

Against the Current

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A Shameless Act!

"Iran" newspaper reported that the "Standards Committee" of the ILO has removed the Islamic republic from the list of violators of international labour principals and standards on 7 June 2002.

Any toiling human and aware worker who hears this news, a worker who is subject to most severe economic and political pressure and his basic rights are nullified and denied in a most aggressive manner every day by the regime, not only condemns this decision and judgment, but figures out more than ever the role of international organs and institutions, which are under the influence of financial monopolies, and how these organs can fix and deal with most reactionary regimes in pursuit of the interests of world capitalism and even nullify their own bourgeois frameworks and yardsticks. Of course it is several years that the Islamic republic is making efforts to sell itself as a moderate bourgeois regime. These efforts, especially after Khatami becoming the president have intensified. Going along with the international economy and being accepted in the world and international system is very important to the Islamic republic. Iranian capitalism and the crisis that extend to all centres of economy and production dictate this policy. The regime hopes to overcome this crisis with the help of world financial and commercial centres and foreign capital. It has been making efforts in that direction for several years. For instance it is some time that the Islamic republic is knocking at every door to be accepted by the World Trade Organisation. But one of the pre-requisites of acceptance by World Trade Organisation and merging fully with world market is signing up to the conventions of International Labour Organisation. Eight conventions of the ILO (central conventions) form its fundamental principal. In negotiating with governments the main subject of discussions are these fundamental principals. The Islamic republic had expressed willingness to sign up to international labour standards (convention numbers 87, 98 and 138) and been duty bound initially to provide a report for ILO on the legal and practical situation of the subject of each convention. The report, which the Islamic republic submitted to ILO last year, claimed that establishment of workers organisations (and employers organisations) is permitted in Iran and does not even require a license. On conditions of work and collective bargaining it is also claimed that conditions of work, at local unites level and at the level of every branch of industry and trade can be determined by collective bargaining. The report names the Islamic Councils of Labour and house of Worker as workers organisations.

The foundations of these claims are clauses of the regime's constitution and labour laws. The report even claims that the government has no role and does not interfere in the establishment and method of administering these organisations.

Although it was seriously important for the Islamic republic to be recognised by the ILO as a country where workers organisations and collective bargaining correspond with international standards, but apparently at that time agreements and guarantees that the international capital and its dependent institutions had in mind were not secured and therefore the time for the removal of restrictions had also not come. Therefore the Asian and Pacific region office of ILO in its report to the thirteenth Asian region conference in Bangkok, despite hints that amounted to praising the Islamic republic, said that for the House of Worker to be recognised by the international community of independent and free trade unions, it had not yet consolidated its role as the free and independent organisation of workers completely. Nevertheless, the Islamic republic signing up to eleven conventions followed continuation and deepening of implementation of economic policies of financial monopolies and bartering. In the beginning of the current year the Islamic republic was permitted to sign two conventions

on prohibition of child labour. The latest news is that the "Labour Standards Committee" at the ILO conference in Geneva has removed the Islamic republic from the list of violators of international labour principals and rights. This is when the rights of Iranian workers are being violated for years. There is no need to say that the House of Worker and Islamic Councils of Labour are state manufactured and attached to the regime, they have no relevance to independent organisations. Workers in Iran are both deprived of playing their role in determining conditions of work and the right to establish their independent organisations and are denied any rights absolutely. In most of production unites and centres there is no sign of implementation of collective bargaining. It is temporary contracts that are being implemented with total impunity, and it is only the employers that make decisions about employment and or dismissal of workers.

In the face of such bullying and lack of rights workers have even no right to protest and strike. Exactly at the threshold of the masterpiece of "Standards Committee" of the ILO conference at Geneva in removing the Islamic republic from the list of violators of international labour standards and principals, the labour minister of the regime, at the "National Conference" in Tehran, with the excuse that workers gathering in front of his ministry results in breaking the "honour of labour" disagrees with workers rallies and protests and threatens workers. At the same time his deputy, Khajehnoori, intends to change the labour law in the interest of capitalists and wants to present his views for changing the labour law. In an interview with ISNA News Agency on the workers strikes and the right to strike he said: "Propounding discussion on strikes is not acceptable in the society". He has shown that state authorities do not accept any right for workers to protest and strike and consider discussing it a waste of time.

Under such conditions, the action of "Labour Standards Committee" to remove the Islamic republic from the list of violators of international labour rights and principals is a shameless act that is protested by workers. Although assessing the nature of an institution such as ILO and its role in the world capitalist system can be the subject of an independent discussion and or an article, there is no doubt this international institution is under the influence of imperialist governments and international capital and in principal is the executive for advancing the policies of world capitalism. Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that international labour standards and conventions of ILO, without doubt are the result of many years of world working class struggle, and they do not correspond with what goes on in the Islamic republic in most cases. Regulations and standards ruling conditions and rights of labour in the Islamic republic are all behind these standards. In other words, in the Islamic republic not only international standards and codes and fundamental principals of ILO are not observed, they are constantly violated and Islamic republic has denied workers of their most basic rights too.

Removal of Islamic republic from the list of violators of international labour principals and rights, is not only throwing dust in the eyes of Iranian workers but is violation of the very principals and standards of the International Labour Organisation. Iranian workers condemn this shameless act.

George W. Bush's statement, Basis and Impacts

A- Basis

The late June statement by George W. Bush, though short and brief, has had a wide reflection and impact on the political scene among various political groups. As far as it relates to Islamic Republic regime and its factions, this statement has intensified the contradictions and disagreements between the two factions and exacerbated the political crisis. In his bias statement, he has defended reformists' political and economical plans while criticizing the limitations and pressures imposed on reform supporters. The statement refers to the "un-elected" officials who are the actual rulers of the country that are not listening to their people's voice and continue their devastating policies. He deceitfully mentions the "Iranian People" name that "will determine the fate of the country". Ignoring the false humanitarian pose used in this statement, what is underlying in the US president's message, though not the US official policy yet, is a new position that is to some extent different compared to the prior US policy towards Iran which was based on the doctrine of "Axis of Evil". This change in policy, which is not a strategic change and is only a tactical change towards the same old US strategic goals, was not baseless. The United States followed the "Axis of Evil" doctrine, for some time, to force the government of Iran to deviate from its anti-American slogans and policies, and to establish US wanted relations once the crisis between the two countries are over. But these efforts were all neutralized by the same faction in the Iranian government that he refers to as the "un-elected" officials who have the actual power in Iran. The American government on one side experienced lack of progress in the "Axis of Evil" doctrine in getting close to the powerful faction in the Iranian government which is the ultimate power in decision making about Iran-US relations, and on the other side, realizes that these are the most hated regime and officials from Iranian people point of view and therefore does not see a good future for this regime and neither does it see any success for its "Axis of Evil" policy. It is not that Mr. Bush or his government are worry of the situation and agony of people of Iran and thinking of what could benefit them. The US government could see very clearly that it is not possible to do the same thing that it has been doing in countries like Saudi Arabia, relying on super-reactionary factions and be hopeful of installing such a regime, because the situation is totally different in Iran where because the history of social struggles, growing level of social awareness, and demands of grass roots people specially the workers has already put its defeat stamp on such tactics. That is why we see that the Rafsanjani-Khameneh-eh's covert efforts in taking the initiative of contacting American diplomats in Cypress is unsuccessful and US government did not welcome it. The US government also realizes that the situation in Iran is not like Iraq, another one of "Axis of Evil", that various scenarios of US military attacks or coup de ta that are being reviewed by pentagon and CIA are all about toppling the regime, nor is similar to Afghanistan where they could bring an Iranian Hamed Karzai to power and wrap up the situation in a blink of an eye.

The most important subject is that the Iranian society is in turmoil, political and economical crisis are exacerbated, the extent of people discontent has dramatically increased, urban civil unrest and above all worker's demonstrations and strikes are increasing, the expansion of these protests and strikes and transformation of the unrest into a nationwide uprising is in foreseeable future, and that is the transformation that will set the final point for the current regime. As a result of such historical and important events that would definitely impact the entire region, it has greatly worried Mr. Bush and US government along with all other owners of capital. Today, it is obvious to everybody that the current situation in Iran can not last much longer and the US government must be very stupid not to understand the problem and not to hear the warnings, that are coming from Iranian officials saying that the country is at

the threshold of social explosion. The US government could not and will not sit quite and witness the passage of such fundamental events against its own interest and the interest of its reactionary allies, and therefore, needed to do something about the situation but the "Axis of Evil" policy was not the right answer and needed to come up with something more effective for these conditions.

The Bush statement was the needed action which would be the new US policy without omitting its all other tactics and policies to prevent such event.

B. Effects

Bush's statement directly impacted the political situation in Iran and exacerbated the political crisis. Rafsanjani and particularly Khamenehie condemned the statement with harsh words as interference into Iranian internal affairs, and organized street demonstrations against Bush and US government. While some reformist individuals and organizations cautiously embraced the statement, most of the reformists kept a meaningful silence. President Khatami, who is the leader of the reformist faction voiced his agreement with Khamenehie and was praised by him. The powerful faction took advantage of the situation and accused the reformists of encouraging the US go government to interfere in the country's internal affairs by their mischievous and suspicious acts. Sepah-e-Pasdaran (the elite army), which is under Khamenehie's direct command, issued a statement and warned the reformist and newspapers. The Islamic Republic courts issued heavy sentences against some of the so called "Nationalist-Religious" forces, Nehzat-e Azady is banned and some of its members are summoned by justice department, several daily papers are band and a number of journalists were also summoned by courts, pressure against Sazeman-e Mojahedeen-e Enghelab-e Eslami was increased using the excuse of Aghajari's speech, Siamak-e Puorzand's confessions against the press, which people not only did not believe but made fun of, and even reformists referred to it as "Barnameh-e Houvviat" and Saeed Emami's adventures, was televised to increase the pressure and fear in to the country. Reformists protests have been fruitless, the petition of a number of representatives to Karoobi, chairman of the congress, in objection to statement issued by Sepah-e-Pasdaran and also impeachment of the secretary of defense did not bring any success, let alone the fact that the summoned minister later supported the statement. While Khamenehie faction accuses the reformist camp to be the cause of US interference, and claims that the reformist's actions and policies encourage United States to attack Iran militarily, The reformist camp points to the policies and actions of Khamenehie faction as the reason for US interference and that the hardliner's policies persuades US military attack. At any rate, it is quite obvious that the Bush's statement has widen the gap between the two camps in the government and has exacerbated the crisis.

Bush's statement not only had a direct aggravating effect on the contradictions within the regime and brought more heat to the political crisis, it also impacted the way European Union treats the Islamic Republic, which is another loss for the regime. With this statement the US president moved closer to the European Union's positions in regards to Iran, at the same time EU would conform to the new policy by imposing more pressure, based on its own interest, on the Iranian government. Javier Solano , the EU official in charge of the foreign affairs, made a trip to Iran on 29th of July, in response to the foreign minister's invitation, where he met and talked to Rafsanjani and Khatami and a number of congressmen. After finishing talks with Iranian officials he issued a statement and referred to the reform status as "critical", he mentioned that the agreements between EU and Iran are not only commercial and economical, but also political issues such as Human Rights and war on terrorism must be included in the bilateral agreements, he called this two subjects inseparable. Solano also referred to the

necessity of Islamic Republic's cooperation in the Middle East peace talks and the fact that it would be considered as a prerequisite for trade agreements between Iran and EU, at the end he explained that there are still major disagreements between EU and Iran regarding Iran's support of armed Palestinian forces such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Solano's relatively explicit positioning was responded by harsh criticism from newspapers related to Khameneh's camp. The daily Jomhoori-e Eslami in its July 30 issue, referred to Solano's words as "groundless accusations" and called that "interference in Iranian internal affairs", the daily also claimed that the EU policy in regards to Iran is the same as that of the United States and Israel. Though, there are certain conflicts of interests between United States and EU, the approximation of US policy towards Iran to that of the European Union, in this particular respect that is reflected in the Bush statement, is against the interest of the Iranian government, which on one hand reduces and limits the maneuver power of the Islamic Republic, and intensifies the political crisis within the Iranian regime when it comes to determine the country's policy towards Europe and US, on the other hand..

Along with all of this, it may not be a bad idea to take a look at the reactions of the right wing reformist groups within the opposition; groups that summarize all the social problems in the disagreements between government factions and the demands and wishes of people in the goals and wishes of bourgeoisie. Forces that use every efforts to preserve the structure of the existing system untouched and safe from workers offense, and in short, forces that their main mission is to sabotage people's movements and to rally people in support the government and the wishes of bourgeoisie. These groups of course, were pleased by the Bush's statement, welcomed it, and persuaded others to welcome it. They received the statement as the wishes of freedom fighters and people of Iran and considered it international support for people of Iran. In brief it should be said that the same reasons and motives that worry Mr. Bush and alike along with all other local and international owners of capital, have brought panic and concerns to these groups.

While people have lost faith in government reformists, and have turned to civil unrest and street demonstrations, when the society has been, for some time now, at the threshold of social explosion, it is quite obvious why Mr. Bush's message and efforts, which are intended to prevent such an explosion, should cheer up these true masters of conspiracy and conciliation. Those who have repeatedly stated their opposition against radical uprising and workers revolution, would certainly applause for Mr. Bush's message, which its main emphasis is to safeguard the de facto system, welcome it and are thankful for it as if a blessings from American sky. Such people are unaware that the path to revolutions and great social explosions are the cross roads of particular class contradictions and this path will not be blocked by such behavior.

"National Agreement", Reality or A Dream?

Regardless of the will of state leaders, political and economic crisis are deepening daily. Economic and living difficulties and pressures are increasing daily. The social problems that the ruling regime has caused for workers and toilers and other strata of people are daily extending. The project of state "reformers" and the era of Khatami's presidency that were considered to be solution to problems have not solved the crises. They have not removed countless problems and difficulties of the toiling people and the whole of the society. They have in fact extended, deepened and intensified the crises. The great social explosion, manifested in local uprisings, youth and women's protests, teachers demonstrations and

strikes, particularly repetitive and numerous workers rallies and strikes, that the mentioned project was principally designed to delay and prevent, still do not let the rulers and the ruling class rest peacefully. Now, it is not only the communists and revolutionary left forces that speak of the dead-end for the regime and state factions; political crisis, crisis of power and that an explosion at the bottom can result in acute and deadly consequences for the ruling system. The situation is so acute that the defenders of the existing system too constantly point out those problems and are working hard to take the regime out of the dead-end and the crisis and save the existing system. They are dreaming of combining in a "great front"; and with establishing a "national agreement"! open a route to save the existing system. Occurrence of a social explosion and the framework of the capitalist system coming under attack by the exploited and the poor have terrified the various layers of internal capitalists. That fear has also terrified their foreign partners. The international bourgeoisie, that for some time, only supported Khatami's current, without having removed that support or given up hope in Khatami, now also counts on the other wings of the bourgeoisie- inside or outside the ruling circle, especially those that pursue the realisation of their programmes within the framework of the Islamic republic regime and has let them on the playing field.

That is why Ebrahim -e- Yazdi, general secretary of Freedom Movement, after many months of residence in USA returns to Iran during the arrests and prosecution of the members of Freedom Movement; and meets Koroobi, the boss of the parliament. Yazdi while warning Koroobi about the danger of "revolution" and "destruction of the regime" reiterates the necessity for achieving a "national agreement".

The following are a summary of Mr Ebrahim -e- Yazdi's talks with the reporters of Isna and Irana. "The society faces numerous crises, particularly growing political and economic crisis. Continuation of the existing situation and "political obstruction" (meaning political crisis) harm the existing system. Tensions do not allow economic activities to take place. Political tensions do not allow foreign capital to be absorbed and internal capitalists too do not show willingness to invest. Reformist movement cannot, nor can push for elimination of conservatives. Conservatives too cannot eliminate the reformist movement and must accept the other's presence. In relations of power, no institution, which has the upper hand, exists (crisis of power!). Instead of grinding down their own forces in confronting one another, these wings must reconcile, tolerate each other and reduce tensions. Conservatives are not homogenous. Contrary to thoughtless conservatives and their extremists, thoughtful conservatives are beginning to realise the necessity for achieving "national agreement". We must hope that the latter would become the dominant tendency among conservatives. Among the reformist currents too, there are those, who due to disappointment, may resort to extremist actions and radicalise the political atmosphere of the society. Reformists and conservatives while harnessing these extremist tendencies on both sides must hold discussions with the reformists who are outside the regime (such as Freedom Movement and National-Religious forces) and accept movement within the framework of the constitution. Such they can reduce the political crisis and by establishing a national agreement remove the danger of revolution."

Yazdi also added, there is no alternative other than reformist and conservative forces, within and outside the regime, reaching a national agreement. Yazdi had arrived at the parliament, a day after his 12th session of being interrogated and held discussions with Koroobi on the subject. While praising the parliament's boss, he said that Koroobi, the parliament's boss, was in agreement with his analysis and agreed with the necessity to achieve a "national agreement". He said there is co-ordination and collective sum-up between the views of Freedom Movement and Koroobi.

These statements and solutions for the crisis stricken system are not limited to words and attempts of Yazdi. Mr Paymun, leader of "Fighting Moslems Crowd", in his discussions with Isna news agency has also stated similar words. He too, while referring to numerous internal problems, reiterates the need for overcoming them and "establishing and consolidating internal unity". He advises the regime, in the first place to think of solving multi-faceted internal problems and crises if it wants to withstand foreign threats. He advises the regime, to achieve unity and consolidation, the regime must pay attention to those who respect the constitutional law and think of "national interests". Mr Paymun too presents a similar analysis of the conservatives. He considers it natural for the thoughtful conservatives to be close to national-religious groups that support religious supervision and not the authority of religious institutions. On getting out of the crisis, he says a combination should be created, that while maintaining above-time and place religious values, leaves a free territory for the society to make decisions. He says creation of a safe atmosphere under the rule of law for discussion without elimination of one another is a common need. And he adds that "stability" for the system would be facilitated when a "great front" of regime's wings and national-religious forces outside the regime is established. A front made up of thoughtful conservatives who do not like extremism and on the basis of tried and tested experience found their work on realism together with forces of 2nd of Khordad free of extremism which harms the system and or those who want to implement modernity without criticism and or considering local social and economic capacities, plus national-religious forces that consider "criticism of tradition and modernity". In addition to all of them, he mentions 2nd of Khordadies who from long time ago have spoken of the necessity of achieving "national agreement" among various bourgeoisie currents and layers, within and outside the regime. Among the Resalaties too that tendency is growing and getting strong. In that respect, for example we can refer to the words of Morteza Nabavi, the managing director of Resalat newspaper, who is a member of the System's Interest Determination Assembly. In a discussion with Isna news agency, he too expressed sorrow and worry about the lack of ability of "2nd of Khordad wing in solving problems and how that wing loses opportunities". At the same time, referring to the necessity of making changes and reforms relevant to time and to "gain acceptance" for his wing, apart from the currents such as Organisation of Islamic Revolution Mojahedin and partly the Partnership Party that in his opinion are preparing for "removing holiness" and have spoken about changing the constitutional law and or put pressure on the president in that respect, called the other forces of 2nd of Khordad "nationalist groups" and like other spokespersons of the bourgeoisie insisted on the constitutional law as the "national contract". At the same time he condemned "aggressive or extreme" approaches of currents attached to his wing and said instead they should work on "national objectives". But the most important part of his speech was about the national-religious forces and the positive views he presented on those forces. He said: "Evidence of faith of the national-religious forces in the system and national contract have been found. These forces have rejected discussions with USA at this juncture, have recognised and declared the realities and existence of the system". Finally speaking about the "contract", he did not deny his wing being close to those forces. On the contrary he said they are of the same opinion concerning more general problems and reiterated that at present the "pivot of agreement" is "national zeal"!

It is not accidental that the managing director of Resalat newspaper uses terms like "national groups", "national contract" and "national objectives". It is not accidental either that he does not speak of Islamism and the Rule of Supreme Ayatollah; or "national zeal" gets promoted to being the "pivot of agreement". The truth is that this wing too (or at least a section of it) considers the "national agreement" to be the solution that would save the capitalist Islamic republic regime. At the same time this proves the reality that should the interests of the whole capitalist system be at stake and danger of destruction of the old relations loom, the clerical

bourgeoisie too can line up with the other layers of bourgeoisie quickly and even forsake its ideological and religious principals and foundations.

The principle is that fundamental interests of the capitalist class require various wings getting closer to each other and the strategy of "national agreement". Although "national agreement" is a reality that has been placed on the agenda of various wings inside and outside the regime by bourgeois thinkers, it must be considered that this project would not traverse a smooth route, as a lot of contradictions and differences still operate. On the unevenness of this route suffice to say that, firstly, the general secretary of Freedom Movement who is one of the main designers of "national agreement", a day before meeting the boss of parliament and discussing "agreement" was compelled to answer a four hour interrogation session. Secondly, and more important than the first, assuming the "national agreement" strategy is finally realised, the assumption that that "agreement" would resolve the political-economic crisis, rescues the Islamic republic, the ruling system and removes the problems of society is nothing but a dream. Political-economic crisis and social problems cannot be resolved by some manoeuvres in the framework of the constitutional law and Islamic republic regime. Furthermore they cannot even be resolved at root within the framework of a liberal and non-religious system.

All "agreements" and bourgeois solutions (from any layer of it) are inclined towards prevention of and blocking the fundamental solution. The sole root solution of political and economic crisis and the sole resolute solution to all social ills is the overthrow of the totality of the Islamic republic by a workers revolution and demolition of the old political relations and infrastructure. With establishment of soviet state and new relations, the preliminary fundamental changes in the interest of workers and toilers would take place!

The crisis is deeper than they imagine

"The Islamic Iran Participation Front" is the main political group that supports Khatami. It came to existence with grandiloquent claims about reforms and democratization of Islamic Republic. It openly admitted the defeat by publishing a statement during the third congress in July and fired it's last bullet which is an ultimatum that it will leave the government. From the beginning, the statement points to incessant crises faced by the Islamic Republic, forewarns all heads of the state and the influential that the bitter consequences of these crises are predictable and probably will lead to an irreversible situation. The statement then goes on to explain various crises facing the regime and says: "the first and the most important crisis we are facing which is the root cause of majority of other crises is the crisis of legitimacy or to be precise it is the crisis of credibility." "This crisis shows itself in various forms of how the trust in officials are viewed, legal chasm; that is the degree of rejection of laws, the possibility of reasonable access to governmental posts, the question of justice, freedom and ..." and proves them by referring to government statistics and reaches the conclusion that the most important axis of this crises can be explained "when at all possible the best brains in the power structure are stopped and the power cast is limited to 2000 people which are all friends and relatives, the result will be nothing but the aforesaid chasm." The political importance of this part of the statement is that the main political group of a faction in the government that now controls the legislative and executive branches now openly admits that the Islamic Republic is politically bankrupt and lacks credibility among the Iranian people. The crisis of "legitimacy" or the "crisis of credibility" means nothing but this. Nevertheless, this crisis is neither the regime's main crisis and nor they are the solution that can rescue the regime. The political crises faced by the regime, is a crisis beyond these small matters. In other words, this crisis is part of a

general crisis that is an all-encompassing political crisis that has gripped the existing system in its entirety. The problem here is not only limited to whether the regime is respected by the masses or not? Whether the power is backed by support of the people and their votes or not? Whether the power cast is comprised of 2000 families or for instance 10000? There have been and are many regimes in the entire world that lack any political legitimacy and credibility but have ruled many years with force and bayonet, without facing serious crises. However, these regimes at some stages faced the legitimacy question by the people and experienced serious political crises. The recent history of Iran is in front of us. With what legitimacy Reza Khan ruled Iran for 20 years. Of course, his legitimacy stemmed from the barrel of his gun. Reza Khan's son came to power against the will of the people and with an American-British engineered coup. What legitimacy did he have to rule Iran for a quarter of a century? But this regime, if we don't take into account the less severe crises before the reform, encountered the legitimacy crisis only in the first years of the second half of the 70s and faced a very severe crisis, which resulted in its downfall. Islamic Republic is another example. This regime encountered a severe crisis in 79-80 soon after it came to power. This crisis has distinct causes. The Iranian masses under the pressure of concrete social needs which conformed to their needs and demands, turned to rebel and revolution against the shah. But many years of open dictatorship prevented the workers and toilers from gaining consciousness about their interest, recognize their friends and foes and as an organized power complete the revolutions victoriously. Domestic and international bourgeoisie faced with the storm of the revolution in Iran used this weakness of the masses and to suppress the revolution, resorted to Islamic reactionary. In a wink of an eye, created the leader Imam Khomeini from a famous reactionary and the masses that had been kept ignorant and submissive, due to credulity and lack of consciousness, trusted him. This is how, the Islamic anti-revolutionary blocked the revolution. But the Islamic anti revolutionary was able to play such a role, at the peak of the revolution of the Iranian masses because it confronted the revolution in the name of revolution. But it was enough for shah's regime to be overthrown for the illusions to rapidly clear. Revolution had no other meaning for the Iranian masses but the overthrow of the entire current rule. But "revolution" of Islamic nature was the preservation of the existing system and whatever is old and reactionary. Guardians of the existing system confronted people everywhere and prevented change. The workers and toiling masses, that had gained experience during the course of the revolution and were gaining consciousness quickly, were losing trust of the regime and like avalanche separating them from it. Dissatisfaction and open protest and direct campaigns were spreading constantly. Revolution fervor had not subsided yet when a new political crisis took form. The probability of people resorting to another uprising and revolution to rescue the revolution was increasing. The Islamic Republic that saw itself facing a serious crisis, cast all covers aside and overcame the crisis with a bloody oppression, by killing thousands of Iranian people, imprisoning tens of thousands and establishing a comprehensive repression and without having any political respect among the majority of the people or to phrase it in current language, without any political legitimacy, governed for more than a decade without a serious crisis. This reality should be known better than anyone else to yesterday's Hezbollah and the so-called Islamic-liberals of today. Therefore, today it has been years that the Islamic Republic regime has been devoid of any political credibility among the people of Iran. What exists today is a crisis beyond all of this. This crisis emanates from the same contradictions that culminated in the revolution of the people and the downfall of the monarchy. Since these contradictions were not resolved during the revolution and have been aggravated with the defeat of the revolution and the establishment of Islamic reactionary, Thus, it is natural that those crises. This crisis reappeared at the beginning of the 90's and today it has gripped all organs of the economic - social and political system to the point that it has become the pivotal problem of the ruling government. This crisis, the one which all efforts of the regime and it's factions attempt to

curb and subjugate it has failed, cannot be resolved with reforms of the current system nor with repression and violence. The solution to this crisis first is the destruction of the superstructure of the existing system that has blocked all avenues of change. The existing political structure in Iran has become an obstacle from two sides and has created unsolvable contradictions. Iranian society is capitalism and the bourgeois relations of production is the prevalent mode of production, but the political superstructure that guards this relation, is mixed with middle-aged institutions and establishments. Religious government is itself a solid contradiction. This government is an electuary of knocked together bourgeois and middle-aged establishments and institutions. The religious government not only has deprived people of Iran from their rights and political freedom, has not only resorted to oppression and repression, but also has deprived people from their human rights. It does not recognize the equality of the humans even in the legal forms. Women are one example, in a larger scale. Religious minorities are other examples on a smaller scale. Obstacles created by this structure results in contradiction that with the campaign of the people against this structure takes a conscious form for itself. The more intense the resistance of this superstructure against changes and realization of the demands of the masses of people, the forms of campaign against it will be rougher and the reconciliation will be more certain. In Iran not only because of the role of the working class in the general campaign but also because of a separate campaign of this class against the bourgeois relations, the settlement with the political-civil superstructure, ideological, will be more radical, more certain. The working class wants to destroy the old and reactionary capitalist relations in Iran. The existing superstructure protects these relations, thus this superstructure also plays the impeding and reactionary role against changes. Therefore, this campaign of the working class to overthrow the capitalist system will not be able to accomplish its goal unless this class destructs, the entire political superstructure is removed. By removing this obstacle reach the goals of the social revolution. So when these two powerful currents have targeted the political superstructure campaign and we saw this during the downfall of the shah's regime, this crisis cannot be overcome with reforming the superstructure. Even though the consciousness of the people has not reached the levels required to destruct this superstructure with a revolution, but as the statement confesses the power of the regime, its organs and institutions have come under serious question. People easily ignore and trample rules and laws of the regime. Shout slogans against heads of the regime and ridicule government officials. Pity their sacred values. The statements somewhere else expresses that the downfall of this superstructure in its entirety has begun. Where it alludes to crisis of identity and religious convictions, it says "in no other historical epochs in Iran, the ineptness of these institutions and the crises have ever been credited to clergy to this degree" and "this process is also valid regarding the interaction with Islamic values which has seriously endangered the position of religion and spirituality in the society entirely". That is just the beginning. The oppression that especially in recent years has been inflicted on the people of Iran by the rule of the Islamic Republic, the clerical system, and the calamities created by Islam is so terrible that we must wait for the definite reconciliation of the people with the clerical apparatus and religion, during the process of the overthrow of Islamic government. We can expect that the people of Iran during their future revolution, like the great revolution in France and Russia, settle scores with these remains of the middle ages in the most radical way. Resorting to open and direct campaign against the Islamic Republic regime, the campaign that has intensified incessantly in recent years and in tandem with it the deepening of the existing political crisis, has culminated in the aggravation of the internal contradictions of the ruling government, ever increasing debility and weakening of its factions, state crisis and the appearance of a chasm in the government apparatus. In fact the problem is such that when at the end of the 80s and the beginning of the 90s the outbreak of a series of revolts by the masses, revealed the first signs of the crisis and the ineffectiveness of previous methods in dealing with the new condition became obvious, a group in the ruling

government realized that they cannot rule with the past methods. To overcome the crisis they devised new tactics so by reforming the political superstructure, rescue the existing socio-economic and political system. But the other faction insisted on the past methods and tactics. Eventually under the pressure of the crisis, Khatami became the president, not to accomplish any thing but to demonstrate the ineffectiveness and the defeat of this tactic against the crisis. From the beginning, he was under pressure from both sides. As soon as he wanted to move forward half a step, the masses that wished the demise of the existing rule, would move forward several steps. But these tactics and reforms were supposed to overcome and control the crisis, consequently Khatami and the so-called reformist faction would step back frightened. These retreats took place by requesting help from armed forces under the command of the competing faction to oppress the masses, strengthened the position of the competing faction. "Reformists" fearful of advances of the masses constantly had to retreat, more and more had to give in to the demands of the other faction and clear the way for their next assaults. This means the intensification of the ever-increasing contradiction between the two factions, the intensification of the crisis within the rulers to the state of appearance of a chasm in the government. This in itself is another way of expressing the revolutionary character of the existing political crisis and inability of both factions to overcome it. The Participation Front without being cognizant of this, emphasizes this character of the existing political crisis in the statement and says: "The chasm between the people and government is currently transferred to within the power base and government." And goes on to say that this situation has culminated in ever-increasing ineffectiveness of the regime and both factions. "Continuation of this situation culminates in concurrent ineffectiveness of reforms and their opponents." All these realities demonstrate that there is a crisis of power in Iran. Neither this faction can govern nor the other. Because they cannot resolve the situation. Have no solution for the problems and needs of the society. The policies of both factions have failed. They themselves frankly mention it in the statement that the current situation can be compared to political paralysis where neither side in this situation is able to advance." The bourgeois groups outside the government are in no better shape than the ruling factions. They have no solution for the immediate needs and demands of the masses. Khatami and the so-called reformist factions were their hopes, have not had, and do not have any thing to offer but to support his programs. The existing crisis needs a revolutionary solution by revolutionary power. But since the working class is not in the position to seize the power and resolve the crisis in a revolutionary manner, the crisis of power remains an unresolved problem and while it has given the regime and its factions the opportunity to, despite the existence of the crises, continue to survive and at the same time confess their inabilities. The Participation Front's statement, finally after enumerating various regime's crises and obstacle's to "reforms" concludes that "continuing with the existing situation the continuation and progress of reform affairs is logically not imaginable" as if something called "reforms have existed that continuation and progress" of them is not possible. But which is the difficulty? The statement replies, " our main problem has been lack of inclination of political structure." After 5 years of claiming reforms, they now say there in no possibility of reforms in Islamic Republic in a diplomatic language. "Political structure" is not flexible. As if they did not take part in creating this structure and have been unaware of its characters! But then what? And now "the time has come for the reform movement to make fundamental changes in their policies and tactics." Meaning what it will do? Give ultimatums, that if power mongers do not condescend, "there will be no alternative but to pull out reformer's capital from the existing structure." This just like the reform in Iran under the rule of the Islamic Republic motto is nothing but an empty canon. Which reformers? Who is reformist? Imagine that one of these 'reformers" is a Majmaa Rohanioon (Combatant Clergy). The other is Kargozaran whose most radical member is Mr. Mohajerani who maintains that Participatation Front's motto as the rejection of national reconciliation. The third is the Hezb Eslami Kar (Islamic Work Party) and its

affiliated political shops whose inclination is more towards Khamenei's faction. The rest are about the same others. The exodus or stay of a few will not change anything. They know this better than anyone else does. This is another demagogy like the possibility of reform within the Islamic Republic kind. There is no solution for the salvation of Islamic Republic. The campaign will continue at the bottom, and conflict and chasm at the top, until the political crisis reaches the level in growth that masses of workers and toilers in Iran resort to revolution and with one general political strike and armed uprising, throw the Islamic Republic to the same trash bin of history that they did the monarchy regime and with the establishment of a soviet state in which for the first time in the history of Iran, people will control their own destiny, and fulfill its human demands and superior goals.

IRAN NEWS

PROTEST GATHERING OF BAHMAN SHOE WORKERS

It is a while that there are some roomers about modifying the current Labour Law. Capitalists and their supportive government are attempting to change the law so that employers get new means to dismiss workers without any judicial barriers. This matter, has caused a wide spread protest by the workers. Duly the workers of Bahman Shoe in city of Semnan gathered in front of factory in order to protest and called for other workers to do the same.

PROTEST BY EMPLOYEES OF SARAHS GAS REFINERY

A group of families of local employees gathered in front of Sarakhs Gas Town 2 and demanded that 100 of company's houses should be provided to them. Due to this protest action, the executive director of the company promised them to be provided by 30 houses. 10 days later, in protest against such unacceptable solution, 100 families of employees occupied 100 houses.

PROTEST GATHERING OF BREAD BAKER WORKERS

Due to the issued directive by the Central Office for Regional Grain that order all the bread bakery to work in three shifts in city of Sanandadj, more than 1000 bread bakery workers gathered in front of the office of Bread Bakers' Association - Sanandadj and suborn. According to this directive, the workers have to bake bread three times a day, once between 6-9 a.m., second between 12-15 p.m and for the third time between 18-21 p.m. the workers are severely against this directive and demanded withdrawal of it.