



IRAN:

View from the LEFT

June 2026

NO.78

Word of the Month: Memorandum of understanding?

By: Majid Siadat

Ambiguity is a purposeful feature of the US/Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Both protagonists had insisted on their maximalist demands. The ambiguity allows both sides to declare victory.

Overall, Lebanon and control over the Strait of Hormuz remain the key outstanding issues.

Lebanon – Israel’s genocidal policies and unbridled operations in Lebanon threaten to derail this fragile agreement. Iran insists that Israel’s aggression in Lebanon is its number one priority in the MOU; the US’ acceptance of this Iranian priority betrays Trump’s sense of desperation. The US has repeatedly declared that the Islamic Republic must abandon its network of regional allies; yet in this MOU, the US agrees to include Iran in discussing Lebanon’s future. This issue has brought US policy onto a collision course with Israel and increases the likelihood of long-term chaos in the Middle East.

Strait of Hormuz –

Before the 12-day war and the subsequent 38-day war, this strait was not even mentioned as an issue of contention. The significance of Hormuz as a chokehold on the world economy became apparent during this period and is likely to persist for a long time. Iran claims significant rights in this regard and – surprisingly, the MOU has implicitly recognised Iran’s claim.

Ramifications

No matter how or when this crisis ends, it has already had far-reaching effects on the Middle East.

The majority of issues covered in the MOU are in Iran’s favour. The colonial designs of Trump and Netanyahu have been dealt a deserved blow. To compare Obama’s JCPOA to the present MOU, this is a weaker deal for the US than the one Obama achieved. For the world as a whole, however, it is a positive outcome.

However, the Iranian scene needs the world’s continued attention and concern. What will happen to human rights and myriad other issues in Iran?

As for the Middle East as a whole, new alliances will evolve. Israel’s unbridled actions have changed the views of Arab leaders. They no longer view the Iranian regime as their sole enemy. Indications are that they may play Iran and Israel against each other.

■ We Condemn Warmongering Adventures!

The Left Party of Iran, in its statement, argues that the latest exchange of attacks

between the Islamic Republic and Israel demonstrates that the Middle East remains trapped in a cycle of instability and conflict. The party contends that the Islamic Republic's missile strikes in response to

Israel's attack on Beirut prioritize the interests of its regional proxy forces at the expense of the Iranian people. It maintains that, although the high costs of recent conflicts make a return to full-scale war unlikely in the short term, the conflicting interests of Iran, Israel, and the United States continue to prevent a lasting peace. As a result, the party expects the region to remain in a fragile state of ceasefire, managed tensions, and intermittent diplomacy.



The Left Party of Iran also holds the Netanyahu government, the Islamic Republic, and the United States responsible for contributing to regional instability through aggressive, interventionist, and power-driven policies. It argues that the Islamic Republic's regional strategy has failed to improve Iran's security while exposing the country to war, sanctions, and economic hardship. The party calls for an immediate end to military escalation, the consolidation of a ceasefire, respect for international law, and greater diplomatic efforts to secure lasting peace. It further urges democratic and freedom-seeking forces to intensify their coordinated struggle against the Islamic Republic so that the Iranian people are no longer forced to bear the costs of war, repression, and authoritarian rule.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran
June 8, 2026

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■ **Ceasefire and Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for Peace are opportunities to intensify the Struggle to Establish Democracy and Improve the Livelihoods of the People!**



The Left Party of Iran welcomes the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Iran and the United States as a positive step toward ending the war and creating the possibility of lasting peace. It argues that ordinary Iranians have suffered the most from the conflict, with workers, retirees, women, and young people bearing the brunt of economic hardship, unemployment, inflation, and restrictions on civil liberties. The party states that the end of hostilities should enable society to refocus on pressing domestic priorities, such as job creation, healthcare, education, higher wages, and rebuilding damaged infrastructure, while urging that any economic benefits from the agreement be directed toward improving people's lives rather than expanding military or security institutions.

At the same time, the statement of LPI maintains that the Islamic Republic remains the primary obstacle to democracy, social justice, and popular sovereignty. It warns that internal power struggles within the regime may intensify after the war and that strengthened military and security factions could seek to consolidate their influence. While welcoming the ceasefire, the party insists that past government repression, including the January 2026 killings and

earlier crackdowns, must not be forgotten or go unpunished. It reaffirms its commitment to replacing the Islamic Republic with a secular, democratic republic. It calls on pro-democracy, labour, and left-wing movements to use the postwar period to strengthen civil society, defend workers' rights, resist repression, and advance democratic reforms.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

June 15, 2026

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■ A Message of Peace and Democratic Solidarity to the Congress of the Left Party of Germany

Dear Comrades,

The International Relations Committee of the Left Party of Iran extends its greetings to the Congress of the Left Party of Germany. It expresses solidarity with its commitment to peace, democracy, and social justice. The letter highlights concerns over the rise of the far right in Europe, growing nationalism, and misguided policies toward the Middle East, while emphasizing that democracy, international law, and social justice are essential to addressing these challenges. It also reaffirms the importance of reducing inequality, defending workers' rights, and strengthening public services as shared priorities for progressive forces.



The letter describes the severe humanitarian and economic consequences of the recent military attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel, while noting that the Iranian people continue to face repression, political arrests, torture, and executions under the Islamic Republic. It calls for sustained diplomatic efforts to preserve the ceasefire, achieve a just peace in the region, and support Palestinian rights. Finally, it urges the German Left Party to condemn the attacks on Iran, support diplomatic initiatives, advocate for the release of political prisoners and the abolition of the death penalty, and stand in solidarity with the Iranian people's struggle for a democratic, secular, and socially just future.

International Relations Committee Left Party of Iran

15 June 2026

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■ German Left Party Congress: Affordable Living for All!

The 10th National Congress of the Left Party of Germany was held from June 19 to 21 in Babelsberg, Potsdam, with 526 delegates participating. The congress focused primarily on opposing the coalition government's policies to reduce welfare services, including raising the retirement age and limiting healthcare and social services. Party leaders emphasized that their goal is to defend people's



livelihoods and preserve social achievements.

Another major topic was countering the rise of the far right, particularly in eastern Germany. Party officials noted that membership had doubled over the past 18 months, reaching 126,000 members, and announced extensive plans for direct engagement with citizens ahead of upcoming elections.

In foreign policy, Congress adopted a more explicit position than in the past, describing the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza as "genocide." Speeches by critical Israeli activists and politicians, including Aida Touma-Suleiman, played a significant role in reinforcing this stance. The congress called for an immediate end to the war and violence in Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran.



In organizational matters, Ines Schwerdtner was elected the party's new co-chair with 86% of the vote, while Luigi Pantisano was elected co-chair with 57%. Janis Ehling and six vice chairs were also elected. Jan van Aken stepped down from the party leadership due to health problems but emphasized his commitment to continuing his work with the party.

The congress also highlighted the significant growth in new membership, particularly among young people, women, and socialist and feminist activists. In its concluding assessment, the Left Party

identified its two main challenges as resisting the weakening of the welfare state and containing the far right. It stressed its belief that these goals can be achieved through class struggle, rather than through cultural struggle alone.

By Mehdi Ebrahimzadeh

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■ We Welcome the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between Iran and the United States



We regard the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States as a positive step toward reducing tensions, moving away from the danger of war, and creating the conditions for resolving disputes through diplomacy. If this memorandum leads to a durable, balanced agreement based on Iran's national interests, it could provide an important opportunity for the country to emerge from its current debilitating situation, ease economic pressures, lift or reduce sanctions, stimulate production and business, and improve the living conditions of its citizens.

We believe that peace and stability provide a more favourable environment for strengthening civil society, expanding democratic demands, and advancing the country's development. Therefore, while emphasizing the need to counter efforts by hardline forces and opponents of an agreement to obstruct the process, and remaining vigilant against **Benjamin Netanyahu's** attempts to undermine

negotiations and **Donald Trump's** excessive demands, we support the continuation of negotiations and efforts to achieve a lasting agreement. Such an agreement can help build a strong civil society and ultimately facilitate a transition from the Islamic Republic to a secular democratic republic founded on human rights, national independence, and democracy. Protecting Iran's national interests, preserving the country's independence, avoiding war, and creating more favorable conditions for Iran's progress and development all require that this important opportunity be pursued with responsibility and realism.

Along this path, the role of the Iranian people and of national, democratic, and republican political forces in defending peace, development, and a better future for Iran is decisive. We call on all those who believe in freedom, democracy, and Iran's national interests to strengthen broad cooperation beyond partisan and factional divisions. Together, they should work to consolidate peace, advance democracy, improve the welfare and freedoms of citizens, and support the Iranian people's nonviolent civil struggle to secure their rights and oppose authoritarian rule.

A Coalition for a Secular Democratic Republic in Iran **June 18 2026**



Environment Iran

Warning of Ocean Experts: The Strait of Hormuz Is Becoming a Pollution Hotspot

Marine ecosystems in Iran, including coral reefs and Hara mangrove forests, are facing serious threats due to environmental pollution in the Strait of Hormuz.

Researchers at the National Oceanography and Atmospheric Science Research Institute have warned about the formation of pollution hotspots on the seabed of the Strait of Hormuz.

This sensitive waterway is considered one of Iran's most vulnerable marine ecosystems. The prevailing water currents transport pollutants generated by heavy maritime traffic toward Iran's coasts, threatening coral reefs, mangrove forests, and desalination facilities.

The Strait of Hormuz is the only natural connection between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and it is one of the world's most important waterways for energy transportation and maritime trade.

A large share of oil and gas exports from the Persian Gulf countries passes through this route. At the same time, the region contains some of Iran's most valuable marine ecosystems. The concentration of shipping activities near these sensitive habitats requires careful environmental, economic, and security management.

From an oceanographic perspective, water exchange in the strait occurs in two layers. Less saline water from the Gulf of Oman enters the Persian Gulf through the upper and middle layers, while the highly saline water of the Persian Gulf flows back toward the Gulf of Oman through deeper layers. This circulation pattern is one of the



Strait of Hormuz's defining oceanographic characteristics.

In an interview about the environmental impacts of maritime traffic, environmental expert Dr. Mansour Sohrabi explained that the main pollutants include oil and petroleum spills, tanker washing operations, discharge of garbage and sewage, maritime accidents, and military attacks on ships.

He added that heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury, and vanadium, associated with ship materials, as well as corrosion and sunken vessels, are also significant sources of pollution.

He further stated that while some impacts are temporary, sewage and waste discharged from ships can have long-lasting effects on marine ecosystems and coastal areas.

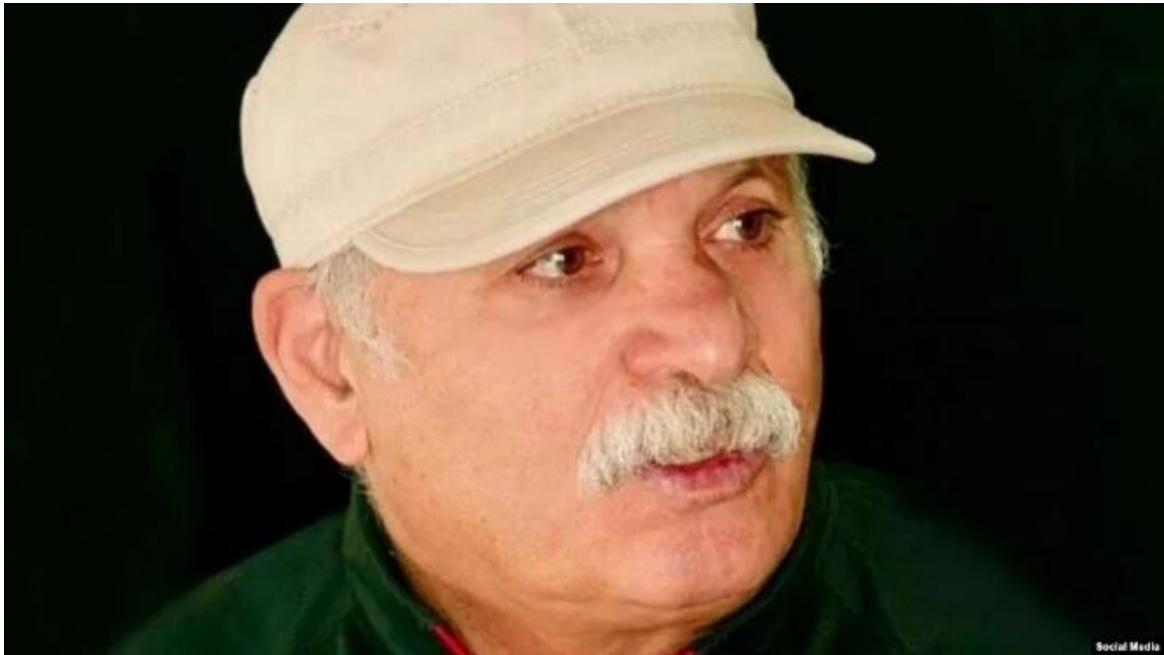
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Sport

■ The **Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran** believes that Iran's national football team belongs to the Iranian people, not to the government or any political faction, and should not become a tool for either state propaganda or political score-settling.

The statement criticizes the **Islamic Republic** for using sporting achievements to bolster its legitimacy and pressuring athletes to serve as government propaganda. However, it also rejects calls to abandon or oppose the national team, arguing that doing so effectively hands it over to the government.

The party also criticizes some monarchist activists in the United States who reportedly protested against Iran's national team while carrying Israeli and American flags, describing this as another form of politicizing football. It argues that both the government's exploitation of the



team and these anti-team demonstrations are harmful and contrary to the interests of the Iranian people.

The statement calls on national team players to remember that their popularity comes from the people, not those in power, and urges them not to allow their sporting achievements to be used for political propaganda. It cites former footballer **Parviz Ghelichkhani** and legendary

of athletes remembered not only for their sporting success but also for their integrity, social responsibility, and solidarity with ordinary people.

The party concludes by wishing the national team success in the World Cup while emphasizing that supporting the team is an expression of support for a shared national asset—not for the Islamic Republic.



wrestler **Gholamreza Takhti** as examples

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

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The Left Party of Iran - International Affairs

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