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Word of the Month

During their Johannesburg summit last month, the BRICS bloc invited six new members -- Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran -- to join the bloc on 1 January 2024.

This bloc was initially formed in 2009 but waned in significance when Bolsonaro assumed the Brazilian presidency. The return of Brazilian President Lula has revived the bloc.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is delighted with their invitation to join the bloc. Their media is trying to project this (together with Iran's membership of the Shanghai Conference) as a triumph and as proof that they are not isolated internationally

Many hope that the expanded BRICS+ bloc can rival the G7. The weight of their combined populations and GDPs gives them a potential advantage over the Western bloc.

Initial arrangements to conduct trade within the bloc based on local currencies of member states may be a step to 'de-dollarize' international trade. In general, the BRICS+ have the potential to become an alternative to the G7 in terms of global governance, and an instrument against Western domination.

However, the main issue for the BRICS+ bloc is its internal cohesion versus that of the G7.

The G7 are all capitalist countries, both economically and ideologically, and their leaders are proud to say so. The BRICS+ lacks this cohesion. The BRICS' most ardent proponent is China, which has the most to gain in its rivalry with the US. Russia also stands to gain, not least in the context of Western sanctions. But India promotes a more 'neutral' approach, and the newcomers each have their own various and sundry agendas. Time will tell whether the BRICS+ can overcome their internal contradictions.



A Covenant



On the first day of August, a unified text titled "The Covenant of the Right to Life" was independently published by numerous Iranian political parties and organizations.

The Left Party of Iran was among these

organizations. The text of the Covenant is as follows: "The Covenant of the Right to Life" is based on the theoretical foundation of the "right to have rights" and serves as a fundamental citizen's right. It has been signed by



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a coalition of democratic political organizations, proposing to the people of Iran that a universal foundational covenant be established during the struggle against the oppressive clerical government and in the post-oppression era.

The pillars of this covenant are as follows:

- The right to have rights, regardless of political orientation, religious belief, sexual orientation, ideological inclination, or ethnic affiliation.
- Absolute prohibition of execution.
- Absolute prohibition of physical and psychological torture.
- Adherence to a fair, transparent, and complaint-friendly judicial process without any exceptions.

The signatories of this covenant commit to the following:

They commit to recognizing the rights of all human beings and not excluding anyone based on their political orientation, gender, beliefs, or ethnic background.

They commit to considering the death penalty and deprivation of the right to life as unacceptable and advocate against these punishments. No one, even if found guilty, regardless of their nationality, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, or background, should be deprived of the right to life.

They commit to regarding physical and psychological torture, as well as coerced confessions obtained through torture, as unjust and prohibited.

They commit to adhering to a just and transparent judicial process and not using political or ideological differences as a pretext for accusations. They shall not compromise the equal rights of all, based on their own preferences and group interests.

They commit to upholding this covenant wherever they are, within the borders of Iran or beyond, and in any political stance, whether in favor or against the current government, until they

explicitly and publicly withdraw their signatures. The signing of this covenant signifies agreement on the principle of the right to have rights, the protection of the physical and psychological well-being of all, and respect for human dignity. These principles are the foundation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its associated conventions.

Read more here:

<https://bepish.org/node/9769>

Exposure to Empty Food Tables



Bread is the most basic and essential food for millions of Iranian citizens, especially those living below the poverty line and in absolute poverty. The crisis-ridden



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economy under the Islamic Republic, under the guise of the "resistance economy," has now led to a 40% increase in bread prices.

This exposure of empty food tables occurs as widespread economic protests against inflation and high prices are taking place across the country. Simultaneously, the women's revolutionary movement, "Women, Life, Freedom," continues its struggle to undermine the corrupt and repressive regime in various forms of resistance.

A statement from the Political Executive Committee of the Iranian Left Party regarding this matter reads:

The Iranian Left Party considers the corrupt regime of the Islamic Republic as the main cause of the increase in bread prices and other essential public goods. By raising prices, the regime further empties the eating tables of the people to fund its oppressive rule through theft from the livelihood of the people. Employing hijab enforcers to suppress women

activists opposing compulsory hijab is a small example of this regressive and inhumane policy. We emphasize our opposition to the increase in bread and other essential commodity prices and support the protests of workers, wage earners, and retirees, who demand increased wages and purchasing power. We call on them to continue their protests, unite, and stand in solidarity to achieve their rights.

Read more here:

<https://bepish.org/node/9813>

■ **The recent Expulsion of University Professors**



Recently, the Ministry of Education of the Islamic



Republic has expelled university professors.

Tens of University professors and at least 122 University students have been banned from attending classes for their support of the movement and their active students.

The Political - Executive Committee of the Iranian Left Party had a statement regarding this important matter.

■ **Drying of Lake Urmia**

The drying of Lake Urmia is an environmental catastrophe in Iran. A combination of various factors has contributed to this disaster. Regardless of climate change and other factors, the policies of the Islamic Republic in the



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field of the environment
have undoubtedly
exacerbated this
environmental disaster.

Read more here:

<https://bepish.org/node/9894>



IRAN: View from the LEFT" is published for those who are interested to know the Left Party of Iran 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
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International Office:
international@LPI-PE.org