



IRAQ: A HEADACHE FOR US IMPERIALISM

As it was expected, after re-election of George Bush to the presidency of US, he started from the very beginning to intensify military suppressive policies in order to cover US failures in Iraq.

When US imperialism planned to occupy Iraq by military means in order to reach the goal of owning all the resources in Middle East, the American Government thought it would overthrow Saddam and after some months of occupation there will be a settlement so they could continue with their agenda. That is why as soon as Saddam's statues



were pulled to the ground, George Bush as US president announced the end of the war and congratulated the soldiers for vic-

tory. But that calculation went wrong.

Instead of stability that the Americans expected in Iraq, tensions and conflicts as well as resistance of people against occupiers intensified on daily bases.

The reason for such miscalculation is that the masses do not count in reactionary calculations.

What counts is actually quality and quantity of weapons and number of military forces.

All the published documents during the preparation for attack against Iraq, do not indicate any discussion on how the people of Iraq will be react to the invasion and which roll they would play.

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ATTEMPTS AND CON-TRICKS FOR THE NINTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

There are just few months left to the presidential election and once again factions within the Islamic Republic have been active manufacturing burning issues in order to get more votes at the polls.

The rise and fall of hope in reforming the Islamic Republic has only showed one thing- In a country that principally Valiye Faghih (supreme leader) is the "representative of god on earth"; people like president



and parliament representatives are no one and can not lead any changes in the society, not even small ones.

The reason is that under current circumstances, the organs like Council of Guardians and Supervising Delegations choose some persons from among the most faithful and devoted supporters of the regime, in order to make one of them to be elected by the people

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later.

Such a method, appointment rather than election, removes the mask off the election process. But this is not the end of appointment before election.

Even if a president gets the post after so many filters, he should seek the approval of the Supreme Leadership before seeking approval from the people; and if they are parliament representatives and want to legislate a law, there are Council of Guardians and the Forum for Consideration who are directly or indirectly appointed by the Supreme Leader, they have the power to veto any decision or law made by parliament.

These are the facts that have once again been proved and exhibited clearly during the last two terms of Khatami's presidency and the Sixth parliament.

Until now, all the statements made by the representatives of both factions within the Islamic regime, indicate that for the ninth presidential election there are two main candidates.

One from each faction and several other pretending candidates will appear in order to make the show as realistic as possible.

There are some common points that both factions agree on. Between them, both want to use all they have at hand to gather as many votes at the polls in order to "legitimise" the whole

system of the Islamic regime.

They do not either talk about the economic policies for the forthcoming government, and in case if they mention some thing, they maintain the same plans as the last 16 years should be continued, i.e. implementation of the International Monetary Fund and International Bank's orders for pushing forward privatisation and destroying the most fundamental rights of workers.

But the faction supporting the Supreme Leader and "June-front" who has newly changed its name to Reform Front, due to losing face by failure of attempts and lies for reforms during the last two mandate periods of Khatami, have some differentiated goals as well.

The faction supporting the Supreme Leader is attempting to get even the president's post in order to have full control of the whole Islamic regime. The "Reformist" faction is attempting to maintain the presidential post in order to have some executive power and by that, stop being thrown outside the ring of the regime and not to have the same faith as the half-legal opposition of the Islamic regime such as the Free Movement.

The Supreme Leader's faction has no problem finding the final and main candidate, because it is certain that he would pass through all the filters.

As Khatami says, he would obey the orders

from above and "as in show" participates in meetings.

This faction, until now, has presented some names such as: Ali Akbar Velayati, Ali Laridjani and Mahmood Ahmadi Nezhad, and Mohsen Rezai as independent candidate.

Ali Akbar Velayati, former Minister for External Affairs and Khamenei's present adviser on International Issues, Ali Laridjani, former chief of Islamic Republic's TV and Radio who is always appointed by the "Supreme Leader", Mahmood Ahmadi Nezhad, present boss of Hezbollah Municipal of Tehran and Mohsen Rezai, present Head of the Forum for Consideration. Each of these candidates is better than the other in order to become the "understood" president of the Supreme Leader and make the presidential yard a safer place for this faction.

WORKING CLASS LEADERSHIP IS THE GUARANTEE OF THE VICTORY OF THE ANTI IMPERIALIST/ DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES OF PEOPLES OF IRAN

The "Reformist" fraction that failed to get Mir Hossein Mosavi to be a candidate, is not

considering choosing so the called more radical faces than him because the experience of Seventh Parliament's Elections proved that introducing radical candidates is equal to having nominations rejected.

This Front, with shaking knees, is going toward asking Mehdi Karoubi or Moustafa Moin. But there is a problem, Rasoul Montakhab Niya, member of Central council for Revolutionary Clergy Forum, one of the main groups in the Reform Front says Karoubi is "the only candidate" from that organization.

At the same time, Khatami, Chairman of Cooperation Front of Islamic Iran, says, "Dr. Moin has been chosen as the first and main candidate and he will remain our candidate to the end.

He has been chosen on the bases of a wide analyses and evaluation of social and political situation of the country and on the bases of considering the gathered wishes within the Reform Front and on the bases of considering the current balance within the regime".

Khatami names Moin as the first and last candidate, even though there are some murmurs that he will be rejected, and though the rival fraction is not satisfied by his part in 18th Tir events and his resignation duly.

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According to US imperialism, the victory would be achieved by winning the war and overthrowing Saddam.

The rest should be managed by a US-chosen government of Baa'th displeased activists, leaders of Kurdish nationalists of Iraq and pro-Islamic Republic fundamentalist.

But instead, exactly the factor that was not considered by Americans played a great roll in development of the political situation.

People's struggle and resistance have developed to several uprisings at present and in the war between people and occupiers one city takes over the other all the time.

20 months after declaring the end of the war, there is a real war going on and the number of American soldiers in Iraq is increasing.

Barbaric violence by the occupying forces against people of Iraq is spreading widely.

Military attack on the Foloujeh City by American military is just one example of massacre and barbarism of US against Iraqis. The city came under bombardment by American Air force during the early days.

Hundreds of

bombs of several tons destroyed large areas of the city and hundreds of women, men and children were buried under ruins. Due to siege of the city, all access to water and electricity was cut and there was



no access to food and medical facilities.

After all those barbaric acts, marine and artillery forces took over the city destroying all the houses and killing all they could get rid of.

The number of people killed is so great that even now there are many bodies left to be removed from the ruins. The head of the pro-American Government of Iraq announced the number of dead 2000 in his statement to the press.

Before this event, the occupying forces always announced that there is no resistance in Iraq.

That only Islamic terrorists belonging to Al-Qa'ade in Iraq are fighting against US. But

all the people killed are from Foloujeh.

Journalists asked the American puppet what happened to Islamic terrorists he was talking about. He replied they had escaped to other cities.

Aren't there any more obvious lies than this?

How is it possible that in a city which was surrounded by American military forces for a week, and all the roads in and out of the city were blocked, someone could escape?

Then who were those that fought the American soldiers for several days?

It is clear that the American puppet can not say that it was people of Foloujeh and not Islamic terrorists! He should say, by the order of his boss, the Islamic terrorists have escaped to other cities because there are other cities in Iraq in which people are organizing themselves to resist the occupiers.

Armed struggle in Baghdad, Mousel, Samereh and some other cities is still going on. Military attacks and massacre of people in those cities must have been excused!

US ruling regime and its leadership under Bush believe, falsely, that by intensifying suppression and massacre of Iraqis they can break down the resistance and as such bring victory and recover from their failure.

But even this type of barbarism can not rescue US imperialism and guarantee its victory.

By each suppression and massacre, there will be more intensified hatred towards occupiers and more resistance. US imperialism will be forced to station thousands of military forces in each city in order to take control, as they have done in Foloujeh and some other cities now.

But the problem is that stationing military forces has also its limitations.

USA cannot station one soldier for every Iraqi in the country.

Militarisation, suppression and barbarism of Americans brings greater and more crises to Iraq making it more difficult to govern the

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people.

During the current short period, we have witnessed that intensification of crises in Iraq, has lead to even high-ranking supporters and paid-offs of occupiers walking aside.

A large number of Iraqis, who due to poverty or lack of political awareness, in the beginning worked as paid-off armed forces of US, have escaped from police stations and army camps.

But this is not all and the end. The rift among American supported groups, Islamist supporters of Islamic Republic, Iraqi Kurd nationalist groups and Baa'th supporters participating in the current government, will get deeper and larger during the coming months, specially when US conducts the puppet election show in Iraq.

Thus even at this point, the situation is not in favour of USA.

As long as occupying forces are in Iraq there will be no improvement towards a stabile situation in Iraq.

Suppression and massacre of Iraqis by the occupying forces will intensify crises. Thus, Iraq will remain an unsolvable problem for US imperialism.

Attempts

On the same day, Mohsen Armin, speaker of Organization of Islamic Revolutionary Mojahedin, one of the Reform Front groups, stated in interview with IRNA: "Probability of Rafsandjani's participation in the election has resulted in a sever reaction from hard liners opposed to the government".

Armin added: "The leadership of hardliners opposed to reforms considers the presence of Hashemi Rafsandjani a threat to themselves and an obstacle to resting full power in the hands of their faction by unifying all the organs under the leadership of one faction".

The statement by Armin indicates that the Reform Front is attempting to bring Hashemi Rafsandjani into the ring in order to decrease the number of votes for the rival faction and in that way gain the post.

It seems that Armin and the reformists are considering themselves in the same position as they were before the last two mandate periods.

Let's say, Rafsandjani makes the "hardliners opposed to reforms" worried, is it so that the reformists have more support than the rival faction?

Isn't it a fact that when the reformists consider the Head of Forum for Consideration closer to themselves than to the rival faction, it makes

them lose legitimacy more than ever?

Let's not talk about the fact that nomination of a disgraced personality such as Rafsandjani, as symbol of Islamic regime's corruption, does not make the rival faction worried so much.

Even Ali Laridjani, a day before Armin being interviewed, stated that



if Rafsandjani comes to the ring and the Supreme Leader accepts him, he will fully support Rafsandjani.

During the last few days, other "reformists" who have presented a radical face during the last few years have come to the ring.

Concerning this matter, Moustafa Taj Zadeh said in city of Kermanshah: "as things are now and due to the current situation concerning elections in the society, it will be denying God's gift not to consider election issues".

Behroz Afkhami, film director and sixth P a r l i a m e n t ' s

representative, showed his interest by participating in organising the election campaign for Mehdi Karoubi on the same day.

As there is not any significant difference between the names nominated for the presidency by the Supreme Leader's faction, there is neither any significant difference among the rival fraction.

The only difference this time maybe- there is no choice between bad and worse, there is a competition between all the worse and the only way for the people is to boycott the election widely shaming the Islamic regime.

A burning shame that will remain with the regime until it death!

News from Iran

Imposed Temporary Contracts at Bushehr Nuclear Power Station

According to the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), management at Boushehr Nuclear power station has recently ordered workers to continue their work on temporary contracts from December 15th.

In the same internal memo workers have been threatened to accept the order, or else there would be no guarantees to continue being employed at the power station.

The decision has come against workers' vigorous protests.



Workers Protest and March

On November 11th two hundred workers of Naghshe Iran in city of Ghazvin picketed the plant and marched towards the city. The action was in protest against delayed wages and lay-offs. Recently 190 workers were laid-off and during past several months the workforce has been declining from 1100 to 360. While security forces tried to stop the marchers, management of the plant promised to pay workers delayed wages.

Strike at Alborz Coalmine

On November 8th miners of Alborz coal-mine downed tools in protest against privatization of the mine and hard working-conditions. Later on strikers picketed in front of Company's main office in the city of Savad Kouh demanding job-security and stopping strives towards privatization of the mine.

Workers Demonstrations at Province of Khuzestan

On November 21st, workers from various plants in the province of Khuzestan held a demonstration in protest against Parliament's "Temporary Employment" programme. In their final statement workers demanded stoppage of the programme. In the similar actions against

the same programme that took place in the province of Gilan workers rallied in several places.

Protests at Alyaf Textiles

On November 21st, workers of Alyaf Textiles went on strike and picketed in front of the main port blocking all traffic. These workers have at least 10 years work experiences, but they are still employed under temporary contracts. There is no hope to re-employ all the workers.

Workers Protest March

On November 20th, hundreds of workers of Behshahr Textiles gathered in front of the plant. The action was a protest against several months delayed wages, benefits and several un-answered complaints. Then strikers marched towards government offices chanting slogans for their demands. The action ended after some hours when workers were promised payment of delayed wages and improvement of working conditions.

Brief News from Iran

- In a protest letter, workers of Nakhnaz plant in the province of Gilan demanded payment of delayed wages and benefits. 115 workers at the plant have not been paid for last 7 months.

- Miners at Albrz coal-mine have warned Iran's president against privatization of the coal-mine. If the plans for privatisation are realised, 2500 miners will loose their work.

- Workers of car manufacturer plant of Iran Khodro in a statement

protested against Parliament's draft concerning "Temporary Employment". In their statement workers have demonstrated their solidarity with all Iranian workers struggle against the same draft law.

- On November 14th five young miners at Mahan coal-mine in the province of Mazandaran lost their lives as one of the tunnels got blocked by an explosion.

- On November 20th a young worker lost his life as the wall of a sewerage tunnel collapsed and another worker, who tried to save his workmate, lost his life.

- Farsh Gharb plant will be privatised. During last several months 500 workers have been laid-off and the last 300 are expecting their "dismissal notice" as soon as the plant is sold to a private capitalist.

Protest Action at Avangan

Workers at Avangan plant in the city of Arak went on strike in protest against privatisation of their plant. From November 20th workers have gathered at the plant chanting anti-privatisation slogans at the end of each day manifesting their resistance.

Workers Protest at Narges- e-Shiraz

Workers at natural plant-oil producer Narges-e-Shiraz in protest to their un-answered complaints and demands picketed on November 29th. After the action, the management promised rapid action to solve workers problems.

Workers Picket at "

Tak Cable"

On November 29th all the workers at Ta Cable went on strike. This was the second production stoppage against privatization of the plant. Workers gathered at "Worker's House" demanding job security and employment.

Workers Protest in City of Abadan

On December 14th, workers at Abe-hayat assembled in front of the company's main office in the city of Abadan. Workers demanded payment of 4 months delayed wages and benefits.

Protest at "Iran-Terme"

Workers at "Iran-Terme" plant in Ghom gathered at "Worker's House". Protesters were unhappy about their hard working conditions and meager wages.

Strike at Shahab Plant

On December 5th, night shift workers at Shahab textile factory in city of Sanandaj went on strike. Workers have not been paid wages and benefits for the last 2 months. After the action management promised to solve the problems and pay all delayed wages as soon as possible.

Brief News from Iran

- Shahab electronic plant had recently out-sourced production of some equipment. Consequently 30 workers are now facing dismissal and unemployment.

- 15 workers at Ekbatan plastic plant in city of Hamedan have recently lost

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their jobs after privatization of some sections of the plant.

- On November 29th two workers suffered gas poisoning and died in a 16 meters deep hole. Heroic attempts of a co-worker did not yield any result and consequently he also lost his life due to gas poisoning.

- On December 12th an Afghan worker died when he was excavating to make a pool.

- On December 14th a small merchant boat was wrecked and all the 10 sea workers on board lost their lives.

- 32 workers at Bolour plant (crystal manufacturing) have been suffering from uncertainty about their future during the last 2 years. After the owner's death they have lost their jobs. The courts have ruled they should be reinstated, but there is no sign of the dismissed workers being re-employed. Plus workers have no right to unemployment benefit.

- Shahab electronic plant has decided to lay-off its contract workers. These workers have at least 7 years work experience and worked under renewable 3 months contracts with no right to holidays.

- Workers at Sazmaye have not been paid for the last 3 months. The plant was privatized 5 years ago and during all those years workers have witnessed arbitrary dismissals.

- According to the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), working conditions at Pakdasht's plants are very unsafe and critical. 15% of workers suffer various work related accidents each year. Solely during the last year, 15 workers have lost one or both hands while working with samples weighting 100 tons.

- According to Mousavi Larijani, Iran's Interior Minister, more than 6,000 homeless persons live under bridges and ruins in the capital city of Tehran. And solely in the last 2 months, 80 homeless persons have lost their lives due to such

savage conditions.

Workers Strike

Workers at Khorram security-box manufacturer went on strike On December 20th. Strikers demanded payment of delayed wages and improvement of their safety equipments. Management had promised to improve health and safety, but after a long time there is no sign of promises being fulfilled.

25 Days Strike at Nakh Tala

From the last days of November, workers at Nakh Tala plant (thread manufacturing) in the city of Khomain went on strike. Finally after 25 days, the management promised to pay all delayed wages and asked workers to resume work. Strikers said they had no trust in management's promises and work would be resumed when their wages are paid.

Workers Strike at Kurdistan Textile

On December 20th, hundreds of workers at Kurdistan Textile went on strike. The action took place when 6 workers were laid off. Strikers demanded management's decisions no to be implemented and re-instatement of the sacked workers.

Protest march at Pars Iran

Workers at Pars Iran textile plant in the province of Gilan have not been paid for the last 8 months. The plant was closed a month ago due to power cut. All workers' efforts and protests to have their wages paid have been in vain. Now all 200 workers have decided to march from city of Rasht to the capital, Tehran, to protest and have their voices heard.

Metro Workers Protest

Maintenance workers at Iran's Metro are dissatisfied with their low wages and un-paid overtime work they do. 120 workers with more than 50 hours a month imposed overtime work earn around \$150 per month. And this is less than the official poverty line in Iran.

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Long Live Socialism

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