



IRAN:

View from the LEFT

Nov 2023

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Word of the Month

“A Pause Until...?”

The horrors of Israel's military campaign against Gaza have been “paused” once again, this time for another 24 hours. Rendering the guns silent for 4 days, then 2 days more and another day after that – any number of days – is welcome. But then what?

Netanyahu's government has declared the total destruction of Hamas – both militarily and organisationally -- its prime objective. Despite the unprecedented and relentless firepower unleashed upon Gaza, causing more than 15,000 deaths and destruction of over half of the territory's homes, and the nearly total siege preventing water, food or fuel from reaching the 2.2 million people trapped there, the proud and brave people of Gaza have shown a dignified civility.

Gaza has not descended into chaos. Social order continues. To what extent this is the result of spontaneous self-discipline rather than Hamas' continued control is unclear. But at the very least, by continuing the regular, orderly handover of captives (both Israeli and non-Israeli) as their part of the captive exchange, Hamas makes crystal clear that it is still very much intact. By releasing at least one group of its captives from within Gaza City, Hamas has proven that despite Israel's carpet bombing campaign, the IDF has not even been able to take full control of Gaza City.

Despite his bombastic statements, Netanyahu has already crossed some of his own red lines: no negotiations with Hamas, no exchange of prisoners and no 'pause'.

Netanyahu is adamant that Israel will resume the war after this pause. In other words, the genocidal attack against Gaza's 2.2 million people, already squeezed into a tiny area with nowhere to shelter, will be resumed with renewed vigour. Any resumption of this war could result in arguably unprecedented horrors.

Can the “pause” be turned into a ceasefire? The Americans have been providing unwavering support for Israel's crimes in every possible way: militarily, financially and diplomatically. Now, belatedly, they are trying to play the “good guy” or at least play down their up-to-now openly “bad guy” role by suggesting the ‘pause’ might lead to a ceasefire.

But this is where Netanyahu can throw a spanner in the works. His insistence upon annihilation of Hamas leaves almost no room for a ceasefire agreement that avoids ‘loss of face’ by the Israelis.

So what next? The choices are stark: negotiations toward a long-term resolution of this intractable conflict or renewed bombardment.

The root cause of the fear, terror and unending suffering is clear: Israel's illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its unbearable system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians throughout Palestine/Israel. Palestinians have shown that no amount of firepower will force them to flee the only land they have left.

The international community MUST force Israel to negotiate.

■ **"Immediate and unconditional ceasefire, release of hostages, and the commencement of international negotiations for lasting peace!"**

The war in Gaza has had significant repercussions in the region, exacerbating existing rifts to the extent that normalizing relations with Israel has become much more challenging in the Arab world. The cancellation of meetings between the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Palestinian self-governing bodies with Biden during his Middle East trip, following his comments on hospital bombings in Gaza, reflects the sensitivity of the situation in the region. The current danger is that the hostilities may extend beyond Israel and Hamas, involving other countries, including Lebanon. This could escalate the current conflict into a regional engagement and beyond.

The Left Party of Iran supports an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, the immediate cessation of all military operations by Israel against the people of Gaza, and the immediate release of hostages by Hamas. It calls for the initiation of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians to establish lasting peace based on United Nations resolutions. The party believes that there is no other solution than reaching a just agreement to avoid war and bloodshed, and put an end to this prolonged conflict. Alongside these actions, it is crucial to swiftly provide necessary aid to the people of Gaza and open ways for humanitarian assistance to the residents and the injured.

The party maintains that the Israel-Palestine conflict has no military solution, and neither of these two nations can eliminate the other. The solution that has garnered broad international

consensus is the establishment of two separate states. This solution remains on the table and is considered a robust legal foundation for achieving peace and reconciliation.

Political-Executive Committee of the Left Party of Iran

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■ **The meeting of "Hamgami" representatives with the Department of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain**



On Thursday, November 8th, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, a meeting took place between the „Hamgami“ delegation and officials from the Human Rights Department of this ministry. The meeting was hosted by Francisco Lopez Lorenzo, the head of the Human Rights Department, and Blanca Alcaraz. Mahmoud Alizadeh and Hamid Hosseini, representing Hamgami, were received at the ministry's premises. The delegation explained in this meeting that Iranians' lives and



freedom have undergone significant changes after the Women, Life, Freedom movement. These changes have occurred both within the regime and in the society that has risen against the Islamic Republic. It was mentioned that Iran will never return to the conditions before this movement. Half of Iran's population, namely women, has played a prominent role in a movement aiming to build a democratic and secular Iran, and there is a growing divergence within the government. Mir Hossein Mousavi, the former Prime Minister, was highlighted as an important example of this divergence. Reference was made to the Islamic Republic's policy of tension reduction with its neighbors, driven by the regime's concerns about internal movements, as well as progress in nuclear negotiations.



In conclusion, the officials from the Human Rights Department of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed hope that,

alongside other European Union members, they could implement a ceasefire for humanitarian assistance in Gaza. They also provided their contact details to the delegation, expressing gratitude for the meeting to maintain continuous communication.

HAMGAMI (The Coalition for the Secular Democratic Republic of Iran)

The execution of Milad Zohrevand stands as another shameful page in the dossier of the Islamic Republic.

Milad Zahraevand, a 21-year-old youth accused of the murder of Ali Nazari, an intelligence security officer of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was executed yesterday in Hamedan prison in connection with the death of Geena-Mahsa Amini on the 40th day of her murder. With this execution, the Islamic Republic added another shameful leaf to its heavy and widespread criminal record. Milad Zahraevand had married sometime before his arrest and became a father while awaiting the death sentence in prison.

The Left Party of Iran, while expressing disgust and hate at the execution of Milad Zahraevand, once



again calls on organizations, political parties, democratic institutions, and human rights activists to intensify their struggle against executions and oppression. It urges them to prioritize plans to counter executions and oppression in Iran in their immediate agenda. One of the effective factors in the proliferation of executions and the intensification of oppression is the scattered reaction of democratic and leftist forces in Iran. Let us be vigilant; opposing forces to suppression and execution, fighting to dismantle the Islamic Republic's rule, have not been able to take effective steps to block the government's path due to unjust severity in joint actions against suppression and execution. We must fulfill our responsibility. Political-Executive Committee of the Left Party of Iran.

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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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