



This is Issue No. 4 of the "IRAN: View from the LEFT" which will be published for those who want to get to know the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) positions. Each issue contains selections of the party's positions on a monthly basis. The current issue covers April, 2020.

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



Current Political Situation in Iran

Last solar year (which ends March 20) was one of the most tragic years for the Iranian people in recent decades: a year full of natural disasters, economic hardships that have been exacerbated by US sanctions, and the regime's brutal crackdown on protests. The latest bitterness was the arrival of the Corona virus, which the regime's officials only admitted its arrival in Iran when the virus had spread to the city of Qom, killing two people with Covid-19 disease.

In a statement issued in the first week of the new solar year, the Central Council of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) analyzed the political situation in Iran after

the November 2019 protests and the February 2020 elections. An abridged version of the statement reads as follows:

The Regime's Current Circumstances

- The Velayat-e-Faqih system, headed by Ali Khamenei, has revealed that it is unhappy with the presence of reformists, moderates and forces close to them in the bureaucracy system, including the government and the parliament. In general, he is distrustful of their existence in the power structure. Therefore, in addition to the fact that every day more than before, he has added to his wide and long parallel system, at the same time, he has missed no attempt to destroy and at least conquer the parliament and the presidential institutions. Until now, the "passionate" elections of the two "elected" branches of the government, the parliament and the presidency, were the expression of the people's vote for the system and a vehicle for the "dignity" of the IR, headed by the Supreme Leader, at the national and global levels. But now the need of the Supreme Leader to end the dichotomy within the government is to focus all the forces in the hands of the absolute Guardianship. The regime, led by Khamenei, has decided to make its ranks more centralized and united so that it can overcome crises and resolve the issue of successor leadership with little fuss.

- Khamenei's repeated and special emphasis on the youth was one of the first signs of his discourse and even practical strategy for the "The Second Step of the Revolution." He has recently taken a "youthful" approach in appointments to designated structures and he is more concerned with the field



of faithfulness to the "Islamic Revolution" and school of Guardianship than with the age of the individual.

- The grassroots of Velayat- e- Faqih are the commanders of the IRGC, security forces and ideological Basijis and layers of clerics. By preventing any cohesion in the IRGC, Khamenei has shown that he wants this institution as a powerful arm in the service of his power rather than a partner in political structure.
- In the IR's structural system, religion has been used as means of governorship but the second Guardian Jurist (Khamenei) was able to bring religious centers such as Qom and other areas under the political and financial authority of the Guardianship system. However, resistance to Khamenei among clerics and growing discontent among seminary students is undeniable.
- The rulers did not expect a popular uprising in the dimensions of the December 2019 uprising, but that they were already prepared for a "decisive" action against any street protest. Brutal killings of protesters was a pre-planned tactic. Opening fire on the people on the street is an irrevocable point in the relationship between the people and the rulers.
- Khamenei's approach to the massacre of 176 people in the crash of a passenger plane showed that it was important for him to maintain the social base of the Velayat-e Faqih and its affiliates.
- Resolving the issue of replacing the existing Supreme Leader should be considered the pivotal issue in the policy of "The Second Step of the Revolution". All of Khamenei's explicit and covert purges during this period in

sensitive institutions and relocating their "old" beads are grounds for such efforts to hand over the power to those who are truly faithful to Velayat- e- Faqih.



Isolation of the Regime and the Descending Course of its Human and Financial Resources

- The system is devoid of its main primary public resources. The regime's "republicanism" has been fueled by the growing grip on the Islamic State. Related to the first claimed "spirituality" that its fulfillment was promised in establishment of the religious rule has been confronted with fraud, lies, and corruption. The regime's promises to address the plight of the deprived people have become counterproductive, and the deepening of the class divide on a large scale has led to a series of general riots by the poor over a short period of time. The result of the alleged national independence is dragging the country into isolation and leading it to the tumult of destructive adventures.
- The IR is on the verge of financial bankruptcy. Monetary reserves from the huge revenue from oil sales are running out. The IR does not have a plan to cut its heavy military budget and determined to cut infrastructure and services costs at



the cost of robbing pockets of 70-80 percent of the society.



The Foreign Policy of the Regime

- The Guardianship apparatus, headed by Khamenei, has made the slogan of death against the United States, Israel, etc., a political identity card. The foreign policy of the IR is experiencing the downward arc of failure. In Syria, it has not achieved any results. In its predominantly Shiite western neighbor has long been facing the popular uprising of young Iraqis who demand the exit of the foreign forces.
- The foreign policy of the IR from the very beginning relied on the game between global divisions and tried to advance its "neither Eastern nor Western" policy on the basis of taking advantage of the confrontation between East and West. But currently, the IR put its reliance on the two Eastern powers, Russia and China. This reliance was a push to stand up to the United States and at the same time a scarecrow for Europe to take advantage of.

Gradual Readiness of the Society to Transition from the Current Regime

- The chain of popular movements has become a nightmare for the regime. If the November 2019 uprising showed the eruption of the people's anger, the

immediate uprising of the university, as well as the support of workers, teachers, educators, artists and lawyers, in the form of statements and declarations in support of the November protesters at suppression and bloody threat situation signaled the collapse of society's fear of the regime.

- Bread, freedom and democracy, with a very strong secularist theme, set the stage for the people's protests. Sharing of democratic demands is very evident in their protest movement.
- Currently, tensions between the IR and the Trump administration are at their peak. The US approach, on the one hand, has put the IR in a tight spot, but on the other hand, it is at odds with the democratic, peaceful and just demands of the Iranian people and has left the IR's hand more open in suppressing the civil movement of the Iranian people.
- If the regime is forced to choose between two retreats, one against the United States and the other against the demands of the people, it will choose the former.

What is to be Done?

- In the transition from the IR, the main direction of our struggle is against the political structure based on Velayat-e Faqih. At the same time, the people's struggle to force the regime in retreat position in any field and to any extent, is in favor of democratic processes and a step forward in the struggle against religious tyranny.
- We consider the cooperation and coalition between the secular and democratic republican currents necessary. In such an alliance, further strengthening the gravity of the left will make it more possible for



both the pursuit of freedom and justice in the post-IR to take place, and for the alliance itself to become stronger. We emphasize the importance of dialogue with other opposition forces.



We condemn the government's wage policy and support the workers' struggle to raise wages!

After a long and difficult negotiation over the increasing workers' wages, the supreme council of labor of Iran, finally made the decision of a 21% increase (from 12 million to 18 million Rials). All approvals of the supreme council of labor must be approved by agreement of all three constituent elements of the council. This year's wage increase was approved with delay and only by the government and the employer's representatives, without the positive vote from the worker's representatives. This decision was clearly taken in violation of article 41 of the labor law.

The 21% increase in wages was obtained in a situation where official inflation is over 42% and the household expenditure basket is in between 70 to 80 million Rials. Article 41 of the labor law states that the increase in wages should not be less than

inflation and without considering the cost of household expenditure. In other words, the decision of the supreme council of labor is against the labor law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and does not have legal validity.

With this small increase, which is only half of the official inflation rate, and while the wages of most workers and retired pensions covers only quarter of the cost of living standards, the condition for workers and retired people will be more difficult and unbearable in the current year. That is the reason that even the representatives of the state workers have refused to sign this act and, after the publication of the wage rate a wave of protests by workers, workers organizations' and other justice seekers have started against it.

The senior economic managers of Rouhani's government are trying to a maintain and impose wage freeze policies, which are the basis of adjustment and neoliberal policies and have been pursuing them for years. To achieve a real increase in wages and to get rid of poverty and other deprivations imposed on workers by capitalists and pro-capitalist governments, requires the organization of the working class independent unions and the solidarity and unity of the workers' organizations.

The Left Party of Iran strongly condemns the policy of imposing wages below the poverty line on workers and retirees. They strongly support the workers' protests against the disproportionately increased rate of wages to inflation. We call on equality and justice seekers, political parties and organizations, peoples and workers institutions and forces, to support the workers and retirees to surpass the



poverty line and achieve wages in line with real living costs.



Political - Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)

The 11th of April 2020

Corona Virus Crisis and its Double burden on Humanity

COVID-19 crisis is a global phenomenon and its agony is global. The state actions over the world to deal with it has reduced pain in some places and added pressure elsewhere. The Islamic Republic regime belongs to the latter group of governments. Concealment and negligence were the hallmarks of the government's policy in the first weeks of the Corona outbreak. This behavior followed by continued tenacity and violence against prisoners, especially political prisoners, haste to declare normalcy and accompanied with violation of labours and poor.

Due to the high density of prisons in Iran, the issue of the release of prisoners who do not pose a threat to the society, especially political prisoners, has popularly been demanded. However, the Islamic Republic has released only a small number of prisoners and it continues to prosecute and

issue harsh sentences against political and civil activists. The occurrence of 9 deadly riots in Iranian prisons within 3 weeks clearly depicts the existing horror in prisons.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) in several statements warned of the consequences of these behaviors and condemned them.

Release prisoners!

The LPI (PF) has expressed deep concern over the lives of all prisoners, especially political prisoners, called on the government to stop its inhumane policy of holding them in prison. We believe our initiative of putting pressure on the regime to back off from its brutal policy is a popular responsibility of the opposition. We are with Ms. Ozra Bazargan, the mother of freedom fighter Narges Mohammadi and all of the families of political prisoners who cannot stop worrying for their loved ones even for a moment because of the threat against their lives in this deadly situation. To expose this callous policy of the government and in order to free all political prisoners we extend our hands towards everyone unconditionally.



On the subject of the conviction of civil activists

The LPI (PF) considers the issuance of more than forty years of imprisonment for four civil rights activists repulsive. We



believe that the Islamic government does not respect any standards except for the interests of a handful of tyrants, dictators and thieves, and above all the interests of the corrupt system of the supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. Prisons are the center of the corona virus disease. Thus, the only way to save prisoners' lives is to release them. We

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN

urge political parties and organizations, as well as democratic and civic institutions, to spare no effort in this critical situation for the release of prisoners, especially political prisoners.



On the subject of executing political prisoner, Mostafa Salimi, upon his re-arrest after escaping prison

The LPI (PF) condemns the execution of Mustafa Salimi, who spent his youth behind bars especially in the current situation where the danger of Corona in prison could threaten the lives of prisoners. It is not a daily crime committed by regime. Rather, it is a twofold crime. Although any execution

is an inhumane, sickening, and hateful act, this one is one of those crimes that doubles the pain on the morals of humanity.

Accelerating and pretending the normalization of the situation in the shadows of Corona Virus epidemic and persuading the unemployed workers back to work has been another act of the rulers of the Islamic Republic. Hassan Rouhani and the Minister of Industry and Mines issued an order on April 7 stating that economic and business activities should resume on April 10. The decision was taken as the Corona Virus has massacred many in the factories. The political-executive board of the party stated:

The LPI (PF) considers the government's order to resume production activities, except for essential goods, in the current situation an act of spreading the virus. This will cause the loss of lives and creates financial crisis. We condemn such decisions and demand the full quarantine to stop the disastrous trend of the virus, to declare the closure of production, service, and administrative units until the risk is eliminated. In addition, we ask the government to pay unemployment benefits to the unemployed and provide livelihoods for those affected by the outbreak of the Coronavirus and the quarantine.

The multifaceted pressures of chronic economic crises, US sanctions and the Corona Crisis are pushing many workers into poverty. In this situation, the minimum wage for this year increased by only 21 percent. This increase is announced when the official inflation rate is over 42% and the monthly average household expenditure is 70 to 80 million Rials (450-510 USD). It is noteworthy that the article 3 of the Labor Law states that the increase in wages should not be less than inflation



rate and it should take into account the average household expenditure. In other words, the decision of the Supreme Labor Council is even against the labor law of the Islamic Republic and lacks legitimacy. The political-executive board issued a statement in this regard. It states:

The LPI (PF) strongly condemns the policy of imposing wages below the poverty line on workers and retirees. Wage increases must be in accordance with the real costs of living and the government's policy neglects this simple fact. We strongly support the protests by workers and retirees against this year's wage increase and we call on all political parties and organizations believing in equality, the freedom seeking people, the workers' organizations, and the institutions striving for justice to support the just struggle of workers and retirees to stay above the poverty lines and to increase wages in line with real living costs.

Second Anniversary of the Establishment of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) LPI (PF)



After a two-year effort to stabilize and emergence of its intellectual, schematic and political views, the LPI (PF), entered its third year of existence on March 30th of this year. On the same day of year 2018, the founding congress of our party began and

within three days full of passion and optimism it established the LPI (PF) and declare the formation of a new left organization in the political sphere of Iran. **The party's political-executive board issued a statement on this occasion:**

Two years ago the three constituent constituents united on the basis of one platform. It contained their experiences of the global Left views, both its achievements and errors as well as lessons learned after the 1970 revolution in Iran. This in turn evolved into the unification of that portion of Fadaian who believed in unity based on their views of political, theoretical, party's structure and interactions within the party.

Our strategic policy and approach focuses on preparation of necessary means for power transition from the Islamic Republic. During the course of this transition and the aftermath of realization of secular democracy, those entities who fight for justice, freedom, democracy and against all forms of discrimination could play a significant and effective role. Regarding the type of power structure, we have defined our strategic goal as establishment of a secular democratic republic and in our unity policies emphasize on unity of secular republican democrats.

Our party emphasizes on importance of struggle for a broad alliance of left forces in both current situation and the aftermath of the Islamic Republic era. The rationale for our existence is the need of Iran and the world for solidarity, freedom, social justice and democracy. For this purpose and its practical realization, we try not to miss any opportunities within opposition bloc to generate a coalition of secular republican democrats committed to the transition of the current regime. To do this, we encourage dialogue between the opposition forces.



In the name of all the members, we extend our hands to those who are compassionate towards laborers, defenders of the rights of the victims of discrimination, and anyone whose heart beats for socialist ideals. We welcome any positive response in this regard warmly.



The international section of the Left Party of Germany wrote in a message on the occasion of the second anniversary of the founding of our party:

We sincerely congratulate you and your party on the birthday of the party. Unfortunately, the current era is not suitable for celebrations. Corona's pandemic has taken its toll and it has caused a lot of suffering in the world.

This crisis has affected all of us, but it is more severe in some countries. The Corona virus clearly shows that the capitalist world is not capable to effectively counter the danger of a pandemic. Solidarity, cooperation and mutual support will only be possible if these principles become the basis of foreign policy and economic policy and peace is the common goal of all international relations. Mankind, his protection and his basic needs must be the basis of politics. In order to achieve these goals, we, the left parties, have a great task ahead of us. Let's work together to overcome capitalism and come up with policies for humanity.



A crime against two generations of Freedom Fighters

April 18 is the anniversary of a bitter event for People's Fadaian. 45 years ago at the dawn of this day, the murderous executioners of Sah's regime in Evin's prison shot and killed 9 political prisoners; seven People's Fadaian: Bijan Jazani, Ahmad Jalil Afshar, Mohammad Choupanzadeh, Abbas Sooraki, Aziz Sarmadi, Hassan Zia Zarifi, Saeed (Mashouf) Kalantari and two of the Mojahedin Khalq: Kazem Zulvanwari and Mostafa Javan Khoshdashl. The day after they falsely announced that "nine prisoners who tried to escape were killed."

45 years has passed since and to this date the perpetrators have not been arrested and the heirs and supporters of Mohammad Reza Shahi's regime have not yet revealed the truth about this crime.

The great crime of April 18, 1975 was the destruction of the historical link between two generations of freedom fighters in our country. Bijan Jazani's influence on the leftist and People's Fadaian movement of those years is not in doubt but the bitter reality is not limited to the fact that he as the leader of two generations of leftist revolutionaries, was taken away from his comrades and country. The real problem is that the absence of such a great leader during the days and years of the revolution and after that was tangible and obvious for both affiliated organizations.