



This is Issue No. 9 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 September, 2020.

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

Unforgivable Crime

In the long list of crimes committed by the Islamic Republic, the month of September 2020 needs to be added: the month in which Navid Afkari was executed. It was during this month that the Islamic Republic’s assassination machine carried out this criminal act despite a wave of calls in Iran and around the world to halt the death sentence. They did that to send a multifaceted message to the Iranian and international community.

The execution of Navid Afkari, given the nature of his case, is a political decision at the highest level of the Islamic Republic government with the message containing a clear threat against disgruntled opposition people of Iran that anti-government protests will not be tolerated. Navid Afkari was not an unknown figure like many other detainees. His execution was a conscious choice by the repressive machine of the Islamic Republic to say that even the international recognition and pressure will not prevent the killing of protesters. They proved that killing in the streets was not enough. They showed that protesters must expect mass arrests, torture, insults and fake confessions. With the execution of this well-known athlete, winner of several championship

medals and a popular figure among the youth of his hometown, the Islamic Republic sent a message that the government’s decision is to continue the bloodshed and killing.



The statement of the Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) condemning this crime reads:

The Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) considers the execution of Navid Afkari a blatant crime by the Islamic Republic and strongly condemns it. We extend our sincere condolences to the Afkari family and the Iranian sports community and all those who raised the banner of resistance against the tyrants. The issuance of death sentences against the protesters of the popular uprisings of December 2017 and November 2019 is part of the Islamic Republic’s plan to terrify the public. We call on human rights organizations and institutions to protest against the execution and torture in the prisons of the Islamic Republic and the issuance of cruel sentences against protesters. We believe that detainees will not be freed without a public struggle and all-out pressure against the Islamic Republic. In the absence of such popular struggle the harassment of the families of the victims and the repression will not end and the death sentences against the protesters will not be abolished. Our success requires the establishment of a wide-ranging front.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4320>

Prior to this crime, the political-executive delegations of the Union of Republicans of



Iran, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) and the solidarity of the Republicans of Iran in a joint statement described the various dimensions of repression of political, economic and social demands in the Islamic Republic. Included in this statement was the call to stop the execution of Navid Afkari.

The decree reads:

... However, the Islamic Republic will not be able to use executions, killings, torture, intensifying pressure on prisoners, blocking social networks and launching the "national internet" to cover up its crimes, prevent the rise of the poor, and spread the atmosphere of fear in our country. There is not a day that workers, retirees, nurses and teachers do not protest against the current miserable situation and against the policies and functions of the regime.

We, the three secular and democratic Republican parties in unison with the international community and the country's liberal forces demand the abolition of the death sentence of Navid Afkari and the conviction of his two brothers, the release of political prisoners including those arrested in November of last year, accept Nasrin Sotoudeh's legitimate demands. We call on civil society and human rights activists and organizations to continue protesting so that the Islamic Republic does not commit further killings. Stop killing our youth!

In this regard, Ms. Cornelia Ernst, Chair of the Parliamentary Group for Negotiations with Iran in the European Parliament, also strongly condemned the execution of Navid Afkari.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4271>

The representative of the European Parliament in the negotiations with Iran strongly condemned the murder of Navid Afkari!

Cornelia Ernst, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Iran, will hold a meeting. At that meeting, the

killing of Navid Afkari will be announced as one of the topics of discussion. Ms. Ernst called on the Iranian government to end the persecution of peaceful protesters and to guarantee the democratic rights and freedom of the Iranian people. According to Ms. Ernst, the death penalty is cruel and inhumane and an absolute sign of human dignity and immunity.



Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4293>

No More Youth Killing!

Terrified of the People's Protest Uprising, the Islamic Republic is Spreading Fear!

The regime recently sentenced three demonstrators of the November 2019 uprising to death, which was forced to halt the execution because of protest of millions of people inside and outside the country on cyberspace. However, the Islamic regime now wants to send another young man to the execution squad. The judiciary of the IR has sentenced Navid Afkari, a wrestler with a national championship, to two death sentences, six and a half years in prison and 74 lashes.

The news of the execution of Navid Afkari has been widely spread among famous Iranian and world athletes, political and civil activists. A number of prominent Iranian wrestlers and Olympic and world freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling champions have joined the campaign and have expressed their protest against the sentence.

At the same time Amnesty International released a detailed report: Massive Detentions, Disappearances, and Torture in



the wake of the November 2019 protests in Iran," is based on the horrific narratives of dozens of protesters, passers-by, and others who were forcibly arrested, disappeared, kept in solitary confinement and repeatedly tortured for confession. These are narratives of part of the 7,000 men, women and children who were arrested in a few days in November last year. In this report, Amnesty International lists the names and identities of more than 500 protesters, media activists, and human rights defenders who were prosecuted in connection with the November 2019 uprising. This organization had previously reported the killing of 304 people, at least 23 of whom were children, in connection with the November last year uprising.

Pressure on political prisoners has increased. Nasrin Sotoudeh, a lawyer and human rights activist, has been on a hunger strike since August 11, 2020. Dozens of political prisoners have joined her in the protest. Despite the life danger to Nasrin Sotoudeh and the widespread support of political and civil activists for her, the regime officials have continued to ignore her demands. The Vice President of the European Parliament called on the international community, especially EU diplomats, to work hard to defend Nasrin Sotoudeh. According to the German daily newspaper "der Tagesspiegel", the European Parliament, the American Pen Association, the International Human Rights Society, Omid Nouripour (German Green Foreign Policy Spokesman), Frank Schwaben (a senior member of the German Social Democrats and member of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee (Bundestag)) and Iranian Twitter users are all participating in the solidarity campaign.

Statistics recorded by the Statistics and Documentation Center of the Human Rights Organization (HaNegav, a Kurdish human rights organization) show that at least twenty Kurdish "Carriers" were killed or wounded on the borders of Kurdistan during August of this year, over 70% of which

occurred with direct fire from the armed forces of the IR regime.

In another step to intensify the repression, the parliament elected by Ali Khamenei is seeking to block cyberspace in order to hide the regime's crimes and prevent activities of millions on social media. The Rouhani government intends to launch a national Internet to deprive people of access to opposition networks and sites.

We, the three secular and democratic Republican currents, in unison with the international community and the country's freedom-loving forces, demand the abolition of the death sentence of Navid Afkari and the conviction of his two brothers, the release of political prisoners, a positive response to Nasrin Sotoudeh's legitimate demands and end to the killing of "Carriers". No more youth execution.

Political-Executive Boards of:

United Republicans of Iran

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)

Union for Secular Republic and Human Rights in Iran (USRHR)



September 6, 2020

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4238>

Silence against Rape and Sexual Harassment is to the Detriment of Society!





The growing popularity of the “Me -Too” Movement and publication of numerous reports and articles on sexual harassment against women in various ways have led to the widespread discussion of this anomaly in the society for the purpose of getting to the root causes of the issue.

"Norms" made in a patriarchal society, which are formed in terms such as: "honor", "modesty", "maintaining cover", "not endangering reputation"; Consequently, the punishments of flogging and execution for perpetrators of sexual crimes, on the one hand, and the promotion of these "norms" through educational books, as well as broadcasting dialogue and producing programs and series such as "Aghazadeh - Gentle" in the country's public media, had brought this problem to the point where the rape victims had only two options: silence or suicide.



Although in recent years we have seen many cases of breaking silence and reinforcing the idea that "the victim is not to blame" at the community level, but still the country and society, especially in deprived areas and towns and villages adhered to unwritten traditions and laws, have a long way in fighting this serious scourge of society, which includes not only women but also young children who are unable to defend themselves and resist against rape and sexual harassment.

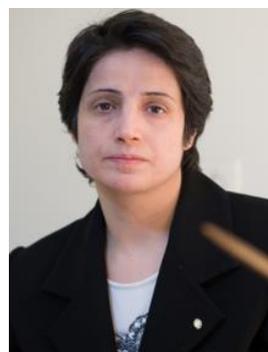
The Women organization of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) declares its support for the “Me - Too” movement and believes that by welcoming this movement by women who are victims of rape and sexual harassment, it is possible and necessary to change wrong patriarchal norms and written and unwritten reactionary laws in favor of women.

Women organization of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)

August 29, 2020

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4211>

In prisons and with political prisoners



In the prisons of the Islamic Republic, pressure and repression have intensified.



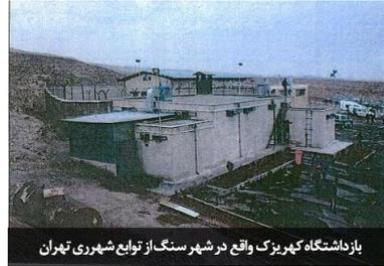
During the past month, apart from executions aimed at intimidating the people and preventing the resurgence of the mass movement, political prisoners have been subjected to slow death in various forms. Nader Mokhtari, a 35-year-old man who fell into a coma after being beaten by a baton during the November 2017 protests, died in prison on September 20, due to lack of medical care. On Tuesday, the death sentence of Haidar Ghorbani was upheld by the Supreme Court. He is another Kurdish political prisoner and compatriot who was arrested in Sanandaj in 2016 in connection with a case filed by the Ministry of Intelligence and sentenced to death for "armed insurrection" against the Islamic Republic. Four Arab compatriots: Ali Motahairi, Hossein Silavi, Ali Khosraji and Ali Najdam, who were arrested in 2018, have also been sentenced to death and their sentences have been upheld by the Supreme Court. Nasrin Sotoudeh, the brave and courageous lawyer of our country, has been on a hunger strike for forty-four days because she has been denied the most basic human needs, and she is currently under psychological pressure in the worst living conditions in CCU. Mohammad Nourizad, who has long courageously exposed Khamenei's lies is being tortured, and there is evidence of a plot to assassinate him.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a statement describing the Islamic Republic's treatment of political prisoners:

The L P I (P F) warns the ruling dictators of the government's continued brutality and escalation of pressure, especially in prisons. Continuation of these policies will only bring more destruction and increase the anger of the people against the ruling dictatorial forces. To counter the continuation of these repressions of the government, we must tighten our ranks as much as possible. We once again call on all forces and organizations, political parties and democratic institutions, to intensify their united struggle against these atrocities in any

form and to any extent. Prisoners are mobilized to stand, people to resist and fight from our common movements. Strengthen them in the struggle against a government based on oppression, discrimination and tyranny.

On the other hand, the continuation of the



hunger strike in prison is a sign of the spirit of resistance against tyranny. This spirit is praiseworthy and valuable. We salute Nasrin Sotoudeh and other political prisoners for their resistance. These brave souls should know that if their lives are worthless for our tyrannical strongholds, but for the people of Iran, it is a precious asset that must be protected. We suggest that they do not endanger it any further. Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic is not only responsible for the lives of loved ones lost, but also responsible for endangering the lives of prisoners who are currently being held in prisons under harsh conditions.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4320>

