



IRAN: **View from the LEFT**

December 2022

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Word of month

Political sponsorship: effective international support!


Global support and solidarity with the Iranian 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement has taken many forms. French President Mr. Macron and German Chancellor Mr. Steinmeier, for example, have met with prominent Iranian celebrities as gestures of humanitarian concern and solidarity with the struggles of the Iranian people.

While these actions are very welcome, there is a more practical and effective means of expressing solidarity, as exemplified by a number of EU and European parliamentarians. These representatives have very publicly taken on political sponsorship of one or two protesters under threat of imminent execution. So far as we know, these actions have meant a stay of execution for many sponsored protesters - a major achievement!

Political sponsorship consists of a few simple steps. First, sponsorship by the MP, including the prisoner's name, date and place of detention, is formally Announce to officials of the Islamic Republic, including Iran's ambassador to their respective countries. The MP's own ambassador in Iran also is informed. Simultaneously, they communicate their sponsorship through social media and other channels to the world at large, providing as much publicity of the individual prisoner's circumstances as possible.

While the Islamic Republic will never admit this process influences their actions, in fact it can result in many death penalties being suspended. Within the regime itself, there is enormous tension over how to handle the current mass movement's unprecedented challenge to the Islamic Republic. Experience has shown that postponed executions, in practice, often are quietly converted into prison sentences, which subsequently can be reduced dramatically.

We ask that you consider asking your own national parliamentary representative, no matter where in the world, to take up this approach by sponsoring another Iranian political prisoner. They are very welcome to contact us for prisoners' details.

 **Against repression,
revenge, and
intimidation**



The response of the Islamic Republic to the three-month protests of large groups of people, as predicted, instead of listening to their voices, has been to suppress the protests and then take revenge and intimidate the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement. So far, more than 500 people have lost their lives as a result of the violent confrontation between the security forces and the protesters. In addition, two of those arrested during the protests -



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'Mohsen Shekari' and 'Majidreza Rahnavaard' - were executed in a highly controversial legal process on charges of acting against security. Dozens of arrests have been issued similar sentences. These rulings have provoked protests and criticism even by some figures close to the government and within it.

The execution of Majidreza Rahnavaard clarifies the intention of the ruling machinery for this behavior. There is no doubt that the motivation for this behavior is nothing but the government's fear of the current movement.

Without fear of this movement, there will be no reason to suppress it. However, the intention of the Islamic Republic is primarily to intimidate the movement, and not only the "physical intimidation" of the protestors but to put an end to the protests as well as the "moral and conscientious intimidation" of those who take to the streets to protest. The government is trying to destabilize the current movement and to get the movement to give up its core demands.

Below are the excerpts of the party's positions in confronting the policy

of repression, revenge, and intimidation of the Islamic Republic against the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement:

<https://bepish.org/nod/e/8771>

From the announcement of the political-executive committee of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) in welcoming the decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council to form a fact-finding commission in order to deal with cases of human rights violations by the Iranian government during the recent nationwide protests:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) welcomes the establishment of a fact-finding commission by the United Nations Human Rights Council. Our party considers this an important step in the identification and trial of





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criminals and oppressors of the Iranian people who are responsible for the killing of more than 400 people on the streets of Iran in the last three months, especially children, and the arrest of more than 18 thousand people. We support the investigations and the trial of the perpetrators of these crimes.

We insist on the immediate release of detainees and political prisoners. We consider the revolutionary movement "Women, Life, Freedom" to be the beginning of the end of the Islamic Republic and its tyrannical rule over our country.

From the announcement of the political-executive committee of the party regarding the death sentence of 'Mohsen Shekari', a 23-year-old young man whom the Islamic Republic officially charged with

creating blockades and injuring a pro-government Basij with a weapon:



The left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the execution of 'Mohsen Shekari' as a state murderous act and strongly condemns it. We declare our position against the child-killing and corrupt government of the Islamic Republic. Our party believes that the only way to save lives is to continue fighting against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We fight against execution in prisons, and killing on the streets, and for the release of all the detainees of the revolutionary movement and all political prisoners.

We ask the freedom-fighting institutions and

individuals as well as the international community to protest against the execution of young people and increase their efforts to end the killings, arrests, and executions and for the release of detainees and political prisoners.

<https://bepish.org/nod/e/8662>

In a joint statement with the political-executive boards of the Republican and Democratic Organization of the Union of Republicans of Iran, the National Front of Iran-Europe, the Social Democratic Party of Iran (Unification of the Republicans), the organizations of the National Front of Iran abroad, and the solidarity of the Republicans of Iran, we issued the below statement:

We, the six democratic-republican parties and organizations, condemn



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any execution, including 'Mohsen Shekari', and we demand that the democratic opposition of Iran acts united against these tragedies. We encourage Iranians within and abroad and in international forums to oppose the killing of protesters. We must try to force the Islamic Republic to dismantle these courts and release detainees and political prisoners.

From the announcement of the political-executive board of the party regarding the death sentence of 'Majid Reza Rahnavaard', which was carried out as 'public execution' only 4 days after the execution of Mohsen Shekari without the slightest regard for the protests against his execution:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) calls on women and men, office workers, university and school



students, teachers, doctors, nurses, athletes, artists, shop owners, and every free-thinking person who is tired of the tyranny of the Islamic Republic, to raise their voice in protest. At the same time, political parties and organizations and human rights activists abroad are asked to collectively and individually ask the democratic institutions and people of their countries of residence to encourage their governments to call their country's ambassadors from Iran to protest these executions.

<https://bepish.org/node/8706>

From the open letter of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) to the

international community to react against the repression and executions in Iran:

The left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has always emphasized that the decisive force in the struggle for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic is the people of Iran. However, in the massacre that the Islamic Republic has launched against the citizens of the country today on the streets of Iran, no awakened conscience can be neutral. It is clear that the serious and committed reaction of the international community and all the powers that respect human rights can be effective in helping the people of Iran to force the government to retreat from its decisions. We expect all democratic governments that adhere to human rights to recall their ambassadors from Iran to protest the executions



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and the suppression of the Iranian people by the Islamic Republic. As a warning, this act can effectively prevent repression and execution.

We expect the deputies of the states within the United Nations, which are committed to the observation of human rights, to condemn the violation of the principles of human rights by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We demand they take a clear stand against the recent executions.

<https://bepish.org/node/8715>

From the announcement of the



party's women's office, in regard to the expulsion of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the United

Nations Commission on Women:

The duty of this commission is to strive for gender equality and women's empowerment. The expulsion of the anti-women and anti-freedom government of Iran, which has a terrible record of crimes against the people of Iran, under the influence of years of women's struggles, especially the revolutionary movement of "Women, Life, Freedom", has finally taken place. This act affects not only the anti-discrimination and equality struggle of Iranian women but will also encourage women of all countries where discrimination against women is rampant to continue their struggles. The expulsion of the Islamic Republic from the Women's Commission can and should be a positive example for women around the world to continue their fight

against anti-women regimes.

 **University and students**



In the last 70 years in Iran, universities and students have played a determining and important role in the country's democratic struggles. The university, as an institution that promotes knowledge and modernity, and its students, especially in the absence of activity of political parties demand changes, whether in Shah or the Islamic Republic's regime. One of the historical days in Iran's student movement is 'December 7, 1953'. On this day, police forces attacked Tehran University to



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suppress student protests. As a result of this attack, three students died. December 7 has been registered as 'Student day' in Iran ever since.



It is precisely for the above reasons that Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, once called the university "the root of all calamities for the country"; The Islamic Republic has since been constantly trying to impose its own values on universities. Silencing student protests has been the concern of the rulers of both the Shah and Islamic Republic governments.

Those actions have never been able to

prevent the university and students from playing their role in the development of Iranian society, including in the movement that is going on in Iran today.

Parts of the party's statements in commemorating this day of the announcement of the youth office of the party:

While honoring December 7 and the history-making student movement of the country, the youth office of the left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the university as the main stronghold of the revolutionary movement of "Women, Life, Freedom". We are in full support of the student's struggles. We also warn the Islamic Republic that suppressing the university and making it unsafe for students will have far-reaching consequences. The university is not alone and this movement has

shown that people on the streets support students. The university's voice is the voice of the revolution and the simultaneous struggle against tyranny and foreign interference. It is the voice for freedom and social justice and its target is the transition from the Islamic Republic to democracy by relying on the people's revolutionary movement.

Once again, a large number of student organizations called for nationwide protests and strikes for three days. From the announcement of the political-executive board of the party in support of this call:

The left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) supports the three days of strike and we invite supporting entities of the movement to participate widely in these protests. In these three days, it should be shown that the




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revolutionary movement is still alive, dynamic, and capable, and the executions and killings and the horrors of the perpetrators have not weakened the will of the forces of the revolutionary movement. The will of the revolutionary movement to end the reign of the criminal and child-killing government of the Islamic Republic is still strong and steadfast.

 **Addressed to
USW Local 1998
Human Rights
Committee**

On Sept. 13, Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old young Iranian woman, was arrested by Iran's so-called morality police for not wearing a "proper hijab". Three days later she was pronounced dead. An eyewitness has told that Mahsa had told her while in the detention room that an officer had hit her on the head. After

years under a regime relentlessly harassing women and depriving them of the most basic human rights freedoms, Mahsa's death created the longest and the most popular of protests during the past 43 years.

Since her brutal murder, tens of thousands of people have protested in the streets of 155 cities across Iran. The response of the regime, as always, has been suppressing protesters with extreme violence. As a result, at least 469 people (including 63 children as young as 8 years old) have been killed, thousands have been injured, and 14 to 16 thousand have been arrested. The real numbers, however, are more than those mentioned. In addition, two people have been executed and news has emerged of the killing of several other detainees under torture in recent days.

Systematic oppression against Iranian women started the day after the new regime took power in 1979. The new regime enforced mandatory hijab on women. They were forced out of working places step by step. They were deprived of the right to file for divorce and they lost custody of their children after the divorce. By implementing the new liberal economic measures, women received less wages for doing the same job as men. This put lots of pressure on women, in general, and on women workers in particular. The implementation of US and European economic sanctions has worsened the situation even more. The government propaganda through its media encourages medieval rules on women such as child marriage and the so-called 'honor killing'. Iranian people have been made poor. Women



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are even poorer. As a result, at Mahsa Amini's funeral, women removed their hijab and chanted: Woman, Life, Freedom. This slogan has now turned into a global feminist movement, the strongest feminine revolution throughout not only Iran but in the middle east region. This slogan is both encouraging and strategic. The woman stands for women's freedom. Life stands for Men freedom while Freedom stands for the freedom of society. As a whole, the slogan means a truly free society cannot exist without the freedom of women and men.

An important aspect of freedom is the ability of the working class to organize themselves in unions. Without such organizations, the fight against capitalism will not succeed. The Islamic Regime of Iran is well aware of this fact. That is the reason for 43 years

of detaining and killing of union activists in Iran.

In Iran, at least during the last 10 years, workers and wage earners have held thousands of strikes, gatherings, and marches every year.

There are many reasons for strikes. The most important reasons for the strikes and dissatisfaction of the working class are the low wages and the double pressure due to the difficult and dangerous conditions of the workplaces, as well as the prevention of the creation of independent labor unions and the continuous increase in inflation and the price of basic goods and housing.

By systematically suppressing union rights, the regime eliminated almost all union rights of workers, kept wages below the frozen poverty line, and forced 95% of workers to work on three-month

temporary contracts, so that whenever the employers wanted, they could fire protesters and dissatisfied workers without hindrance.

The decades-long disastrous economic policies in favor of capitalism in conjunction with US sanctions have brought nothing but poverty, environmental crisis, inflation, and an unstable market to Iranian people and especially to the working class. According to official statistics, more than two-thirds of the country's 86 million population live below the poverty line, and about half of them are below the absolute poverty line. The result is that the capacity of protests is increasing, and if the current revolutionary movement can use it well, timely and correctly, it can bring about a democratic revolution.



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The brave people of Iran fighting a just battle on the streets. You can help them by supporting their cause. As a feminist, a worker rights activist, and a human right activist. I hope you do whatever you can to support the freedom fighting of Iran. They win the battle eventually, but your support will help them to achieve their goals with fewer victims and faster.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you.

Woman, Life, Freedom

Roza Roozbehan

Member of USWLocal
1998

Dec 20, 2022

<https://bepish.org/node/8790>

**The 7th Congress of
the Party the
EUROPEAN LEFT
RESOLUTION ON IRAN**



The 7th Congress of the Party the EUROPEAN LEFT was held in Vienna from December 9th to 11th. The Congress passed the following resolution, with 95.9 percent of votes, in solidarity with the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran.

<https://bepish.org/node/8736>

**Message to the 7th
Congress of the
Party of the
European Left**



International Commission
of The Left Party of Iran
(People's Fadaian)

<https://bepish.org/node/8765>

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.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)
<https://bepish.org/taxonomy/term/689>

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