



IRAN:

View from the LEFT

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Word of the Month, WAR OR PEACE

By Majid Siadat

The American armada is now positioned in the Middle East. Aircraft carriers, bomber and fighter aircraft are prepared to wreak havoc, death and destruction on the Iranian people, possibly leading to a much larger conflagration in the Middle East at large.

Openly acknowledged talks between the US and Iran are taking place in Oman. Still, no one, not even the impetuous Donald Trump, knows if a military attack on Iran is imminent.

Trump's aversion to becoming enmeshed in open-ended military operations is a known secret. He likes operations such as the abduction of President Maduro in Venezuela. But Iran is not Venezuela. The Islamic Republic has repeatedly announced that, if attacked, it will respond with full force. In such a scenario, the entire Middle East could erupt in flames. While the Iranian people would suffer the most, a long period of disastrous war could engulf the entire region. Is such a scenario possible without the deep and long-term involvement of American forces? Does this prospect suit Mr. Trump?

Several Middle Eastern actors, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Turkey, oppose this scenario, which would seriously disturb their ambitions for progress. Israel, on the other hand, has most probably lobbied for a US attack on Iran.

On the other side of the equation, the Islamic Republic is in its worst situation ever. The Iranian currency has collapsed, as has the Iranian economy. The regime has just suppressed an internal uprising by brutally butchering thousands of its demonstrating citizens.

At the same time, Iran's regional power and influence have been severely weakened, not least by several major defeats in the Middle East arena. The Islamic Republic is severely isolated among the countries of the Western world. It does not want to engage in a war with the most powerful military in the world, though it depends upon maintaining an atmosphere of impending war for its very existence.

The US has several conditions on Iran. They include the full cessation of Uranium enrichment, limits on Iranian ballistic missiles and Iran's Middle East destabilization policies. The issues relating to human rights are missing. After all, Trump is not concerned with any issue unless it serves Trump's policies.

It appears that Iran is willing to negotiate on most of these conditions, except for defense issues (i.e., missiles). It seems some issues can relate to the very nature of the Islamic Republic (For instance, the Islamic Republic's enmity towards Israel) It seems the rift between Trump's administration and the Islamic Republic is too far to be bridged by peaceful means. The IR policies need to be changed.

The IR must change direction. This is the kind of future that the Iranian people hope for. But this is a task for the Iranian people solely. The forces outside Iran can help, without interfering, without violating Iran's sovereignty.

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We welcome the European Parliament's January 22, 2026, resolution condemning the violent repression of protests in Iran and calling for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to be designated a terrorist organization.

We believe the IRGC has, since its inception, functioned as the central instrument of repression of the Islamic Republic, suppressing dissent and dominating political and social life through its security forces, intelligence networks, prisons, Basij units, and affiliated media. Beyond repression, the IRGC has entrenched itself in Iran's economy, taking control of major industries and financial sectors, profiting from sanctions evasion, and operating as a parallel, unaccountable state that exploits public resources against the interests of the Iranian people.

We also stress that the IRGC, particularly through the Quds Force, has played a decisive role in destabilizing the region by organizing and financing paramilitary forces, spreading insecurity, deepening

Iran's international isolation, and increasing the risk of war. We support increased political and economic pressure, targeted sanctions, and the designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization as effective measures to weaken the regime's machinery of repression, while firmly opposing war or military intervention and supporting the continuation of diplomatic channels. We affirm that freedom from the Islamic Republic and the establishment of democracy, equality, and justice can only be achieved by the Iranian people themselves through conscious, widespread struggle, with international action against institutions of repression serving as meaningful support for this just cause.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

January 30, 2026

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<https://www.bepish.org/en/node/13434>

Call for Broad Unity to Strengthen the Revolutionary Uprising of the People! And Strong Condemnation of the Regime's Catastrophic Repression and Massacre!

Beginning on December 22, 2026, nationwide protests erupted across Iran and rapidly evolved from economic grievances into one of the largest popular uprisings in the history of the Islamic Republic. The demonstrations spread across cities and regions, reflecting deep, accumulated public anger toward a regime widely seen as corrupt, repressive, and incapable of governing. The state responded with extreme violence, killing and injuring thousands, arresting tens of thousands, targeting wounded protesters even in hospitals, and attempting to conceal the scale of the crackdown through internet shutdowns and information blockades. These events exposed a society that has moved beyond localized discontent toward a direct confrontation with the foundations of the regime, driven by decades of inequality, environmental destruction, economic plunder, and the diversion of national resources into regional militarism and proxy forces.

The statement argues that recent uprisings—especially since 2017, including the 2019 fuel protests and the 2022 “Women, Life, Freedom” movement—have progressively eroded the regime’s authority and pushed the current movement toward an explicit goal of overthrow. It emphasizes that repression no longer deters resistance and instead fuels broader mobilization, while warning against provocations, uncontrolled violence, and illusions of foreign military intervention. The text calls for conscious, mass-based struggle, the formation of a democratic alternative, unity among left, republican, and democratic forces, and effective international support short of war—such as sanctions on repressive institutions, accountability through international law, and support for communication access. Honouring the victims and demanding the release of political prisoners, the Left Party of Iran urges national and opposition-wide coordination to seize this historic moment and work toward a free, democratic future for Iran.

Central Council of the Left Party of Iran
January 23, 2026

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<https://www.bepish.org/en/node/13388>



■ **Letter to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)- January 21, 2026**



The statement expresses deep alarm over the killing, torture, and systematic abuse of detained protesters in Iran, emphasizing that in the absence of transparency and effective pressure on military, security, and judicial institutions, grave human rights violations are continuing and intensifying. It cites credible evidence of physical and psychological torture, sexual violence, forced confessions, denial of legal counsel and family contact, and the use of fear and execution threats against detainees, while warning that prisoners' families are also being subjected to intimidation and coercion. The recent execution of twelve individuals is highlighted as part of a broader strategy to spread fear and signal the potential escalation from ordinary prisoners to detained protesters.

The text calls for urgent and decisive international action to prevent an unprecedented escalation of torture and organized killings in prisons. It urges the activation of international accountability mechanisms, sustained diplomatic pressure, and the deployment of independent human rights organizations to Iran's prisons. The statement further demands the initiation of proceedings against the Islamic Republic for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court, the immediate and

unconditional release of political and conscience prisoners, the annulment of death sentences, and guarantees of detainees' fundamental rights, warning that without swift intervention, the risk of repeating past prison massacres is higher than ever.

Political Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

January 21, 2026

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<https://www.bepish.org/en/node/13369>

■ **FREEDOM FROM THEOCRACY, FREEDOM FROM THE SHAH, FREEDOM FROM US INTERVENTION!**

In a world in continuous upheaval, the situation in Iran demands a clear vision.

already seen thousands killed and wounded under brutal state repression are the direct result of a profound crisis: the disastrous economic policies of the ruling system, rampant corruption, and the systemic oppression imposed by the regime. While severe economic sanctions from the US and the EU have worsened the plight of the people, they have not weakened the regime's grip. The roots of this suffering are borne by the working and middle classes.

The theocratic regime of the Ayatollahs has proven itself incapable of meeting the people's needs. Its brutal social repression—where internet blackouts of the last days signal nothing positive—and its authoritarian measures fuel the just demands for freedom. However, the solution cannot be the replacement of one oppression with another. A return to a monarchical-capitalist system would only serve to once more turn Iran into a military base for US imperialism in the region. We reject this false choice. Neither a docile monarchy for the West, nor a



hated theocracy, is preferable to the birth of a genuine democracy.

The US threatened already another intervention. This crisis cannot be solved by imposing regimes from outside or by opening another front of war—a path that would bring only further catastrophe. We simultaneously condemn the glaring double standards of the EU and most of the European governments, which sanction Iran, Russia, or Venezuela while imposing no consequences on Israel for its genocide in Gaza or on the US for acts like kidnapping the president of a sovereign nation. Furthermore, the aforementioned sanctions have fueled the crisis, revealing they were never proclaimed in the name of the Iranian people. Such hypocrisy undermines all claims to defend international law and human rights.

There is only one just path forward: the self-determination of the Iranian people. Their right to determine their own future is non-negotiable. Only the autonomous struggle of the Iranian people, free from foreign interference and the false alternatives of competing authoritarianisms, can chart the country's

course and bring true democracy and justice to the nation.

We denounce foreign interference and appeal for the lifting of sanctions by the EU.

We stand in solidarity with the people. The future of Iran belongs solely to its people.

<https://www.european-left.org/irans-right-to-choose-no-shah-no-theocrac...>



IRAN: "View from the LEFT" is published monthly for those interested in the Left Party of Iran's perspective on current issues.

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The Left Party of Iran - International Relations

International@leftpartyiran.org