

KOMONIST COMMUNIST

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Azam Kamguian

The First Congress of the WPI-Hekmatist Party:

An Important Event in a Turbulent Time

The first congress of our party will be held on October 21 and 22, 2006, in Germany. Our first congress marks the manifestation of our position as a credible political force and is a reflection of our achievements to date and we will make sure that it would be a great and a splendid occasion. Apart from the business of adopting policies this congress must pave the way for further strengthening of the Party's link with the society and place the party within the reach of the masses of people. We need to facilitate the ever greater involvement and participation of people in the proceedings of the congress. We must turn this congress into a vehicle and a venue for the friends and supporters of our party to get to know the Hekmatist Party. During these two days the members and the activists of the Party, as well as other communists and libertarians will, in this highest gathering of the party's activists, debate and discuss the course of the political developments in Iran and exchange views and make decisions. Our congress is a place to decide on the most important issues facing our movement and effective ways of materialising our aspirations. The truth is that now all the

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Iraj Farzad

Textile Workers in Iran A Lesson from Mine Workers in Britain

The plight of the textile, hand weaved carpet and synthetic carpet workers are deteriorating by the day. In the past few days we have witnessed the armed forces being dispatched to assault 300 workers and their families at Alborz Carpet Company in Northern Iran. Again during the past few days 700 strong workers at Kashan Wool and Silk company have protested and gathered in front of the Governorate Office to protest non-payment of their wages for the past 4 months. 300 workers at Rahimzadeh factory in Esfahan have not been paid for 9 months.

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Borhan Divargar

In Praise of Unity against Unemployment

On Monday September 11, tens of sacked textile workers from Shaho Textile factory, Kurdistan Textile and Par Ris factories gathered in front of the Provincial Governor's office in the city of Sanandaj and demanded jobs or unemployment benefits. Such events take place on a daily basis up and down the country. The sacked Tehran Bus workers have frequently protests against their dismissals. News of the plans to cut the wages of Iran Khodro car plant is circulating around. The extend of unemployment and poverty is known to all.

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bridges behind us have been destroyed and there is no place to hide and keep busy as a small and marginalised organisation.

Active intervention to shape the political development in Iran for better and creating a better world is now demanded from us. This congress is an important event at a critical and decisive juncture for the Iranian society.

We have spent the past two years stating and reaffirming our determination and desire to continue with our struggle. Our humanist and uncompromising approach in representing a different kind of communism and our presence and the ability to carry out our activities inside Iran, our deep hostility with all expressions of reaction has attracted the attentions of large sections of the freedom seeking and revolutionaries in Iran. Our party, during the past two years, with the benefit of over 25 years of experience of its cadres and its political tradition has proven to a large section of the society that we are well capable of leading the movement for freedom and equality and building a better world.

It is not too difficult to imagine what the world of politics in Iran would have been in our absence, or what would have been the state of the struggle to alleviate the sufferings of the people, or what would have been the position of the left within the Iranian politics in our absence? Those who are seeking a way to rid themselves from the menace of the Islamic regime should be reminded of the need to strengthen this party. We need to draw the attention of the people to their party's congress.

The ceaseless works and efforts of the cadres and leaders of the Hekmatist party in the past two years has reinforced this idea the "the future is a blank template that the living people of today can, with their conscious effort, shape it. The human will makes history" We in a very short space of time, in the face of great adversities and empty handed have managed to build a large Party. On our split from the Worker-communist Party of Iran we resolved to redouble our efforts and embark on monumental tasks. With our only asset, a large number of communist leaders and cadres, we have built a radical and credible Party with clear and robust policies and a robust determination to play a vital role in political struggle in Iran. We have so far realised some of our plans and aspirations. We have founded the Freedom Guards under the leadership of the communists; we have a permanent presence in Iran; our organisational and political influence has grown and we are now a well established Party in Iran. And now as we approach our first congress, the news of the launch of our daily TV channel and other achievements generate a feeling of excitement and exhilaration.

Workers, women, young people and all libertarians!

We invite you to join this great gathering of the communists and meet with the members and activists of the Hekmatist Party. Come and take part in our debates and discussions and find out about our decision making process and mechanisms. We have made every effort to facilitate your participation. Contact us and come to our congress and play your part in shaping an important event in this turbulent and critical time.

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Worker-communist party of Iraq

KOMONIST

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Textile workers in Iran... Continued from page 1

Textile workers in the Kurdish region have suffered a similar plight.

It is said that the fate of the textile and synthetic carpet industries in Iran are doomed due to its inability to compete with cheaper products imported from China and India. It is also said that “incompetent managers” have created this situation; and there is not sufficient resources to procure advanced machineries and materials. Amidst all these the civil and military leaders constantly remind the workers that “hidden hands” are at play to exploit their grievances. The head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards while shedding crocodile tears for the workers and expressing his sympathy with “honourable workers of the Islamic homeland” has warned them of infiltration of undesirable elements within their ranks. He was referring to the employed workers.

It is worth remembering the lessons learnt from the great mine workers strike in Britain in the early 80s. They faced a similar situation as the textile workers in Iran are facing. The mine workers staged a heroic resistance. Along with their spouses and families fought a year long pitch battle with the police. The Conservative government of Mrs Thatcher and their supporters were arguing along similar lines. They were importing cheap coal from far a field as South America and Poland. Inefficiency and poor management were also being blamed. As an industry the mine workers put up a tremendous fight. The failure of their strike came about as a result of their inability to mobilise other sections of the working class in support of their demands and also they failed to expand their demand to cover adequate and sufficient unemployment insurance cover in the face of unemployment. The isolated mine workers were a much easier opponent for the Thatcher government especially when they were denied the support of other key sectors. The hard truth was that after the defeat of the mine workers the Thatcher government embarked on an all sided attack on the entire working class in Britain.

We are now facing a similar situation in Iran. The Islamic regime is a medieval version of the Thatcherist regime. The textile industry is facing internal and external challenges. The government and the capitalists encouraged by the apathy of workers from other branches of industry and the lack of intervention on the part of employed workers have resorted to all possible means to further erode the meagre entitlement of the working class. And while the stories of astronomical embezzlements and theft are widespread they shamelessly claim that can not afford to settle the unpaid wages of the workers. Faced with angry and desperate workers the authorities are increasingly resorting to brute force and physical aggression to quell the ranks of the striking workers.

Workers are a single class. We can not and must not allow the textile and carpet workers to be left at the mercy of the bosses. They should not be allowed to suffer hunger, indignation and physical assaults while the workers from the key industries look on with apathy and indifference. Unemployment and deterioration of our wages and benefits is a spectre waiting to fall on us the employed workers.

We must act now. We have nothing but our class unity. We can not, as a class, commit suicide and are not allowed to stand by and witness the gradual annihilation of our brethren in the textile industry. We must push to put the demand for adequate unemployment benefit high on the agenda of the society. With the existing resources and wealth the country can easily afford to provide adequate unemployment cover for all the workers.

Our advance in this arena and the success of our struggle lies in the mobilisation of an extensive rank of the workers, employed and unemployed, in particular those working in the key industries. Our class can and should rise up and defend our colleagues in the textile industry and by doing so preserve a decent livelihood for ourselves and our families.

This article first appeared in “Communist 113”, the weekly paper of the Worker-communist party of Iran-Hekmatist, dated September 29, 2006

Down With the Islamic Republic of Iran!
For a Socialist Republic!

International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation condemns the armed assault against the Textile workers in Iran. Below is the text of a letter sent by Neil Kearny the General Secretary of ITGLAF to the President of the Islamic republic of Iran.

Subject:

Letter from ITGLWF to His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency Mahamud Ahmadi-Nejad
President
Islamic Republic of Iran
Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation, a Global Union Federation bringing together 220 affiliated unions in 110 countries with a combined membership of 10 million members, to express concern at the use of violence by the security forces against workers.

I understand that on September 16 2006, armed riot police attacked workers from the Alborz carpet factory in the city of Babolsar who had gathered to try to find out when their factory would be re-opening.

The factory had been closed for several months and several hundred workers had lost their jobs. Then, a week prior to the incident, the local Governor invited a group of workers to a meeting to discuss the future of the plant. The workers were told that preparations were underway to re-open the plant on September 16. It had also been reported on local television that the factory would re-open.

But when nothing further was heard, the workers gathered on September 16, the day the factory was supposed to re-open, and walked in two groups - one to the Governor's office and one to the labour office - to demand more information. In both locations they were met with security forces, who fired shots in the air and attacked the workers with rifle butts and tear gas. About forty workers were arrested. The workers were detained for three days at a detention centre in Sari, where they were forced to sign guarantees that they would not be involved in any further 'political activities'.

I understand that the attack on Alborz workers comes in the wake of a number of other attacks by the security forces against workers' protests in our sectors recent weeks. I understand that our sectors of industry have been badly hit by plant closures and deteriorating working conditions, including wage cuts and longer working hours.

A demonstration by workers at the Rahim Zade plant in the city of Isfahan who were protesting at the fact they had not received their wages for the past nine months was crushed by the security forces on the same day as the Alborz incident.

On August 26, riot police attacked workers from the Parris textile factory in Sanandaj, who had gone on strike in support of demands for an end to the short-term contracts imposed by management; the reinstatement of fired union leader Behzad Sohrabi, and respect for the right to organise. The security forces, anti-riots squads and a number of government officials showed up outside the plant. They told the workers that the province's Security Council had ordered an end to the strike by 'any means necessary'. When the workers refused to desist from their action, they were attacked by the security forces and other officers using tear gas and batons. The security forces attacked not only the workers but their family members who were supporting them, including young children and elderly people, who were forced into buses and removing them from the area. Two people were arrested and released later on bail.

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In Praise of Unity.... Continued from page 1

Unemployment and fear of losing one's job is a constant threat and a weapon in the hands of the bosses to drive the wages and benefits of the workers further down and force them to succumb to intolerable working conditions. As we have seen in Iran Khodro car plant this weapon has also been deployed to drive a wedge between the employed and unemployed workers; between temporary and contract workers and the permanent workers. Such a situation has also been exploited by the bosses to chip away at the meagre wages and benefits of the employed workers.

The latest action by the sacked textile workers in Sanandaj to demand jobs or unemployment benefit is a welcome development and should be supported by not only employed and unemployed workers but also the general population in the city.

As I mentioned above, protests against sackings and job losses are constant occurrence around the country. The recent fight by the Shaho Textile workers in the city of Sanandaj is a good example of such struggles. The question however remains to be whether the sacked workers in Sanandaj and sacked Tehran Bus workers can achieve anything? Is there a way forwards? Could anything be done against the wave of assaults on jobs and livelihoods of the workers?

Furthermore the government and the boss are planning another round of privatisation and attack on the working class. They are determined to maintain their profits at the expense of further erosions of the workers wages and their working and living condition and without investing in technology.

The news of the redundancies and job cuts furnish the pages of the official papers. No sector is safe. Today it is the turn of textile and bus workers, tomorrow it could well be the car workers or oil workers. No one is secure.

Unfortunately the action of the sacked textile workers in Sanandaj, although valuable and admirable, is not sufficient. These isolated actions in the absence of a real and practical unity amongst employed and unemployed workers and also due to their sector limitations can not bear a serious pressure on the bosses and the government. Unemployment and struggle against it is the task of the working class as a whole.

The reality of our situation and the prospect of imposition of even harsher conditions on our class demands, more than ever, the need for a united class action against unemployment. This unity can be forged around the demand for increase in wages linked to inflation and the provision of unemployment benefit for all the jobless people aged 16 and over. These are the essential demands of all workers, on permanent or temporary contracts or unemployed. This is the only way to put up a defence against the consorted attacks of the bosses. Such a united rank can not be achieved without the conscious intervention of the communist workers and the measured and organised intervention of the labour leaders. Without the intervention of these workers' leaders there can not be any talk of an effective safeguard against the capitalist assaults. There is no other way. Unemployment and destitution are being waged against us. We either manage to put up an effective resistance against these onslaughts or we let them trample on our livelihood and integrity.

The truth is that we are well capable of doing something about it. We hold the lifeline of this system in our hands. We can grind the production to a halt. And if we decide, we can bring the entire country to a stand still. We can force the government and bosses to beg for mercy. But we must make a move. The world does not have to be so bleak. The class unity does not happen by itself. We must bring it about. We must bring workers from oil, steel, car, textile and other industries together. This historic task calls for the socialist workers intervention and their determination. We owe this to the working class, to our children and the humanity. We can unite and organise the working class against unemployment.

Long Live Unity against Unemployment!

Long Live Worker Solidarity!

This article was first published in Farsi in "Communist" No 111, the weekly paper of the WPI-Hekmatist on September 15, 2006

In Defence of Right of Expression

The cancellation of staging the Idomeneo Opera in Germany has deservedly shocked and divided the public opinion in Germany.

Following the controversy around the publication of Mohammad's cartoon in Danish daily and the consorted offensive of the Islamic currents and states to intimidate the public it is now the turn of self censorship in Germany in the face of aggression and intimidation.

The rights to criticise, satirise and poke any of the so called values including cultural, traditions and religious values is a hard won right that the progressive humanity has secured over many years during bloody battles against religions including Christianity and Islam. The humanity has paid a high price for the right of expression and can not afford to allow it to be eroded.

The right of expression has withstood the inquisition courts and the book burning campaigns of the fascists in Europe. We can not allow the oppression of the Taliban and the Islamic Republic kind to rein in the German society. Self-censorship and appeasement are not the answer. We need to organise and mobilise to safeguard secularism and the unconditional rights of expression.

We hereby declare the launch of the "Campaign to Defend the Right of Expression" and invite everyone, especially the artists and writers to join our campaign.

We can not tolerate the cancellation of the Idomeneo Opera and call on all progressive people and all the refugees and migrants in Germany to join our campaign to defend this fundamental human right.

Join us to protect the unconditional rights of expression and the right to criticise.

Campaign to Defend the Rights of Expression

September 27, 2006

ITGLWF letter of ...Continued from page 4

Your Excellency, the right to organise and to take collective action in order to defend their economic interests is a fundamental right of all workers, enshrined in ILO Conventions No. 87 and 98. I would urge you to take immediate action to ensure these rights are upheld and to put an end to the use of violence against workers engaged in legitimate action to defend their rights.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL KEARNEY

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Freedom, Equality, Workers' Rule!

Join the Campaign Against Execution of Children in Iran!

Three youths were hanged this morning!

To day, Wednesday September 20, 2006, the Iranian authorities tied the noose around the necks of four youths in Tehran and murdered three of them. One young man, Sina was dramatically spared at the last moment following a request by the relatives of his victim to delay the hanging. Vahid one of the hanged youth was under the age of 18.

Sina and Vahid both had committed their crimes and had received their death sentences while less than 18 years of age. In an attempt to circumvent international pressure the Iranian authorities delay the carrying out of the death sentences served on young people and keep them in prison until they reach the age of 18 and then carry out the execution. This is blatantly against the demand to abolish handing out death sentences on offences committed by persons under the age of 18.

Such an assault on humanity can not be tolerated. Most of these young people who are accused of committing offences are themselves victims of a society that has failed them. No one, especially young people, must be allowed to be subjected to death penalty.

Two years ago we, thanks to a generous and extensive international support, managed to save the life of Zhila, a thirteen year girl sentenced to death by stoning. (www.zhilaa.com). An effective international campaign is needed to put an end to this wave of killings and executions of youths. I, hereby, call on all concerned people and the defenders of children's rights to join our campaign to completely eradicate the death sentence against children in Iran.

No one and no institution has the right to take anyone's life, let alone the life a child, or subject them to physical and mental torture. Join us to end capital punishment and prevent child execution.

Nahid Riyazi

Campaign Against Execution of Children in Iran

September 20, 2006

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For further information on this campaign please visit www.zhilaa.com.

US forces attack the offices of IFC in Baghdad

The US forces in Baghdad launched an attack on the offices of Iraq Freedom Congress (IFC) in Baghdad on 7 and 8th September. During this attack the IFC's properties and office equipments were destroyed and its computers and documents were confiscated.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist strongly condemns the US attack against the IFC. We fully support the struggle of the IFC against the US occupation and their attempt to empower the people of Iraq to defend themselves against the religious and ethnic reactions. In this battle the people of Iran are with the people of Iraq and the IFC.

Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist

September 10, 2006

First Congress of WPI-Hekmatist

On 21st and 22nd October 2006, the first congress of the WPI-Hekmatist will convene in Germany.

150 delegates, representing different sections and organisations of the Party will participate in this congress.

The congress is open to all and those who wish to attend as observers are welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know the Hekmatist Party and meet with the cadres and leadership of the Party.

All the political parties, organisations and the media are invited to attend the congress. For further information and details please contact:

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Leadership Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran –Hekmatist

July 19, 2006

Kongreh (Congress)

The third issue of Kongreh (Congress) the supplement of **Communist**, the weekly paper of the WPI_ Hekmatist Party, dedicated to the forthcoming congress of the Hekmatist Party published on September 24, 2006.

Kongreh has been published to facilitate the successful organisation of the first congress with a view to coordinate the debates and discussion on issues to be put to the congress. The first three issues of the supplement, apart from a deliberate attempt to make the party's operation transparent and accessible to the widest possible audience, it has also acted to bring together the Party activists from all over Iran and indeed outside the country.

The supplement also carries the draft resolutions and declarations to be put on the congress's agenda and invites its readerships to discuss and comment on them.

The open and public organisation of the congress, the publication of the Kongreh, the broadcast of the congress's proceedings over the internet are part and parcel of our Party's attempt to be transparent and accessible to all. This is an attempt towards building a mass political Party.

ضمیمه کمونیست

ویژه تدارک کنگره اول
حزب

کنگره