



This is Issue No. 6 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 June, 2020.

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



Khamenei is worried about the progress of the left ideas in universities!

Despite the dominance of military atmosphere in the society, factories and universities, the leftist movement in the last two decades has not only risen again, but also it has gained momentum throughout few remaining facilities and breathing spaces. It has started to broaden the campaign for social justice, freedom and the demands of the working class. Left has stand up against the ruling tyranny, the neoliberal policies of the state and the free ride of the capitalism. This resurgence has prompted the regime to confront the left by resorting to a variety of soft and hard weapons. It has got to the point that Khamenei made the

main topic of his annual meeting with a select group of university students as the necessity of arming students to fight “those who are resurrecting Marxism.”

In a statement addressed to the country's students, the party's political-executive board explained the process of promoting the left's presence in society:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), as a critical and anti-capitalist movement, anti-exploitation of labor and nature and as an advocator of freedom, social justice, democracy and socialism is pleased with the leftist movement in the country's universities and chanted slogans on the first days of January. Our party supports your solidarity and association with workers, the poor, and teachers. We hope that the current student movement, as it did in the decades before the Revolution, will be portrayed with the face of freedom and justice, and that the left flag will be raised by your hands in the country's universities.

The university has always been a center for the formation and growth of leftist forces. The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) like its predecessor, the Fada'i movement, has a unique feeling with you students and is with you in defending socialist values and in the struggle against tyranny and for freedom, social justice, democracy and the elimination of discrimination. It is hoped that a close bond will be formed between the student movement and the left parties and organizations, and that the left will be able to play an effective role in leading democratic movements and transitioning to democracy and fulfilling the demands of workers and the poor by advancing to an influential position in the country's political sphere.

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Solidarity

The party's political-executive board issued a statement condemning the brutal murder of George Floyd by the police and in solidarity with the American people's protests against injustice and discrimination. In this declaration which deals with various aspects of the protests, we read:

Although the just and popular uprising of the American people against discrimination and injustice began with a protest against the killing of George Floyd but it is reminiscent of the great civil uprisings in American history, from opposition to the Vietnam War to the 60's civil movement and the era of Martin Luther King. All the evidence suggests that after decades, politics in the United States is transitioning to the streets. It began with the Wall Street Occupation Movement and dozens of other similar cases, including the strong presence of people like Sanders in the US presidential election as well as the presence of some elected members of the Congress who officially consider themselves socialists and leftists. The recent uprising is another shock for the world of politics in the United States of billionaires and cartels in favor of the vast majority of the people. It has challenged Trump's "America First" policy which is in conflict with international institutions and all human achievements, from trying to combat

environmental degradation to the freedom and public security of the people. This policy has intensified xenophobia, international conflicts and imperialist competition over the past four years. However, where opposition to the Vietnam War had the unified theme of anti-war concept; where Martin Luther King's movement was the fight for black civil rights; where "Occupy Wall Street" had a clear direction against inequality, it could not be said that the recent uprising has a unique theme. This uprising is all of those mentioned above and more but at the same time it is none of them. This uprising contains within a set of goals.

And at the end we read:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) expresses its disgust with discrimination and crime against blacks and other people of color in American society. We call for justice for George Floyd and similar racist killings. Rising up against racism and discrimination is the right and the need of the American people. We support the civil struggle of the American people and consider it a step towards a just and humane society. Our party sympathizes with the egalitarian and anti-discrimination movement in the United States.

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Threat against Justice

Following an investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) into



allegations of war crimes committed by the US military and its intelligence services in Afghanistan, Donald Trump issued an order to boycott the Court's staff and banning them from entering US.

Under Trump's decree, an investigation into "US allies" will also be threatened. This is clearly targeting an investigation by the International Criminal Court into Israel's actions against the Palestinian people.

The party's international relations department condemned Trump's threat against the International Criminal Court in a statement. It reads:

We see Trump's order and this approach as self-centered, inciting war crimes and other major crimes, and as a means of undermining the International Criminal Court. This institution has strengthened the hope for judicial justice in the world. We condemn any pressure or threat against the International Court of Justice, and call on all peacekeepers and advocates to protest against this act by the US government. More...

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The 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of Iran (CPI)

Hundred years of struggle for freedom and social justice in Iran

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Communist Party of Iran. The formation of the Communist Party of Iran on June 22-24, 1920 in Bandar Anzali was an important step in formulating a plan for fundamental changes in the country's political sphere and the effective preparation of the rise of left in Iranian society. This bold and responsible act is an important milestone in the history of the Iranian left movement which, given the formation of its first nuclei, is about 120 years old.

The party's political-executive board issued a statement on the occasion describing the party's great and enduring legacy as follows:

The great and enduring legacy of the Communist Party of Iran is to have a plan for the future of the country and to emphasize unity in the ranks of the left forces in order to influence its developments. Although the Iranian left has not taken the necessary steps to unify its ranks but the formation of this party was an important step in transferring the left into an important instrument of change in the country. The unceasing effort to organize the labor forces of the society around its dynamic program and goals and to influence masses is the lasting role of the Communist Party of Iran in the history of Iran's leftist struggles.

In 1931, Reza Shah introduced a "Law on the Punishment of Crimes against the Security and the sovereignty of the Country" in order to oppose the Communists and their influence. The law passed in parliament. It prohibited the activities and propaganda of the Communist Party and its allies as well as any activity by communist or leftist forces including even trade unions. The Law contained punishments such imprisonment.

The statement by our party's political-executive board explains:



Left in Iran throughout its history, from the circle of '53 Persons' around Taghi Arani and the "Donya" magazine in the 1920s to the formation of 'Tudeh Party of Iran' and a few smaller leftist groups during the 1930 and 1940 decades and dozens of other parties in the subsequent three decades and most notably, the 'People's Fedaian' organization, have made a significant contribution to the civic organization of our society's movements. Left has been the vanguard of the struggle against exploitation and inequality and any kind of discriminations based on gender, nationality and ethnic origins. Left has played an irreplaceable role in spreading knowledge, culture and art. We have struggled for peace and solidarity, modernity, secularism, justice, freedom and democracy. To achieve these, left has fought selflessly and bravely and a lot of our comrades have fallen in their struggle and a lot more have suffered imprisonment and exile and forced migration. The forerunner of this path is the Communist Party of Iran.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Iran emphasizes the influential role of the party in the struggle for freedom, socialism, and a better and more humane world. By declaring loyalty and belief in the values and ideals that leftist forces in Iran have pursued for the past hundred years, we see this as an opportunity to further consolidate our ranks and honor the leaders of the left movement and to introduce their history and their ideas throughout their struggle. We announce that the flag raised by the Communist Party of Iran is still Up and it will remain Up even after a century has passed!



The disgrace that has become Law

"Honor Killing" is one of the shocking phenomena that unfortunately sometimes occurs in the traditional strata of Iranian society. What makes this type of crime worse is that the perpetrators remains unpunished according to the sharia laws in the Islamic Republic of Iran. News of murdering of a 13-year-old girl by her father for defending "honor" and three similar tragedies has shaken Iran's civil society. The party's political-executive board wrote in a statement on the occasion:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) is deeply saddened by the tragic killing of 'Romina Ashrafi'. Our condolences to Romina's mother and brother. Our party calls for an end to violence against women and children. The laws of the Islamic Republic serve to strengthen discrimination against women and to preserve the traditional and patriarchal structure of the society in Iran. It recognizes the Islamic Republic, which claims to be the province and the head of society, as the forerunner of these social catastrophes due to the spread of culture and the enactment of patriarchal laws. We support the courageous struggle of women in our country against discrimination and for the sake of justice. Our party emphasizes the constitutional amendment, the complete repeal of these discriminatory laws, and the compliance of all laws of the country with the norms of human rights. We have a duty to work with all anti-discrimination activists for gender equality and against current



discriminatory laws. We believe that freedom from the shackles of tyranny and authoritarianism is not possible without the struggle to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Ensuring the equal and legal status of women with men and expanding their real and effective presence in the political and social spheres is a fundamental step in the transition to democracy in the country and the strength of the society.

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Endless crimes against Iranian Women!

Four groups of secular Iranian Democratic Republicans, The left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), United Republicans of Iran, The Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran and the National Front are writing a joint statement:

The end of Honor Killings and Violence against Women Requires a Change in the Political Structure and Laws of the Country!

Over the past month, Iranian media reported five honor killings. Four Secular Democratic parties, United Republicans of Iran, The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), Iran National Front Organizations Abroad and Union for Secular Republic and Human Rights in Iran (USRHR) issued a joint statement in this regard:

Over the past month, Iran has witnessed five honor killings. Young girls and women who have been murdered by their fathers, husbands and brothers for reasons of honor, and the society is shocked by these murders and the indifference approach by officials and the incompetency of laws to stop or punish the perpetrators. Romina Ashrafi, 14, and Reyhaneh Ameri, 22, were killed because they chose to be with the partners disapproved by their fathers. Fatemeh Barhi, 19, was killed by her husband for the crime of 'infidelity'. Most recently, a young woman in Abadan and another 18 years old also were killed by a male member of their family for committing the same "crime. These are neither the first nor the last cases of honor killings in Iran. Honor killings are a blatant and violent manifestation of patriarchal, traditional, and misogynistic norms and structures that see women as the property of men.

The scale of honor killings in Iran is very wide. According to statistical sources and the statements of the country's officials, honor killings have accounted for nearly 20% of the country's total murder accounts in recent years. Victims of honor killings not only have no legal protection, but also some of the laws and behaviors of judicial and criminal authorities have openly provided the ground for the legitimacy and spread of these kind of violence.

We, the four secular democratic Republican currents, condemn honor killings and all forms of violence and gender discrimination against women. We see the roots of these killings and violence in criminal and penal laws and other anti-feminist and anti-women's rights laws of the IR. Laws and regulations must be ratified in order to ensure the security of women against violence.

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