



***IRAN: View from the LEFT*** is published for those who are interested to know the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) stance on current issues on a monthly basis.

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

## *Word of the Month*

***Does Israel take on America's military role in the Middle East?***

***During the Israeli PM's recent visit to the UAE, Israel's intention to provide the Persian Gulf Sheikdoms with an Israeli system of air defense against what they perceive as an Iranian threat was revealed.***



***Together with Mossad's strong presence in Iraqi Kurdistan and Israeli open manipulation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, there is a real question if Israel is stepping into the US's military shoes in the Middle East arena.***

***The US is pulling out of the Middle East while Israel assumes the role of the principal protector of the American***

***order in the area. This confirms America's underlying plan for Israel. Israel will continue to declare her role as purely defensive, protecting the existence of Israel, but in fact this country is taking on an increasingly offensive role in the region.***

***Regardless of whether or not the Middle Eastern countries recognize the existence of Israel, they will be attacked if they are considered to be any kind of threat to the order set by the US and her allies (the kings and Sheikhs).***

***As far as the Americans are concerned, the division of responsibilities is neatly in place: The Americans will concentrate on other issues and the Arab reactionary forces will look to Israel, not as an invading enemy but as a protector.***



## **A month of protests by cultural Society**

In the first days of December, tens of thousands of teachers and cultural figures responded positively to the call of the "Coordinating Council of Cultural Workers' Unions" to protest the inattention of the government and parliament to the demands of teachers and retirees in 82 large and small cities across the country. This was the largest protest organized by the teachers' union in a decade. In Shiraz alone, 15,000 teachers and cultural figures and retirees took part in the protests.

Adequate funding for the proper implementation of the desired teachers ranking and addressing the previous demands of teachers such as equalization of retirees' salaries, the release of imprisoned teachers and high quality and free education



for all students are the main demands of the protesters. The rally took place amid a large number of teacher activists currently held in prisons.



The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) wrote in a statement:

*The Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the successful holding of the nationwide protests of employed and retired teachers and educators in 80 cities of the country as an effective and necessary step towards achieving their demands and rights of hardworking teachers and educators. The board supports the efforts and activities of the organizers under the leadership and the insight of the 'Organizing Council of the Cultural Associations' and congratulates all the dear teachers and educators of the country on their success. We also strongly condemn, in unison with teachers, educators and progressive forces, the persecution of members and activists of educators' unions, their imprisonment and expulsion, and the attack on teachers' and workers' unions. We strongly support the common struggle of all freedom-fighters for the release of all political, civil and political prisoners and the unconditional right for holding strikes and protests.*

The reaction of the authorities of the Islamic Republic to the call of the "Coordinating Council of Cultural Associations" in the days before the protest was the arrest and threat of many cultural activists and the attack on teachers' gatherings to suppress the protests. In the days that followed, the activists continued to be threatened and detained. Mr. 'Rasoul Badaqi', a well-known

activist of the teachers' movement, is among those detained.



However, the attacks did not stop the teachers from protesting in the following days and weeks. The recurrence of their protests on the streets of more than 80 cities in the country on December 11-13 led to the approval of a hasty plan by the parliament, just one day after the recent moves. A plan that, if fully implemented, would only slightly increase teachers' salaries.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a second statement:

*The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) congratulates the carrying out of a three-day strike and protests by teachers and educators under the leadership of 'The Coordinating Council', which has played a key and influential role in organizing this great social event. The board reiterates its strong support for the rightful demands and struggles of cultural figures. We also strongly condemn the arrest of Mr. 'Rasoul Badaqi' and the attack by security forces on the rallies, and the threatening and accusation of newspapers affiliated with repressive government institutions against the leaders of cultural organizations. In unison with teachers and educators and other progressive and freedom-seeking forces, we demand the release of prisoners and stopping the persecution of activists of democratic organizations.*

Teachers' organizations have declared the parliament's plan as incomplete and out of order. They have stated that they will follow up on their demands until they are reached. This has been the case, and until now, the



streets of many cities in the country have been the scene of teachers' ever expanding protests.

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## Caught between despair and optimism

The seventh round of "Vienna talks" to revive Iran's Nuclear Deal (JCPOA), which took place after a five-month hiatus, ended without any results in the first days of December. This conclusion raised much concerns and little hopes: concern over the prolongation of US sanctions against Iran and the possibility of more dangerous and costly tensions; and hope, because of the agreement to hold another round of talks.



The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) warned in a statement about the consequences of the failure of the talks:

*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers returning to the negotiating table and resolving problems through diplomacy as the best option to get out of the current crisis and avoid conflicts and the danger of a new war in the region. If the Islamic Republic insists on maximum demands, if the Vienna talks stops or fails, if the countries of 4 + 1 and the United States realize that the Islamic Republic does not intend to reach an agreement and wants to buy time and reduce the time gap, the situation will change. As a result, the IAEA will issue a new resolution on violations of JCPOA, the Iran's case will be referred to the UN Security Council, and the way is paved to activate the 'snapback'*

*sanctions as well as imposing tougher sanctions.*

*The current negotiations has provided a new opportunity for diplomacy. If diplomacy fails, other avenues will emerge, which could be catastrophic for the Iranian people. With the burning opportunity in Vienna, the Islamic Republic will no longer be able to declare only economic sanctions as the cause of poverty and misery of the people of Iran. If the Islamic Republic does not seize the opportunity to return to JCPOA and reaching an agreement with the negotiating parties and if it continues to move towards building nuclear weapons, the country will face increasing crises and more misery in the lives of the majority of people and also the country will be in danger of a military attack.*

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## A victory

Elections in Chile led to the victory of the Gabriel Boric, the candidate of the Left front, who won with 55.8 percent of the votes against a rival who not only has a reputation for right-wing extremism, but also openly defends military fascism in the 70's and 80's; A candidate who believes to rescue Chile, the country should return to the authoritarian neoliberal rules of General Augusto Pinochet.

This victory was the achievement of a movement that a few years ago was initiated by the ingenious acts of the left-wing of Chile in alliance of action and culminated in a passionate protest rally in 2019 led by Gabriel Boric. This action was able to bear fruit during the All-Inclusive Electoral Coalition at the end of 2021. This



achievement is not limited to Chile. Although a milestone for Chile, it is in fact a quarter-century-long path in Latin America, where countries are more affected by developments in neighboring countries than anywhere else on the planet

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) wrote in this regards:



*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), pleased with the victory of its Chilean comrades, sees the message from the Latin American left's success for the Iranian left that if their success is the product of a process of solidarity, cooperation and collaboration, here too Success is the purposeful organization of the dialogue process among the forces of the left. Congratulations to our Chilean comrades. We are inspired by their success.*

## **Excerpts from the political agenda approved by the Second Congress**

In the previous issue of the bulletin, we informed you of holding the second congress of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) and the approval of its political document under the headline "Our country needs fundamental change, let's unify and unite! The passage of the political document was the most important action of the party's second congress, which set the course of its policy in the turbulent period ahead of us.

The political agenda first looks at the main aspects of the situation in the country and in this view focuses on the deepening of the political crisis, the economic crippling crisis and the deepening of the class gap, the corona epidemic and the destructive effects

of the ban on vaccine's import into Iran, the catastrophic environmental situation, the spread of people's protests and the eradication of their fear of the government, as well as the government's disturbing foreign policy - specifically in the region and in the JCPOA negotiations. Based on this analysis, the document concludes:

*The Islamic Republic is facing accumulated and intertwined crises such as crisis of legitimacy, crisis of management and inefficiency, economic crisis, environmental crisis, crisis of lack of participation, crisis of social trust, crisis of systematic and structured corruption, moral crisis and foreign policy crisis. These crises threaten the future of the country. To overcome these crises and break the deadlock, our society needs the transition from the Islamic Republic and the establishment of a system based on the free will of the people.*

It then presents the party's strategy document for a peaceful transition from the Islamic Republic:

*Our strategy for a peaceful transition from the Islamic Republic relies on social movements, civic institutions, people's uprisings and mobilization of workers and the poor, the oppressed middle class, teachers, students, retirees, artists, cultural figures and academics. We strongly support the independent organization of the people from the state, the unification of popular uprisings, union workers' and general strikes, and other civil disobedience movements as the means to a democratic transition from the current government. At the same time, we believe that the people's struggle to push back the government in any way and to any extent is in favor of democratic processes and a step forward in the struggle against religious tyranny. We strive for holding free elections in accordance with internationally recognized standards and regulations in Iran.*

*We oppose relying on foreign governments and programs in our struggle. We believe in cooperation and coordination of internal political forces believing in freedom, democracy and social justice. We rely on the spiritual and humanitarian support of*



*institutions and public to transition to a free and fair society.*

*We believe in the independent organization of the people. The transition from this system and the establishment of democracy and social justice is possible only through national struggle and social mobilization of different sections of the population. We emphasize on the unification of the protests by different social groups. Our goal is to support their struggles and strengthen the solidarity between them.*

*Our strategic slogan is the transition from the Islamic Republic to a secular and democratic republic, the formation of the Constituent Assembly and the drafting of a new constitution. Our discourse and practical activities serve this purpose.*

In this strategy, the cooperation and coordination of political forces at various levels has a prominent place. The policy document describes these levels as follows:

### **Formation of the left block**

*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) believes that cooperation, collaboration and the unity among the left forces, both individual and organized, based on the ideology of Social-Democracy is a step towards strengthening the defense of the interests and demands of the workers, the poor and the wage earners and bringing the Iranian left to the force of influence in the country's political developments. The party declares its readiness to work together to form a bloc of left-wing forces that can echo the voices of workers, other wage earners and the lower strata of society in the country's political arena.*

*We announce our readiness to cooperate at any level, from dialogue to joint activities on issues related to the labor movement, women, retirees and other social movements, as well as on theoretical issues with other forces that consider themselves leftist and socialist.*

### **Cooperation and coordination of secular Republican Democratic forces**

*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) opposes any kind of individual, monarchical,*

*hereditary, permanent, and ideological government in Iran. We consider the formation of cooperation and synchronicity between the secular and democratic Republican forces as a necessity and we believe that the secular and democratic Republicans of Iran, in order to shape the Republican presence in the country's political sphere, must enter into a wider process of dialogue and cooperation and a comprehensive coalition of political parties and activists.*

Dialogue, cooperation, case by case collaboration, agreement in the transition from the Islamic Republic:

*1) Dialogue with political forces critical and opposed to the Islamic Republic is our principle. Accordingly, we welcome discourse with them about any of these goals or a set of them:*

*Mutual understanding of each other's views, examining the barriers to cooperation of forces and the ways to overcome them, finding common grounds and cooperation.*

*2) We work to co-operate and unity in practice on a case by case basis in campaigns and protests in defense of freedoms and human rights.*

*3) We adhere to the principles of understanding and agreement on the pillars of democracy, including pluralism, free elections, and acceptance of the results from the ballot boxes and the formation of the Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution between the country's political forces in the transition from the Islamic Republic.*

At the end of the document, the party's policies are depicted in regards to the current demands and struggles of workers and toilers, other left forces, women, teachers and educators, students and intellectuals, the ethnic issues, as well as the most acute issues of the country such as tensions with the outside world, corruption and financial exploitation by authorities, gross violations of human rights and legal equality.

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