidden to publish any of the verdicts. Issuing such verdicts can only analysed as a part of the policy taken by the judicial organs which treated other issues in a same manner as closing newspaper, arresting journalist and the way this organ behaved on prosecuting Serial Murders case. But even though, the way this organ treated the case of participants in Berlin Conference, has made a serial special effects domestic and internationally on the situation of the Islamic Republic.

Last year, Berlin Conference organised by Hanrisch Bell Foundation with effort made by the German Government in general and Green Party in particular. In the conference some of so called reformists along with a group of writers and researchers were invited as lecturers. The Green Party had some intentions by organising this type of conference, they wanted to use the advantage of the situation created after Khatami came to power in order to neutralise the effects of Mickonus Trail, get ride of icy political relationship between EU and the Islamic regime and finally prepare the means for dialog and development of political relationship with the Islamic Republic.

The participants in the conference stressed on the fact that the political situation in Iran has changed since Khatami elected as president; there is an open climate and the conditions for expressing political opinions and ideas are prepared. The verdicts against the participants have taken the mask and make up put by serious attempts made by the German government and other members of EU in order to give another face to the Islamic Republic. That is why such verdicts criticised hardly by the German government and some other European countries and the trip of the German General Council to Iran which was planned to take place before the presidential election cancelled. The Western governments among them Europeans have always tried to make excuses and explanations in order to establish their relationships with the regime, even though the regime has not result any thing else rather than bring about miser to Iranian people, even though the regime has only violated all the fundamental rights and even though the regime has suppressed all the opposition in a barbaric way. They will stabilise, this time as well, their relationship with the regime even though it takes some time. Each tension put its own fingerprint on the regime's political situation. Khatami's government came to power with the motto, "reforms" and " dialog between the cultures", in order to get ride of tensions in political relations internationally so that World capital would not be afraid for "security" of capital in Iran and may make it easier for them to investigate. Under circumstances that the regime is on the eve of being overthrown and under circumstances that "destroy of the whole regime" has become a nightmare to the heads of the regime, all these shakings in the foreign relationship deepening the political crises the regime is facing.

The other side of the coin is the internal affects of issuing such verdicts. One of the charges is attempting to overthrow the Islamic Republic. This charge is nothing but none sense. None of the participants did participate in order to overthrow the regime and none of them said a word about overthrowing either. "Most radical" of them talked about need of modification in some part of Civil Right and in very few points in Constitution. In opposite to the charge, all of the "reformists" participants stressed on the regime's potential for changes and took Khatami's presidency period as proof for such statement.

This fact that those who issued the verdicts know better than any one that "reformats" participants have ever attempted to overthrow the regime. The reason for such sentences to imprisonment and exile is the evaluation the main fraction of the regime has done and this is a conclusion taken in order to control the political situation. It is a while now that a third fraction has come to the scene after that Khamenei's fraction and the leaders of Khoordad Front came closer to each other. This fraction wants to neutralise the rival fraction's "fundamentalists" and suppress forces belonging to "left reformists" of Khoordad Front in order to come to power. This "middle" fraction in practice has no intention to isolate "right fundamentalists" and Coalition Association and some others belong to this fraction. They are very active and in some cases important to play a certain roll, but do not hesitate to shake the mass of Khoordad Front and it's groups and individuals who question some how religious state and the Paragraph on Holy Leader's status. They are the ones that according to Khamenei and some other leaders of the regime, taken away the line between "our owns" and " not ours". All the events taken place during the last few months involve such problem. All the lower level of Khoordad Front are in front of a question, should they remain loyal to " the Islamic System" within the frame of " our owns", draw clearer lines between them selves and forces of " opposite to the system", try to clean them selves from "stains", "not ours" and "defenders of overthrowing", accept the rule of God State on

Earth and its leader or should they accept the verdicts issuing by the Judicial Organ? The forces of low level of the Khoordad Front pay a fee for talking too much. The leaders of the main fraction have rapidly advised and warned them. The Leader of the Islamic Republic by his own way, the head of the Judicial Organ with his special way, Rafsandjani and Khatami by their own special words have several times, told them that there is no middle line, either you are "loyal to the regime" or you are against it. Beside some charismatic gestalts for West, the leaders of Khoordad Front have expressed their pleasure with punishment of "not ours" and "our owns" who just talk too much.

The verdicts and reaction from Khoordad Front once again disclosed the fake nature of the reform willingness of the Islamic regime and proved that this regime has no capacity for reform. Such action took the last remained part of believing reform from the masses. Such process helps development of actions taken by the workers and toiler masses and developing the struggle against the whole Islamic regime.

"ELECTION" ISSUE HAS BECOME A PROBLEM FOR THE REGIME

In a country that appointment being called election and strangulation called democracy, a second round of a joke called election has started. The fractions of the regime and its all- round supporters out side the regime once again trying to make the "election" issue a hot one. The regime's newspaper, have arranged place for articles and columns on presidential election in order to make the masses believe it is an important issue for election and democracy. They write in a way that every one believes that the people have really the right to choice and by their own votes can make the future look like they want. Even though you can read between the lines that even they know that the people do not believe such non-sense. That is why every one talking about reduction in number of voters in this coming election. They know that if four years ago, due to all propaganda from national and international forces, a group of people got hope that the situation will be improved by help of an election within the frame of the Islamic Republic, but today all these hopes have vanished on the pressure of reality that the people experience every day.

Those who voted in election and voted for Khatami believed that by their own votes they have shown determination for changing the situation. That is just the reason why the people wanted the changes happen fast and their demands fulfil but when it did not happen, they understood that election in the Islamic Republic is just an empty word. What are really ruling in this country are not people's demand and wishes but strangulation and lack of rights. Election and people's votes change nothing here. To day, the main problem the regime is facing on election issue is that the young generation has lost its faith in the regime.

Now there are only fraction of the regime remained to some how "solve" this problem on their own hands and deal with wide spread disappointment and disgrace.

The fraction known as conservative has lost its faith among the people so much that does not dare to present officially its own candidate. They know very well that the people won't vote to them and under the best circumstances, they will get the votes from suppressive forces, clergies and other paid supporters. Until now, just Falahian

has announced his candidature. He is historically the most disclosed personality of this fraction who had been the head of the disgraced torture and massacre organ called Ministry for Information, but he announce him self as independent candidate. The situation for the rival fraction is not better. There is a Persian saying, no one bitten twice from the same snick hole. Khatami during his presidential campaign promised people, freedom, democracy, welfare, justice and a civil society. But four years later, those who were hopeful for changes understood that he did not fulfil any of his promises and those who voted him in a choice between bad and worse, understood as well that nothing working in favour of them. Now people judge him as faked and liar and those who are most optimists say he wants to do some thing but he is not allowed. Thus it is realistic that most of people voted to him last time, will not participate in election and vote him. It is worth to mention that people's judgement on election does not limit to Khatami as a person. But it is a judgement on every one belongs to his fraction. But this fraction has no other alternative than Khatami and is forced to present him for a second time. It is obvious that Khatami has nothing more to say and has nothing more to promise people to buy. Now his supporters are trying to use old tricks to get people's attention to him. They make it to look like that Khatami is hesitating to weather or not participate as president candidate. They write long letters, telling him people want him to dominate him self and people are anxious to see him involved in presidential campaign. Some other supporters trying people to consider this election as a referendum. And tactics like that.

But all these attempts do not get them where they want to come. With or without Khatami, weather one or both fractions support him, there will be no change in the regime's situation. He, in practice, has shown people that in the Islamic republic, people's vote and election has no place and no reform is possible within the frame of this regime. People of Iran have learned their lesson.

The Necessity of Workers Protests Developing to a Country-wide Struggle

Workers' protests and struggles are spreading continuously. Various factories and establishment's workers are employing various forms of struggle to achieve their demands. Strikes, sit-ins, assembling in front of factories, marching, obstructing roads and gathering in front of labour offices, local authorities or state authorities, and in Tehran including gathering in front of presidential office, are the current forms of workers' protests. Workers' demands are mainly payment of unpaid wages, preventing dismissals, preventing factory closure and or privatisation and mass dismissals. Only a passing glance at the news, that pass through the walls of censor and repression ruling the society and get reflected in publications and mass media, are sufficient to show there is rarely a week that at least one strike, sit-in and workers protest does not occur in Tehran or other towns. The latest case is workers of JUMCO gathering in protest in front of Khatami's office in December. Workers were demanding payment of their wages that have not been paid since 1998. In addition, the company's managers have landed in jail for a while due to financial abuse and massive thefts. They have avoided paying workers' insurance contributions and therefore workers insurance cover has not been renewed. Two days before that action, workers of MOHTASHAM CARPET in Kashan who have not been paid for 6 months, and their calls to the local authorities have been fruitless so far, discovering that the justice minister is visiting Kashan gathered where he was giving a speech and demanded investigation of their problems.

Before that, Neyshaboor workers assembled in front of the city's authority, workers of ANDISHEH Company assembled in front of the Housing Union office and 1,500 dismissed workers of SIMIN factory in Esfahan gathered in the street in front of the factory and other similar workers actions had taken place.

Recent workers' struggles are the workers' reaction to the unbearable conditions the capitalists have imposed on them. The broad wave of dismissals and closure of part or the whole of a factory or production establishment, whether with false reasons and the capitalist wanting to use his capital in finance instead of production, or whether as a result of bankruptcy, home production not competitive with similar foreign production, the result for the dismissed worker of the factory is the same. In a country where unemployment and hunger are rife and there is no minimum social security, unemployed workers and their families are left to their own devices. Employed workers' wages, although according to admittance of House of Worker officials only covering one tenth of the expenses of a 5 persons family, are blocked by factory managers and capitalists and are not paid for various excuses. Hence poverty, hunger and fear of unemployment are turned into the realities of workers' lives these days. These unbearable conditions of workers lives, next to published news of several ten millions salaries and incomes of managers, company managers and capitalists financial abuses and thefts, provoke workers' anger and instigate workers protest and struggle. At present, protests, strikes, sit-ins, marches, closure of roads and assembly in front of government offices are the common methods workers use to realise their demands. But the problem is, these protest actions, no matter how resolute and radical they are, generally are done in isolation. Isolated actions of workers of a factory or establishment, while the workers of other factories also frequently and with similar motivations and demands resort to struggle, is the limitation of this stage of workers struggles. Even if the discussion was solely about trade demands, that these days are the dominant axis of the workers protest actions, workers movement needs to pass from isolated struggles in a specific factory to country-wide workers movement for the realisation of workers demands now. Right now the grounds for this passage exist within the working class movement. Workers resorting to open protest and struggle is common, and these struggles, even at the level taking place now, have within them a minimum element of awareness and leadership of struggle. Only isolated actions must be linked together. Workers' movement must be brought into arena to confront dismissals, for the right to work and for social security. This is the movement that in linking with the political movement of the rest of the toiling and oppressed strata will bring the Islamic Republic to its knees.

The 2001/2002 Budget Bill and the Record of the 2nd Construction Commander

President Khatami has presented to the parliament his last budget bill of his presidency. The presentation of the budget bill for 2001/2002 was an opportunity for him to assess the economic performance of his presidency period. In his long winded speech, he said in that period the internal gross national product had grown to the same rate of yearly fixed price and would have a greater growth in the current year. Concerning the rate of inflation, Khatami claimed the rate has decreased during his presidency every year and it was reduced to 15% in the current year. He talked about the reduction in the rate of unemployment and promised it would be reduced further and go down to 12% in the coming year. He also talked about increased investment

according to a fixed rate in these years. Finally he also referred to payment of foreign debts, reduction of the number of foreign exchange rates, fixing of the value of the national currency, increase in the rate of teaching, growth of the number students, growth of hope in life, construction of rural roads, studying and or Implementation of 252 water projects, putting to use 5 dams and 2,300 industrial projects that have created 44,800 jobs. His reference was to count these as facts in respect of improvement of economy. He claimed: "The very reduction in prices is the indication of the success of the Islamic Republic system in respect of economy and putting behind the crises that each of which were sufficient to cause strange and great shocks to society".

In relation to the Budget Bill for 2001/2002, similarly the president claimed the budget in all areas, from production of petrochemicals and steel to non-oil exports, job creation, harnessing inflation and so on would result in growth and improvement of the economic situation. Khatami's words in connection to the economic performance of the Islamic Republic during his presidency, in the first instance raises the question that which country's economy is he speaking about? If he is talking about the economy in Iran the claim to reduction of unemployment, a more just distribution of income and growth in the rate of teaching and increase of hope in life are nothing but unashamed lies. A look at poverty and the sorry state of people's lives, growth of social ills, percentage aborting education or children being deprived of education all prove the contrary to the president's claims. Deceiving the public, Khatami speaks of the more just distribution of income while the rift between poverty and wealth has got deeper with the passing of each day and during his presidency. Even his own supporters admit 85% of the wealth of society is concentrated in the hands of 15% of the population. The claim is propounded whilst addiction, prostitution and false occupations are rife in Iran. The youth are unemployed and have no prospect of any future under the rule of this regime. Tens of thousands of workers have not been paid for months, thousands of workers are in constant fear of dismissal and unemployment and millions of unemployed have no means of living. In such conditions, what title other than charlatanism could be given to Khatami's speech about fair distribution of income and growth of hope in life?

Until recently when Khamenehi's wing in opposition to the reform seekers, deceiving the public, was going on about people's economic and living interests. Their propaganda was that people's economic problems should be given priority. The "reform seekers" and at their helm, Khatami were saying the solution to economic problems were dependent on political reforms that facilitated suitable conditions for investment and economic growth. Now that political "reforms" too have reached a dead-end and a number of Khatami's supporters have landed in jail, Khatami is talking so much non-sense about economic situation as if people's economic problems have been resolved spontaneously and simply due to his election to presidency. As though thousands of workers who resort to strike and barricading roads, marching, demonstrating and having sit-ins do these protests due to joy and as a result of improvement in distribution of income. As though the petrochemicals workers of the South, Tabriz Vehicle Manufacture and tens of other factories resort to strike and protest as a result of the improvements that the president claims have been made to people's lives. As though thousands of women have resorted to prostitution for the fun of it, more than three million addicts indicate the growth of hope in life in Iran and the shocking statistics of increased suicide, depression, street children and phenomena of the kind indicate improvement of people's situation and the health of Islamic society.

It is unlikely what the Budget Bill for 2001/2002 and its implementation would bring to the mass of Iranian people, millions of workers and toilers, be further than the economic performance of the past three and a half years of Khatami's government. This budget bill too has been put together on the basis of the third "economic development" programme of the Islamic Republic and would not result in anything else. The axes of this budget, like the past several years, are increase in the budget of suppression apparatuses and military forces, further freedom for internal and foreign capitalists to exploit workers and loot natural resources. In respect of economy, Khatami has done nothing other than continuing the economic programmes of the "Construction Commander" and guide lines of the World Bank. Hence his claims are several generation copies of Rafsanjani's claims when his presidency term reached the end. Khatami, who entered the arena with the slogan of "reform" of the religious state, wants to dim his complete defeat in respect of political reforms by boasting about economic gains. Hence he has appeared in the role of the 2nd construction commander.

Reform Seekers Are Reduced to Begging

With the ending of the era of the reform seeking claims of the groups known as the 2nd of Khordad Front their "slogans", "demands" and "strategy" and "tactics" are changing fast. The slogan to confront the rival wing has been replaced with the slogan to get closer than ever to the rival wing and unit with it. The debate is now about the problem of adjusting the demands to the level acceptable to the rival wing. It is claimed the era of going fast has ended, therefore the initiative must be seized from the "radicals" and handed over to the "wise" men of both "wings" and the arguments between the two wings should not get to a point that benefits the radical and toppling currents. The speeches and interviews of the supporters of Mohammad -e- Khatami are concentrated on these issues in recent days. Ali -e- Shookoori Rad, the deputy boss of the 2nd of Khordad faction in the parliament, in an interview with Isna considers the current problem to be that of polarisation of the conditions and wants to seize the initiative from the "radicals" and to hand it over to the "wise" men of both wings. Explaining the objectives and duties of the group commissioned to put together the new strategy of the 2nd of Khordad front, he said: "We are in a polarised situation now. The wise men of both sides have a lesser manoeuvre capability. I think we must head in a direction where we take the leadership of the social movements from the radical sections and hand it over to the wise sections. Because they they compete with a lesser expenses. In fact animosities between the two wings must not get to a point that they hand over the leadership to the radical "sections". Shookoori Rad's statement was at the same time completed by one of the leaders of the state student organisation in another interview. He said: "Reform seeking views must be strengthened against radical and toppling behaviours and reactions. We must adjust our demands in order to promote a new model of tendency to live peacefully in the society". Desperation and bankruptcy of "reform" seekers of the 2nd of Khordad front has reached the ultimate. Those who at one time were claiming reforms and spoke of freedom and civil society, according to their reactionary nature could not co-ordinate and move with the people and their demands, nor could they or dared to stand against the rival wing. Therefore, the more the mass movement entered the arena with more radical demands they retreated more frightened and took up positions against it. The greater the fear became, their ability to confront the rival wing lessened. They were rapidly compelled to retreat in the face of the rival wing. They were compelled to reduce their demands to the extent acceptable to the rival wing. They have now arrived at a point that the

positions of the of the "Resalat" wing persisted on in the last three years are repeated by them. They too now say: the initiative must be deposited with the "wise men of both sides", with the people of the same ilk as Rafsanjani, Koroobi and Khatami. They are now prepared to even sacrifice the lower residues of the 2nd of Khordad front who still live with their reform seeking illusions as "radicals". The only thing they want is to be rid of the extremism of the rival wing. But it seems unlikely they would succeed realising their final demand. The rival wing is not an advantage giving type and would not be satisfied with any thing less than unconditional surrender with no strings attached.

News from Iran

WORKERS BLOCKED A ROAD

The workers of Steel Parts Manufacturing gathered in protest against not payment of their wages and subsidiaries once again and blocked Old Karadj Way. It is noticeable that the management has not paid the workers' wages with the excuse that there is a lack of cash, it is while there are row material for the production at the factory but they ignore to restart production. According to the workers, this management has four other production units across the country as well, and they do such thing just to make pressure on the government to lean them credits. The result is that the workers have not received any payment for months and their future is not certain.

GATHERING OF SHADAN POUR WORKERS IN FRONT OF LABOUR MINISTRY

On 15 May, hundreds of Shadan Pour Shoe workers gathered in front of the Labour Ministry in protest against not payment of their wages for the last nine months and demanded the officials to consider their problems. During the last months, the workers have organised several actions by which the demanded, payments, reopening of the factory and getting back to work.

Year 1983, the ownership of this factory transferred to Poor Foundation. In 1999, the ownership transferred to Gholam Reza Rasekh, son to the former capitalist owner. He sold a part of equipment and tools and closed the factory for four months with the excuse of reparations. When the workers came back to work, they noticed that even a great deal of production equipment is sold as well. Since then the workers are in an uncertain situation and they have not received any payment for the last 9 months. According to the new management, he has a contract with Poor Foundation by that the foundation has to pay 900 millions of Tumans to him so that he can redeem the workers over, but such payment has not taken place. Living Martyr Foundation has also signed an order for one billion tumans for purchasing shoes but they have neither made any payment. The officials in Labour Ministry have neither done any thing about it and the workers are unemployed and cannot live even by minimum standard.

THE CAPITALIST PUT PRESSURE

The management of Pars Can production unit, has transferred all the workers who have worked more than sex months to the contractor's section. The contractor, in his turn, forced the workers to sign one - month contract and the workers have no access to

insurance privileges. Each work has to carry task of several workers and by this way a terrible pressure is put upon the workers.

PROTEST GATHERING OF THE TEACHERS IN TEHRAN

On 5 May, a large group of teachers gathered in front to Teachers' Club against their terrible living conditions and against mismanagement conducted by Ministry for Education. The organisers of this gathering was, United Front of Educators which is a umbrella organisation for House of Iranian Teachers, the Association for Professors of Teacher Education Centres and the Association for Educators (belong to " Association of Iran Farda"). The end of gathering in which 150 participated read a manifestation on 12 points.

2 WORKERS DIED IN FLAMES

On 7 May, a huge explosion took place due to which 2 workers lost their lives in flames. The explosion was of an Alcohol Tanker in Alcohol Production Unit of Rousomat in Bomhen. The explosion took place when the workers were liming a 30 thousand tanker, which was supposed to be empty, but an amount of alcohol was in the tank and caused the explosion and further damaged done to 60% of factory's facilities. During to lack of safety measures, thousands of workers lose their lives each year in Iran.

DEATH OF TWO WORKERS

Two workers while working at a construction site in seven-floor Ferdous Passage in Tehran fell down and lost their lives. They were father and son. First the father fell and then the son while making an attempt to save the life of his father.

SHORT NEWS

· Kahrizak Paper factory, Behpoush Company, Sidjer Gas, Damavand Cement and some other factories did not considered 1 May as holiday and forced the workers to attend their works. In some other production units such as Supportive Mairy Company, the management threatens the workers that if they attend the 1 May demonstrations they will lose their jobs.

· Hopkoo management is trying to transfer the location of the factory from Karadj Road to City of Arak. If such plan being executed by the excuse that the factory is suffering from financial problems, most of the workers lose their jobs.

GATHERING AND DEMONSTRATION BY CHIT REY WORKERS

More than one thousand Chit Rey workers, have on several occasions gathered in front of the factory located at Fedaian Islam Street, and stopped all traffic. The workers have not received any payment for the last four months. This factory belonged to the Poor Foundation last year and due to huge debts transferred to private sector. Neither Poor Foundation and former management nor the present owner and management consider them selves responsible for payments. On the other hand the present management is trying to reduce the work craft and dismiss some of the workers. On 29 April, the workers , after gathering in front of the factory, marched towards the General

Governor Office in Rey City and claimed in front of the office that as long as their demands have not been considered they continue to having such gatherings. The head of Political Office of General Governor attended the meeting and promised the workers to consider their demands within the next one week. Such statement provoked the workers and booed him. After this, the workers rapidly gathered and blocked Fedaiyan Islam Street. According to the latest report published on 12 May in Joumehori Islami newspaper, Chit Momtaz workers have joint the Chit Rey workers as well and by gathering on the streets around the factory have stopped traffic.

BARESH WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION CRASHED

More than one thousand workers of Baresh Weaving factory located in Isfahan City, after gathering in front of the factory on 6 May, marched towards the Governor Office located at centre of city while holding placards about not payment of their retroactive wages. The suppressive forces surrounded Rahim Zadeh Weaving factory which is located on the way of Baresh workers, in order to avoid Rahim Zadeh workers to join the march and then attacked the demonstrators. They attacked the workers with tear gas and beat them up, at least 50 workers have been arrested.

PROTEST GATHERING OF BAF NAZ WORKERS IN ISFEHAN

On 8 May, two days after crash of Baresh workers, Baf Naz workers went on strike from the morning shift. The workers have not received any payment for the last three months. The workers wrote their demands on the walls of the factory. Work Guarantee, legislation of Retirement Law sooner than planned, getting raw material in time, investigating correctly all the access Hamedanian Non-profit Fond and prosecution of every one who has misused factory accesses were some of the demands. The workers have organised several protest actions during the last few months.

PROTEST GATHERING OF WOOL WORKERS

300 workers of Keshmir Wool factory in Kermanshah, organised a protest action in front of General Office for Labour in province of Kermanshah. Many of the workers of this factory have been dismissed. Even though the Commission for Solving Work related problems has given the workers right to go back to work, the employer won't accept such decision. The workers went to work after new year holidays but noticed that the factory is being closed. The workers gathered in front of the Labour Office in order to protest against the dismisses and demanding re-open of the factory and that all workers go back to work.

COLLECTIVE DISMISS OF WORKERS

91 workers of Sarat Tea factory have collectively dismissed, the factory is located in southern part of Tehran. By the end of last year, the employer wanted that all the temporary contracts would be expired by the end of the year. But the workers protested strongly against it and denied. The employer, in order to put pressure on the workers, demand the workers to sign the agreement in order to get their retroactive wages for the past two months and bonus for new year. The dismissed workers who have between 8-26 years of experience at this factory protested strongly against such suppressive measures taken by the employer.

7 WORKERS LOST THEIR LIVES IN AN EXPLOSION IN KISH ISLAND

In an explosion took place in Kish Island due to gas lackage, 7 workers lost their lives. Their names were Ismail Ghodarzi, Hamzeh ali Sayadi, Shirzad Shahvardi, Islam Ghahramman, Islam, Kamran and Jahandar AliDousti.

PROTEST DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORKERS FOR RAISE

On March 7, a large group of the workers demonstrated in Tehran, demanding raise related to the real expenses. The workers gathered first in front of the Ministry for Labour on call of the Islamic Councils for Labour in order to negotiate about the raise. After gathering ended up, they started a demonstration and walked through Revolution Street, Revolution Square and then in front of Tehran University. In their motto, they expressed demand for raise and protest against their difficult economy and financial situation. When the workers crossed Navab and Azadi Streets, police forces stopped workers march. The suppressive forces asked the workers to spread. According to the news from Kar&Kargar issued on March 12, Hassan Sadeghi, head of the Board of the Islamic Councils for Labour had asked already in Revolution Sequire the workers to read their resolution and end up their demonstration so that any confrontation with police will be avoided. The last mentioned person arreste later on for provocation of workers to demonstrate but he released after a while. On this occasion, Public Relation of the board released a statement in which it was claimed that Hassan Sadeghi had no thing to do with the protest demonstration and that the workers themselves decided spontaneously to have a protest action.

PROTEST GATHERING OF DISMISSED WORKERS

20 of workers engaged by Hamedan Nakh Co., with 5-12 years of work experience have been dismissed of the excuse that the company has financial difficulties. The workers gathered at General Office for Labour and Social Affairs of the province and Worker House. They protested against dismissals and demanded getting back their work.

WORKERS PROTEST GATHERING IN CITY OF TABRIZ

Tens of workers engaged in Tabriz Carpet and Blanket gathered in front of Worker House and protested against their uncertain situation. They demanded their situation will be considered. The employer force the workers to get unwanted vacations, saying there is a lack of row material, in order to dismiss them later on.

The workers also gathered signatures supporting their demands.

DISMISSED WORKERS PROTEST

11 workers of Kousar Dam work shop in Kahkilye province who have been very active in organising protests and expressing their demands, have been dismissed. These workers have 6 years of work experience and they dismissed while their contracts have not been expired. The dismissed workers protested against such action and demanded getting back their jobs.

4 WORKERS DIED IN AN EXPLOSION IN A MINE

lack of the minimal security and health measures at working places cause injury, permanent disabilities and death of workers on daily bases. The most recent accident is the explosion in Cool Mine of Albourz Central on 10 March. Due to explosion and dully storage of poisoned gas in the mine, 4 workers died immediately and tens of others injured or posioned.

SHORT NEWS

- A large group of workers engaged in Rakhshan Leather Co., in a protest letter addressed to Bank for Industry & Mine, demanded payment of their retroactive wages.
- Employees of Co-operative Municipal Public Transport, gave a day wage (totally 31 millions of Tommans) to the Support Found for Unemployed.
- About 20 production units in City of Iran Shahr are shut down and some other, as Cooler Manufacturing, Pin Production, Electronic Eye, Melamin and Spaghetti, are in crises and are in the eve of shut down. Workers engaged by Iran Shahr Mase have not received their wages for 4 months now.