

IRAN:

View from the LEFT

Feb 2024

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Word of the Month

Iran elections

The election in Iran have concluded. Election officials have echoed their 'thrilling epic' slogan, but many view it as a tedious affair. Some former politicians adhered to their promises and refrained from participating. Some joined in with the aim of 'building up' Iran, while others abstained, contemplating Iran's future.

Numerous observers noted the emptiness of the election booths, with war veterans expressing dissatisfaction due to perceived corruption and incompetence, vowing never to partake in what they consider a farce. A significant portion of Iranians, regardless of age, education, urban or rural background, religious affiliation, or practice, voiced their disconnect with the current regime. While some voted, the majority abstained.

The prevailing sentiment among the populace is a belief in democracy and the importance of majority will. A vast majority disapprove of the current regime and advocate for a referendum to determine Iran's governance system. Many argue that the Islamic Republic does not align with the will of the people, emphasizing the right to choose between a clerical regime or an alternative. The question arises: Have the past 45 years under this rule fulfilled the desires of the Iranian people?

Munich Conference: Security or Security Theater!

This conference is held annually in February in the city of Munich, Germany, with the participation of some heads of state or representatives from around the world. The conference involves discussions, diplomacy, business, consultation, and information exchange on security issues. However, if the

conference coincides with a war, tension, or a significant global event, it focuses on that specific topic.

This year, while the conflict in Gaza and the necessity of a ceasefire to prevent further casualties among Palestinians, along with efforts to establish



sustainable peace in the Middle East, have stirred global public sentiments, it was expected that peace between Israel and Palestine would be the central theme of the conference. Especially since the Hague court had voted to halt the conflict a few weeks earlier.

Unfortunately, in this year's conference, there was no news of implementing this expectation by the peacekeeping forces of the world. Instead of facilitating negotiations at the highest levels of the involved parties, discussions were conducted at lower levels. The same quality of approach was observed for other important global issues. Instead of making efforts to take effective steps towards a ceasefire and peace in Ukraine, which, due to its protracted nature and high cost, seems unpalatable for the West, there was a one-sided plea for help from Zelensky and promises of assistance.

In some previous conferences, a representative from the Islamic Republic was present, engaging in direct discussions and

exchanges of views regarding the security issues that were attributed to the Islamic Republic. This year, while the security situation in the Middle East is more sensitive than before, instead of serious efforts towards establishing order geared towards sustainable peace in the region, some sessions witnessed the presence of Iranian celebrities. Perhaps their presence last year was understandable due to the peak of the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement, although they were not representatives of that movement.

The approach of the Munich Conference is dissimilar to some film festivals, including the Berlin Film Festival, which happens to coincide with the Munich Conference in February. In these festivals, the success of a film is sometimes attributed to the "political message" it conveys, in addition to its artistic and cinematic value. In contrast, the Munich Conference, instead of fulfilling the duty of contributing to security, addresses security in a populist manner.



Open Letter to Ms. Navalnaya

Dear Mrs. Yulia
Navalnaya,



We, a coalition of five Iranian political parties and organizations for a secular democratic republic in Iran, offer our deep condolences on the passing away of Mr. Alexey Navalny to you and your family and, through you, to the people of Russia.

In our view, the responsibility for the "death" of Mr. Alexey Navalny lies on the security and judicial apparatus of the Russian government and the person of Putin.

The news of the death of Mr. Navalny, Putin's opposition politician, by the Tass news agency claiming that the death was caused by a fall in blood pressure after a walk in prison, has not convinced anyone in the world but rather has led to the conclusion that this "death", too is one of the series of murders that are carried out on orders of Putin's government.

Mrs. Navalnaya, your tireless efforts in exposing

the complicity of Mr. Putin and the present government of Russia in this “death” to the world public opinion are indeed praiseworthy.

As an outstanding opposition figure, Alexey Navalny has campaigned resolutely against the institutionalized corruption in Russia, by making use of street protests, social media and networks and has been the target of assaults several times.

Dictators create the circumstances for the elimination of their opponents. We have been witnessing deaths of this kind many times in Iran by the leaders of the Islamic regime against the opponents inside and outside prisons. The Islamic government has never consented to the creation of an independent tribunal to investigate these “deaths”.

We have also observed that the government of Putin during all the years in power has supported the regime of repression and murder of the Islamic Republic. It has also voted in its favour and against the people of Iran in the United Nations and other world organizations.

Dear Mrs. Yulia Navalnaya, the “Hamgami” Coalition,

while sympathizing with you and the Russian democrats, cherish the hope that the Russian people should be able to reach freedom and establish democracy in their country in the near future.

Once again, we offer our condolences to you and the people of Russia.

“Hamgami” Coalition of five Iranian political parties and organizations for a secular democratic republic in Iran

-The Union for Secular Republic and Human Rights in Iran

-United Republicans of Iran

-Iranian National Front-Europe

-The Left Party of Iran

-Iran National Front-Organizations Abroad

22 February 2024

 **Active Boycott of the Regime's Elections, a Step Towards Strengthening the Movement of “Women, Life, Freedom”!**

On the 1st of March, the regime of the Islamic Republic will hold a new set of election shows for the formation of the 12th term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) and the 6th term of the

Assembly of Experts of the Leadership. The scope of elimination in the upcoming elections has also reached the closest friends of the regime and has turned into the appointment of those loyal to the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Velayat). This election is the most restricted and the least popular among the various elections in the Islamic Republic. In this round, the possibility of participating and being elected even within the dominant faction of the regime has been ruled out. Institutions under the command of the Supreme Leader have allowed only those who are unconditionally subordinate to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and the corrupt gangs around him to enter these two election shows. Now the most conservative critics of the regime also completely rule out the possibility of influencing this election. The Assembly of Experts is arranged in such a way that it fulfills Khamenei's plans for succession and the future Parliament turns the orders of the head of the regime into law and imposes them on the people.

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■ **On the 45th Anniversary of the Bahman Revolution of 1357. People Will Bring Down the Islamic Republic!**

45 years ago, based on people's revolution on 22 Bahman 1357 (February 11, 1979), the Pahlavi regime fell. The Bahman revolution, like any other unpredictable event, produced double results. On the one hand, it ended the monarchy's tyranny and the victory of the people against an authoritarian regime became a reality. On the other hand, a regime emerged from this revolution and took power, which started suppressing people's freedoms from the very beginning, and it did not take long to act far more authoritarian than the previous regime.

The Bahman Revolution of 1979 ended the royal tyranny, but the Islamic Republic turned people's Spring of freedom into a

graveyard of their dreams and hopes. From the very first days, the elimination of opposition forces, the persecution of dissidents, and the suppression of people's freedoms began.

But during the past forty-five years, the struggles of the people of our country against the Islamic Republic and for the realization of their libertarian ideals have always continued and important steps have been taken. The confrontation with this regime started the day after its establishment. The women's march on the first International Women's Day against the mandatory hijab, the large workers' march on International Labor Day, and the resistance movement in Kurdistan and Turkmen Sahra against regime repression, etc. are among them. People's movements against the Islamic Republic have always flourished despite all the difficulties have expanded

despite the repression and have challenged the regime's repression system. With strikes, massive protests and numerous uprisings, they have dictated the demand for change to the regime and hastened its collapse. Today, like the previous regime on the eve of the Bahman 1957 (February 1979) revolution, the Islamic Republic is nearing its end, and the signs of its collapse are more apparent than ever. In continuation of previous popular movements, the revolutionary movement "Woman, Life, Freedom" has shaken the foundations of the regime's power. Its excitement is still flowing in the heart of society. The force of change in society is stronger than ever.

We support the struggles of the Iranian people to establish a democratic and secular system in the form of a republic and the ideals of the revolutionary movement "Women, Life, Freedom" in realizing freedom and justice in Iran, and we strive to achieve these goals.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

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On the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of "Siahkal", a Breakthrough Beginning Towards a Different Future!

53 years ago, on February 8, 1971 (19 Bahman 1349), at a time when any party and trade union activity, except the pro-monarchy parties and trade unions, was considered a crime and suppressed, a movement was sparked in Siahkal and from it, a new force emerged that opened a new horizon for Iran's leftist forces. A movement with a unique response to the wishes of a large part of the eager, diligent and revolutionary generation of those years to open another way, from the heart of previous failures, towards liberation from the shackles of dictatorship, and injustice to achieve freedom and equality. Although the Siahkal operation was not successful in its primary goal, it left a resonance in the atmosphere of the country and had a message in it, which was expressive and had the intention of becoming a force of change. It attracted a large part of the young and inquisitive force, which had great ideals in its heart, mobilized it, and turned it



into an organized force against oppression and dictatorship. From this point of view, "Siahkal" turned the page of the contemporary history of the left and became a historical turning point.

The Left Party of Iran, most of whose forces belong to the various branches of the historical movement of People's Fadaian, was born from the heart of this revolutionary movement and in its continuation, but in response to today's needs and in the image of the left of its time. Our party, without staying in this history and standing still, respects its history and is proud of its origin. Our party respects the past in learning from the

path it has traversed, critiques the past and repeatedly reviews the point of view of a wider left alliance and the left alliance defending democratic socialism. It was with this view that our party stood up to verify its name in its last congress, to reflect the needs of the left today and to respond to the requirements of its future alliances. the creation of a left bloc in defence of the interests of workers and labourers and the realization of freedom, democracy and social justice. Let today's left create another transformation in the political sphere of the left and its empowerment, just like the left that started in "Siahkal" and thereafter.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

February 8, 2024

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Environment in Iran

'In Tehran 30% of drinking water is wasted in the transmission network.'



According to an environmental expert, the water transmission pipelines in Tehran are worn out and date back to 70 years ago. The leakage from the pipes is about 30%, causing a significant portion of Tehran's drinking water to be lost during transmission.

Mohsen Mousavi Khansari, an environmental expert, stated on February 28th in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency: "Currently, during the transmission stage of drinking water in Tehran, we have a 30% water loss. If only 10% of it is managed, there is no need for projects that are not

economically feasible. That means, with certain measures, similar to those seen in neighbouring countries, if only a fraction of this water wastage is reduced, more than 150 million cubic meters of water can be saved for Tehran residents, and if this happens, there will be no need to spend money on transferring water from untouched forests to Tehran, which are 2,000 to 3,000 meters away."

He further mentioned that unfortunately, in recent years, officials, including the Ministry of Energy, have not taken appropriate actions to reduce water consumption in the context of providing water for Tehran and other major cities in the country. Their focus is still on water supply, relying on outdated and expensive hardware methods.

In addition to addressing the issue of Tehran's deteriorated pipeline management, this expert said, "Installing water-saving equipment on household taps, residential complexes, barracks, mosques, universities, government offices, etc." can also be highly effective in dealing with the water scarcity crisis.

He also criticized the misleading broadcasting by the state radio and television, stating that despite having only 200 million cubic meters of water in Tehran's supplying dams, which will create a serious problem in the summer, the state media does not want to inform the public.

Radio Zamaneh

IRAN: View from the LEFT" is published for those who are interested to know the Left Party of Iran's stance on current issues every month.

IRAN: View from the LEFT may occasionally contain news from Iran that the media might not have drawn attention to.

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