

# KOMONIST COMMUNIST

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## Editor's note

Following a long and heated debate within the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI), the majority of the members the Central Committee of the WPI in a statement issued on August 24, 2004, announced their resignation and the formation of the Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist.

For most of the members, supporters and those who had been following the progress of the WPI, this event was met with disbelief and disappointment. As it is the case with most political splits, the real differences take a while to become clear and manifest themselves in terms of political stance and practices.

Now, more than one year after the split, the WPI-Hekmatist Party has established itself as a credible, radical and a maximalist political entity. Against all the odds and in the face adverse difficulties the Hekmatist party has managed to repair some of the damages inflicted on the Worker-communism movement and raise the banner of Worker-communism and advocate and practice the kind of communist policies that were developed and practiced by Mansoor Hekmat.

The Middle East is in turmoil. Iran is on the verge of a major upheaval. The Islamic regime is on its last leg. All the political forces, both internal and external are intervening

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## One year on An interview with Koorosh Modarresi Leader of WPI-Hekmatist

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## On the anti-Israeli rhetoric of the Iranian president War: A divine blessing and saviour of Islam Soraya Shahabi

Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad, the new Iranian president, in an address to a conference held in Tehran entitled "A World without Zionism", declared that Israel should be wiped out off the map. No doubt that Ahmadi-Nejad himself and his colleagues have experience of mass murders and genocides. Soon after the Islamists came to power in Iran, they launched a campaign of mass murder of the atheists, "infidels", page 8

## Saddam's trial: Whose justice? Aman Kafa

What was demonstrated by the trial of Saddam Hussein in the presence of some reporters on October 19, 2005, was neither an act of justice nor did it bear any signs of power and victory of the people of Iraq against the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. Saddam's trial was merely another episode of the Iraq war – a scene where effectively the same players, though made up differently and in different costumes, re-played the same script in a rather "civilised" setting. But the court scene was still as sickening as the previous ones. page 7

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to shape the direction of the political development in Iran to their own advantage. A window of opportunity has opened up for the working class and the communists to challenge the bourgeois forces and start the process of a permanent revolution leading to the establishment of a socialist state.

With the publication of the **KOMONIST** we are resuming a vital element of our work; that is to inform the labour activists and the socialists around the world of the political situation in Iran from a communist perspective and try to promote the interests of the working class and all the issues surrounding the rights and well being of people of Iran. Furthermore, as an internationalist Party we are duty bound to intervene, wherever possible, in the struggles of the working class and endeavour to forge international solidarity.

It is our intension to, through this paper, mobilise the widest possible support for the struggles of the working class in Iran and strengthen international class solidarity.

### **Komonist**

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**Mansoor Hekmat  
English Works**

**<http://hekmat.public-archive.net/>**

## **Can we still rely on Lenin?**

### **A few words in commemoration of the October Revolution**

88 years ago, the working class in Russia, in a victorious revolution, managed to capture the political power and embark on a revolution to put an end to capitalism. Although their mission was not accomplished nevertheless their revolution touched the lives of hundreds of millions of people world wide and shaped their lives.

The October revolution was the product of the conscious will, efforts and the leadership of the communists who were committed to bringing about revolutionary changes in people's lives and putting an end to misery, war and hunger and strive to create a better world. The underlining factor in the victory of the October revolution was the belief and determination that people can restore their on conscious will and bring about changes and improvement.

88 years ago, in a backward part of the world, the communists embarked on an historic task that expropriated political power from the oppressors and brought capitalism to the brink of collapse. The underlining aim of the October revolution was to abolish private ownership, capitalism and exploitation, and to establish freedom and equality for all individuals. On the anniversary of the October revolution, there is nothing more fitting than to pledge to redouble our efforts to organise another October revolution.

Lenin as the architect of the October revolution occupies an especial place amongst the revolutionaries. His method, his teachings and his ceaseless struggle to build a better world, a socialist world, is an aspiration for the communists of today.

On this occasion we find it appropriate to reproduce a brief comment made by Mansoor Hekmat, the founder of the Worker-communism, in response to a question on the relevance of Leninism today, during a question and answer session over the internet on December 12, 2001.

### **Can we still rely on Lenin? Is Leninism still relevant?**

**Mansoor Hekmat:** Lenin, so far as he deals with a specific country in the context of a specific historic condition and puts forward certain premises, can not necessarily be generalised. However, Lenin, as someone who developed the idea of the communist revolution and the attainability of socialism, linking it to the seizure of political power by a communist party, in this regard he is a guiding figure for our party and has always been relevant to us. Lenin is the one who rescued Marxism from the evolutionist outlooks, and the idea that the world would wait until socialism sprung up, and linked socialism to the human practice and the political efforts of living people. Lenin's contribution was to realise this fact and make an attempt at the political power. If you base your judgment of Lenin, on the approval or disapproval of certain people of WPI's performance, you would empty Lenin of his real content. We have long departed from the notion that refers socialism to a distant future. We have stated that this party, during our time, will try to play such a role, and thus we are obliged to do so. Communism must move towards the seizure of political power in order to offer, a choice to the society and the working class, to emerge with socialism from a revolutionary development. Lenin's method is more than ever indispensable.

*[Translated from "Mansoor Hekmat, Selected Works, Farsi edition, page 1708, published by WPI-Hekmatist, 2005]*

## One year on

*The following is the translated transcript of an interview conducted by Mostafa Asadpour, the host of the WPI-Hekmatist satellite TV programme, Parto, with Koorosh Modarresi, the leader of the WPI-Hekmatist on the first anniversary of the formation of the WPI-Hekmatist. One year after the split within the WPI, this interview provides a sober assessment of the events that led to split and sheds some lights on the seemingly spontaneous crisis. The interview also examines the performance and the achievements of the Hekmatist Party in the past twelve months. The interview was broadcast on September 9, 2005. [KOMONIST]*

**Mostafa Asadpour:** One year has past since the split within the Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI) and the formation of the Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist (WPI-Hekmatist). We talk to **Koorosh Modarresi** the leader of the WPI-Hekmatist and try to find out how they have performed, and scrutinise the Party to establish what sort of agenda it has set for itself.

Iran, in the past year, was the scene of a number of political events and changes. A number of political currents and parties came to forth. Where did the Hekmatist Party stand amongst these political currents and Parties and how did you fare?

**Koorosh Modarresi:** I will skip the background to the split and the developments within the WPI. I have dealt with this, in details, elsewhere. I will restrict myself to the political dimension of the split which your question refers to. Our Party was founded under a particular political condition. The political situation in Iran was very fluid and required direct, clear and revolutionary intervention and a Communist Party had to lead the people's struggle, unite the people and bring down the Islamic Republic. This was one fact. The other fact was that regardless of the nature of the differences within the WPI, we were faced with a new, politically and socially irresponsible phenomenon, uninterested in the unity of the Party, its activities and interventions. Any possibility of joint working was very callously rebuffed. This new phenomenon disregarded the Central Committee's terms of reference and trampled on all the Party's rules and procedures and declared an ideological jihad against us. We, in an attempt to rescue Mansoor Hekmat's line and our movement, were forced to part our path from this politically and socially objectionable development and form a new Party.

From the very beginning our Party was faced with enormous difficulties. Financially we were, and still are, under pressure. We left all the resources of the Party behind and had to build everything from scratch. Furthermore we were left with settling a large proportion of the WPI's debts which was accrued by us as personal loans. From the very beginning of our work we bore the cost of running two Parties.

Anyway, our Party was formed to address very fundamental political issues that had presented themselves to the communists. Now that I look back at the past year I think we should be proud of this Party, its achievements and the efforts of its cadres. Politically our Party managed, amidst the emergence of a wave of perplexity arising from the WPI problems, to uphold the radical banner of communism. Our Party is representing the interests of the communist revolution, the interests of humanity and did not trade the victory of the human emancipation in the emerging revolution in our society with the short term and petty interests of its own organisation.

Today our Party is a distinct current and a credible political, social and organisational entity, capable of facing the major challenges before us. We have overcome a difficult period and I believe the time has come for concerted and extensive political, practical and organisational advances.

**Mostafa Asadpour:** You pointed to an unwanted split; are you claiming to be continuing with the Worker-communism movement or are you following something different?

**Koorosh Modarresi:** I do not wish to dwell on the theoretical and conceptual aspects of our differences within the time constraint of this interview. The Worker-communist Party was always an amalgamation of two distinct tendencies. If one cares to trace the history of the WPI, from its inception to its demise, two distinct trends are apparent. One line was that of Mansoor Hekmat, and the other was the one that is represented by the traditional leftist currents prevalent in Iran. This traditional leftist current always comes to the forth



at critical junctures and serves the other classes and particularly nationalism. This leftist tendency has always existed in Iran.

Iran was undergoing changes and new developments were taking place. Mansoor Hekmat died and the balance of power tilted towards this traditional left within the WPI. The traditional left by nature, and historically, does not need to unite and organise and does not need an influential Party. For the traditional leftist tendency, disintegration of a Party is unimportant. They operate rather like a sect. Within this sect one can justify any nonsense. This is the cause of their irresponsible behaviour.

We have and still are following Mansoor Hekmat's line. Our claim is well documented and can easily be proven during the life of the WPI. We were forced to go our own way. The political situation in Iran had changed and new challenges had presented themselves. The Party had to respond and play its role otherwise it would have been eliminated as a communist political force, as is the case with the WPI. They are busy giving ride to HAKHA (the loony ultra nationalist exiled TV presenter claiming to overthrow the Islamic Republic single handedly and setting a date to fly back to Iran and seize power), Ganji (An ex-Islamic Guard turned journalist and politician) and the PEZHAK ( a fascist Kurdish group). [*Reference to the new WPI's leadership support for the " militant actions" of these individuals and group*]

We were representing Mansoor Hekmat's line and went our own way. So did the new leadership of the WPI. Neither of us had to choose a different path and rethink our views. They are going their own way and so are we. These two traditions existed in the WPI and we are both getting on with our business. They made co-existence impossible.

**Mostafa Asadpour:** Now that we look at the past year the differences and the distance between the WPI and Hekmatist Party seems wider. I wanted to ask you about the effects of the split vis-à-vis your activities. What has been the implication of the damage to the creditability of Mansoor Hekmat?

**Koorosh Modarresi:** Mansoor Hekmat represented a distinct approach to the human being. He was the embodiment of a different approach to politics and political differences. Mansoor Hekmat represented a civilised, humanist, non-sectarian, non-factional and at the same time radical and militant approach. This was the departing point from all other leftist groups who would take up arms against each other over any minor differences, or are "comrades" today and traitors and renegades tomorrow. Mansoor Hekmat created a hope that worker-communism can be different from this traditional left. The behaviour of the new leadership of the WPI first and foremost shattered this hope and optimism. The distinction with the traditional left disappeared. What is now remaining of worker-communism resembles everything but the Worker-communist Party. They look more like the marginalised Maoist groups. Their language and reasoning, their dealings with their opponents and us, bear all the hallmarks of the traditional leftists.

This was the most serious blow that we suffered. The damages inflicted on the WPI led to the sinking of this vessel of hope and optimism. What we did was to launch a boat, amidst the storm that was threatening the entire vessel, and rescue those who did not want to sink into the world of the backward, marginalised and factional leftist and turn into a sect happy to survive for ever in the margins of the society. Those who have boarded this boat, despite any differences of views that they may have, share one thing in common: they did not want to leave the fate of the society, the fate of the working class, the communism and the left to the kind of practice that has historically, both in Iran and other parts of the world, proven to be bankrupt. What we managed to rescue from collapse is obviously a gain but what we lost was the influence and credibility of communism and considerable human resources.

**Mostafa Asadpour:** Let us get back to the Hekmatist Party. In the light of what has happened how do you assess your activities and how would like the others to judge you?

**Koorosh Modarresi:** Firstly we are representing a distinct social and communist line. The policies and tactics that we adopt are in line with that developed by Mansoor Hekmat. We represent the same tradition and critical approach that Mansoor Hekmat had especially when he was dealing with the WPI and its leadership.

We should, within the context of the politics in Iran, follow a unique and "without buts and ifs" worker-communist policy. We must remain a radical and militant force with its feet on the ground. We must define victory and show the shortest and quickest way to lead the socialist movement and the human emancipation to victory. We must represent this brand of communism in all its aspects, especially theoretically, conceptually and as a movement. Today we have, to a certain extent, achieved this aim. We are commanding a great deal of



influence and support amongst the leftist activists and circles in Iran, who look up to us for direction. This is an important achievement.

But in practical terms we are facing a number of challenges. The major question before us remains to be whether we are able to build a real political party and provide the country with a credible political leadership or not. Can the current leadership build a mass Party capable of mobilising and uniting people around itself? Can this Party turn the current movement to overthrow the Islamic Republic to trigger the start of a permanent revolution towards a socialist revolution? Developing people's uprising into a move to launch a socialist revolution, in a same manner as Lenin did from February to October 1917? These are the major challenges before us.

We have several areas of strength. The renowned communist leaders in Kurdistan are with us. This is a major source of strength and power. Communism in Iran has only been capable of producing radical popular leaders in Kurdistan. This was one of the strengths of Mansoor Hekmat's line. This strength is now entirely with our Party. This Party can turn Kurdistan into a bulwark for communism instead of a bastion of nationalism.

With the formation of "Freedom Guards", we have laid the foundation of a strong Communist Party with great potentials to defend itself. Politics in Iran and specifically in Kurdistan is "armed". We must be able to build a strong Party with military might and potential capable of repelling the aggression of the armed Islamic, ethnic, fascists and political gangsters against the basic rights of people and the foundations of the civil society. We must make anyone, who intends to violate human integrity, freedom and equality, think twice before putting his intension into practice.

The day that we decided to go our own way, we declared that we will leave all the resources behind but will take Mansoor Hekmat's line with us. And that is what we did.

We have influence over leftist circles in Iran. As with other parts of the world these groups and circles are connected to wider communists' groupings, to the wider network of labour activists and the labour movements and will provide us with a launch pad to the wider labour and communist movement in the country.

These are our strength. We have overcome a difficult period. The time has come for a new round of offensive against the right and the traditional left, and anyone who stands in the way of freedom and the ideals of communism. We must embark on a political and organisational offensive to unite and organise people. The immediate challenge facing us is to build a political party and provide leadership in the society to topple the Islamic Republic as the first step in accomplishing the socialist revolution.

**Mostafa Asadpour:** Mansoor Hekmat talked about a window of opportunity for the victory of communism. The condition has changed now. The political situation has changed in Iran and Mansoor Hekmat's image has been tarnished. Is the victory of communism in Iran still tenable?

**Koorosh Modarresi:** In my opinion this window still exists and is still open. This is mainly due to our Party. Today due to the Party's influence in Kurdistan, a great opportunity has opened up to us, a door. There is this opportunity for our communism, Mansoor Hekmat's communism, to become the main political power in Kurdistan in short space of time changing the political map of Kurdistan, moving on to change the face of politics in Iran.

In the rest of the country our influence over the leftist circles has opened up a new window of opportunity for us, for the left and for the libertarian movement in Iran. Now that we look at these two parameters the window that Mansoor Hekmat had referred to is still open, albeit in a different circumstance. In Kurdistan this window is now wider but in the rest of the country it has narrowed. However it is still open.

Whether we are successful in making use of these opportunities depends on how we are delivering on the tasks that we have set for ourselves. If we resolve, without hesitation, to undertake the kind of work that would enable us to realise these opportunities, we would be able to advance our cause. The mere existence of such an opportunity is very exciting. Such an opportunity rarely presents itself to the communists. We must value this. We do have a chance to bring about improvement to the lives of millions of people and liberate them from the yoke of exploitation and the lack of rights. The opportunity of playing a role in making this happen is exhilarating.

## Freedom Guards

Resolution adopted by the third plenum of the Central Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist, October 2005.

The third plenum of the Central Committee of the WPI-Hekmatist adopted the following as the basis of Freedom Guards:

1- Given that:

- a) The perpetual danger of destruction of the foundations of the civil life and “Iraqisation” of the society in Iran - in the process of ousting or after the fall of the Islamic Republic - by the armed Islamic bandits, tribal and political gangsters and also through military intervention of US and its allies;
- b) a large section of the political forces opposed to the Islamic Republic, as well as the tribal and religious bandits, are armed and have given a military dimension to the politics in Iran. Moreover, the right-wing opposition of the Islamic Republic and the US and Western governments have opted to promote ethnic federalism in Iran, escalating the danger of the “dark scenario” and “Iraqisation” of the society in Iran;
- c) the bourgeois opposition and the religious and tribal gangs can resort to military action in resolving their differences and dealing with other political parties and movements, and in particular the working class and freedom seeking movement; and the experience in Iran and Iraq and other parts of the world confirms this;
- d) in Kurdistan, the relationships between people and the Islamic Republic, and among the political parties and towards the people, have had a military dimension or will rapidly take such a dimension, and any serious political force without the potential for military action will not be able to play an effective role in the political arena;
- e) the Party must develop the ability to repel such dangers with force, in order to guarantee the security and freedom of people and safeguard the foundations of the society. The Party must build an armed organisation compatible with the people’s living condition and be able to intervene effectively across Iran.

Therefore:

Having the capacity and military power is vital and the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist forms the “Freedom Guards” as a comprehensive response to such a situation.

2- The Freedom Guards is the armed force of the Worker-communist Party of Iran- Hekmatist, and is being organised as the military wing of the party to promote aims, objectives and the program of the Party. The immediate aim of this force is to provide military power in the service of the Party, working class and revolutionary people to defend freedom and political and social stability in the country..

3- The Freedom Guards is the basis of general arming of people and the formation of mass militia, is one of the main ways of organising the youth and people, especially in localities and cities.

4- under the present circumstances, considering the Party’s position and the specific political situation in Kurdistan - where parties without military potential stand no chance of success - the task of forming the Freedom Guards has become an is an urgent duty of the Party in Kurdistan. This force in Kurdistan has, in addition, the duty of protecting the communist leaders and the Party’s operation from the attacks and harassments perpetrated by the Islamic Republic and/or other armed groups.

5- The Party will gradually and according to a detailed plan organises the Freedom Guards in other parts of Iran.

6- The Freedom Guards in every region comes under the respective regional Party organisation, and its command hierarchy will be determined by the Party’s committee in that region.

7- The Freedom Guards operates under a united central command structure. The national commander of the Freedom Guards is proposed by the Party leader and endorsed by the political Bureau. The national commander of the Freedom Guards will serve the Party leader’s military deputy and operates under the Party leader’s authority.



8- The units of the Freedom Guards will be organised in places where people work and live and generally in the cities. In addition, where necessary, the Freedom Guards can organise disciplined and mobile units. The political situation and the needs of the Party determines whether the armed units operate openly or clandestinely.

9- In areas where political suppression rules the units of the Freedom Guards are separate from the Party organisation. Under such circumstances detached units are directly linked to the command centre.

10- Membership of the Freedom Guards, like membership of the Party, is open to all individuals and their acceptance by the Party committee.

11- Membership of the Freedom Guards and membership of Party are not the same. However, anyone who joins the Freedom Guards automatically becomes a party member unless he/she clearly requests otherwise.

12- General rules and regulations of the Freedom Guards are drawn up the General Secretary of the Central Committee and must be approved by the Political Bureau. The rules and regulations of the Freedom Guards must not contradict the Party's organisational principles. The conduct of the Freedom Guards and the behaviour of the members of the Freedom Guards must not contradict the program of the Party and the humanitarian and the communist values and the equalitarian philosophy of the Party.

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### **Saddam's trial: Whose justice?** Continued from page 1

Humanity witnessed the Iraq war in horror. A war that destroyed the foundations of the country and created and empowered the Islamists as well as the nationalist and tribal "leaders", all under the "secure" shelter provided by an occupying military force. A war that under the pretext of eliminating weapons of mass-destruction, ruined the lives of millions of people merely to promote the supremacy of the United States. A war that included economic embargo, bombings, state terrorism of US and the West on one hand and suicide bombings and terrorism of the Islamic bandits on the other - a commotion in which the people of Iraq did not have any interest whatsoever.

What was most manifest in the staging of the court scene was not so much the trial itself, but the desperation of the US and the West in dealing with Iraq. After all, the crimes of George Bush, Tony Blair and co. were no less severe than those of Saddam Hussein.

The logic behind the court scene was a response to the needs of the US and the West in justifying the Iraq war itself. The whole media was brought in once again to remind all the millions who had protested against the war internationally, of the horrors that took place during the rule of Saddam in Iraq. Pictures and images of prisons, torture chambers, ... during Saddam's rule in Iraq were broadcast to justify the Iraq war, and to replace those images of mistreatment, abuse and torture of Iraqis by the occupation forces.

The court itself was also a means to giving legitimacy to the Iraqi "government" – a matter that the Islamic Republic of Iran totally adheres to as well. The Islamic Republic of Iran produced dossiers of evidence against Saddam and handed them to the court.

The trial, however, was not finished and the hearing has been set for a later date, towards the end of November, and undoubtedly the war propaganda machine will also continue until then. The only thing that can undermine the pre-determined outcome of such a scenario is the active support for the people in Iraq and their demands for determining their own future freely – a matter that is only possible to achieve upon immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces, and an end to the interference of the Islamic currents and bandits from people's lives in Iraq. Free and liberated people of Iraq should be the ones that try Saddam for his crime against humanity.

**Worker-communist Party of Iraq : [www.wpiraq.net](http://www.wpiraq.net)**

**Freedom, Equality, Workers' Rule!**

## **On the anti-Israeli rhetoric of the Iranian president** continued from page 1

communists, labour activists and their political opponents. Further to these atrocities, during eight years of senseless war in the eighties, they despatched millions of people to the war fronts. People like Ahmadi-Nejad were responsible for sending hundreds of thousands of teenagers to walk the minefields of war fronts to pave the way to Jerusalem.

If he could have his way, Ahmadi-Nejad has earned the right credentials to put his intention to practice. The question, however, is that he is not capable of doing it. Such a threat is not the sign of strength; it is rather an indication of their weakness and desperation. Having said this, such a statement is sufficient to incite brainwashed soldiers of Islam, the suicide bombers of Hamas and Islamic Jihad to start blowing up innocent Israeli citizens, and Ariel Sharon sending his tanks to flatten Palestinian homes.

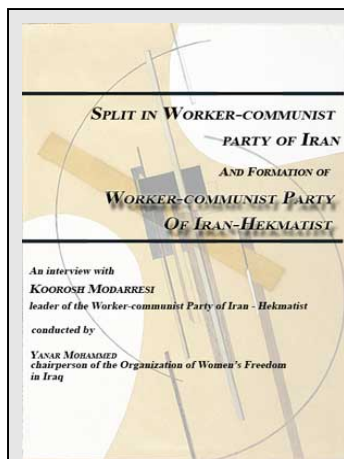
Ahmadi-Nejad's rhetoric and threats, deplorable as it is, and potentially dangerous as it is, is not aimed at opening up a new war front with Israel. It is rather an attempt to open up a domestic war front to save the Islamic Republic. People of Iran are familiar with such cries. Whenever the Islamic rulers are under the siege, they incite religious and nationalist fervour to focus on more pressing domestic battles.

The Iranian regime, following the bankruptcy of their so called "Reform" and the "Dialogue of Civilisations" initiatives are resorting to their usual way of governing. Dragging the country into a war, any war which lessens the threat of people against the regime will be welcomed as a divine blessing. They have successfully played such games in the past.

If more than twenty years ago, the Political Islam managed to consolidate its grip on the Iranian society through an eight year long bloody war and scarifying the lives of a generation of young people, this time they are very much mistaken. The cracks within the ruling clique are too wide to be glossed over. The ever growing discontent and frustration with the state has escalated to a level that can not be contained through their normal means. The regime is threading along from crisis to crisis. The Iranian regime is too vulnerable to enter any real war.

The other side of this anti-Israeli rhetoric is the warmongering attitudes of the US and its allies. The US threat of war only fans the fire of the war between the two camps of world terrorism, (the state terrorism of US and its allies and the political Islam). The political Islam thrives on the Palestinian problem. As long as Sharon demolishes Palestinian houses over the heads of their occupants, the Islamists of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Ahmadi-Nejad would call for the elimination of the Jewish people. The truth is that Ahmadi-Nejad feeds on Sharon.

As far as the Iranian society is concerned, Ahmadi-Nejad's remarks are aimed at Iraqisation of Iran. Those remarks were made to seek a way to save the Islamic regime from collapse. The Islamic regime owes its survival to deaths and destruction. Wiping out the political Islam from Iran and the region, and getting rid of Ahmadi-Nejad and his regime, is the task of the progressive and free-minded Iranian people and our party, the Hekmatist Party at the forefront of a movement to eliminate the threat of war and misery from the country.



## **Split in Worker-communist Party of Iran And Formation of Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist**

### **Yanar Mohammed speaks to Koorosh Modarresi**



## The third Plenum of the Central Committee of the WPI-Hekmatist concluded

The third plenum of the Central Committee of Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2005. Apart from the members of the CC and the CC aides a delegation from the leadership of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq and a number of Party cadres were also invited to attend.

The plenum commenced with playing the Internationale and observing one minute silence in remembrance of all those who lost their lives struggling for freedom and socialism, and in commemoration of Mansoor Hekmat. The following items had been proposed and agreed to be discussed at the Plenum:

- 1 Reports
- 2 Review of the experience of Worker-communist Party of Iran
- 3 The political situation in Iran, and the Party's tasks and priorities
- 4 Situation in Kurdistan and the tasks of the Party's organisation in Kurdistan
- 5 Freedom Guards
- 6 Proposed resolutions and motions
- 7 Election of the general secretary of the central committee (the Leader of the party) and leader's deputy
- 8 Elections for political bureau members

The report on Party's performance was delivered by Koorosh Modarresi (the leader of the Party) and Rahman Hoseinzade (deputy leader) and then Fateh Sheikh (Chair of the political Bureau) presented the Political Bureau's report. The plenum then entered into a discussion over the reports and assessed the party's activities since the second Plenum.

The second item on the agenda, "Review of the experience of Worker-communist Party of Iran", was presented by Rahman Hoseinzade and was widely debated in the plenum.

The third item of the agenda took the longest time and drew the widest participation and intervention. This item was introduced and led by Koorosh Modarresi.

The plenum then adopted the proposed resolution on "Freedom Guard", "the logo of Freedom Guard", rules on "the changes in the party's leadership structure", and on "fundraising campaign". The rest of the motions and resolutions; "The Party and non-party and mass organisations and institutions", "abbreviation of the party's name" and "efforts to raise the revolutionary banner of the working class in the movement to topple Islamic Republic" were referred to the political bureau for consideration.

Alongside the main business of the plenum, a number of seminars and workshops were organised. The following workshops were run: "Non-party and mass organisations and the Party", "Introducing the Party's Monthly Paper", and "The Fundraising Campaign". The adopted resolutions and main debates of the plenum will be published in due course.

In the elections, the plenum unanimously elected Koorosh Modarresi as the general secretary of the central committee (party leader) and Rahman Hoseinzade as his deputy. Then a politburo of 19 were elected whose members are: Azar Modaresi, Asad Golchini, Azam Kamguian, Aman Kafa, Iraj Farzad, Bahram Modarresi, Soraya Shahabi, Hossein Moradbeigi (HameSoor), Khaled Haji-mohammadi, Saleh Sardari, Abdollah Darabi, Fateh Sheikh, Majid Hosseini, Mohamad Fatahi, Mahmood Ghazvini, Mostafa Asadpoor, Mehrnoush Mossavi and Nasan Nodiniyan.

In its first meeting immediately after the plenum, the politburo unanimously elected Fateh Sheikh as its Chair. The plenum ended its sessions with the concluding speech by Koorosh Modarresi and the singing of the Internationale.

The Central Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist

18 October 18, 2005

## Campaign to Free Labour Activists in Iran

**To: The all trades unions, Progressive Parties and the Human Rights organisations**

**Iranian labour activists are sentenced to prison terms for organising an independent and peaceful May Day rally.**

As you may be aware, a court in the city of Saghez, in the Iranian Kurdistan, has been dealing with the cases of seven labour activists accused of organising an independent May Day rally in the city in 2004

Finally, on Wednesday November 9, the verdicts of four of the accused workers were handed out by the judge. And the remaining three activists were informed of their sentences on November 12, 2005.

These verdicts have been delivered despite a mass international protest and condemnation by hundreds of trades unions, political parties and international institutions. The sentences of the labour activists are as follows:

- 1- Mr Mahmoud Salehi: 5 years imprisonment and years in exile
- 2- Mr Jalal Husseini: 3 years imprisonment
- 3- Mr Borhan Divargar: 2 years imprisonment
- 4- Mr Mohsen Hakimi: 2 years imprisonment
- 5- Mr Mohammad Abdipour: 2 years imprisonment
- 6- Mr Hadi Tanomand: acquitted
- 7- Mr Ismail Khodkam: acquitted

The crimes of these labour activists are attempts to celebrate the May Day and organising trade organisations independent of the government's interference. Mr. Borhan Divargar is the Secretary of the "All Iran Organisation of the Unemployed Workers" and was recently freed from prison following an international campaign and is currently awaiting a decision on charges levelled against him on accounts of setting up an illegal organisation and membership of "Association for children rights".

Celebrating the May Day is the most basic and recognised right of the workers in the world. We call on all the trades unions, humanitarian Parties and human rights organisations to condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran and do whatever possible to have the charges against these workers removed. Please write to the Iranian government and the Iranian judiciary as well as your own respective governments and demand that the charges against the accused workers be dropped.

Furthermore please do write to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and demand the expulsion of the Iranian government from the ILO.

Respectfully yours  
Khaled Hajmohammadi

On behalf of the "Worker-communist Party of Iran- Hekmatist

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Please send your letters to the following address with copies to Khaled Hajmohammadi

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Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi  
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mark: forward to Ayatollah Shahroudi

**International Confederation of Free Trade Unions strongly condemns the sentencing of Saghez labour activists**

Guy Ryder the General Secretary of ICFTU sends a strongly worded letter to the Iranian President protesting the heavy sentences handed out to the labour activist tried for organising a May Day Rally in the city of Saghez in 2004.

In his letter to President Ahmadinejad, ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder said his organisation was "outraged at these sentences, which show that your government utterly disregards fundamental trade union rights". He added that Iran's failure to meet its international obligations towards the International Labour Organisation (ILO) "tarnishes its image abroad and undermines international trust" in its government. He also expressed the hope that the unionists' innocence would be fully recognised during latter stages of the judicial process and that the ICFTU would be allowed to send its observers to future court hearings.

The ICFTU said it would now report the sentences to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association and increase the pressure on Iran's government, with the support of its worldwide membership.

**For more information, please contact the ICFTU Press Department on +32 2 224 0210 or +32 477 580 486.**

**Worker- communist party of Iran- Hekmatist**