IRAN:

View from the LEFT

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Word of the Month: Iran at a Crossroads
Diplomacy, Regional Security, and the Country's Future

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The possibility of a new military attack on Iran is a serious concern amid escalating threats by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, rising regional tensions, and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Although the timing and scale of a potential attack remain uncertain, the risk of renewed military confrontation cannot be dismissed.

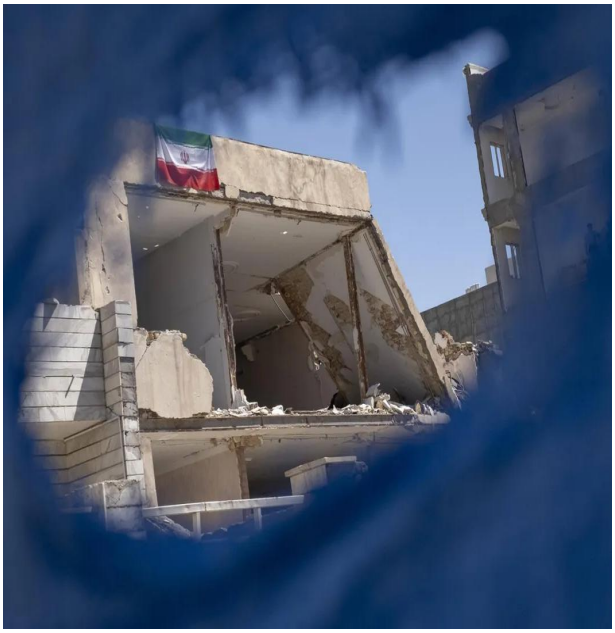
Against this backdrop, the Islamic Republic has intensified its diplomatic efforts, calling for the implementation of the Islamabad Agreement, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for lifting the naval blockade, and greater support from regional countries. While welcoming regional mediation and European efforts to revive negotiations, a fundamental change in Iran's foreign policy is essential. Direct and comprehensive negotiations with the United States, the establishment of regional security mechanisms, a reduction in the US military presence, and de-escalation with Israel—including acceptance of a two-state solution for Palestine and Israel—could create the conditions for lasting peace. Keeping the Strait of Hormuz closed as a long-term instrument of pressure would harm both the global economy and Iran's own national interests.

At the heart of the issue is the distinction between the survival of the ruling establishment and the sustainability of Iran. The latter cannot be reduced to preserving the existing political system. It must include national security, independence, territorial integrity, economic development, environmental protection, and the rights and freedoms of citizens. Diplomacy should therefore serve not merely to rescue the government from crisis, but to protect Iran's national interests, prevent war, establish lasting peace, and safeguard the country's future. ... Read More:
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Outcomes of the Internal Political Discussion of the International Affairs of the Left Party of Iran on:

Rising Tensions Between the United States and Iran and Recent Elections in Israel, Serbia and Brazil

US-Iran Tensions: Conflicting Assessments of the Risk of Military Action



Assessments of the likelihood of a US military strike against Iran. One view holds that Washington is unlikely to launch an attack before the US midterm election results are clear. Although Netanyahu is reportedly trying to persuade Washington

to take military action against Iran, Israel is unlikely to act alone. A potential nuclear threat from Trump should also not be taken at face value. Trump, Putin and Xi Jinping are expected to meet in China soon, and Iran may be among the issues discussed. However, a US strike can not be ruled out before that meeting. The key question remains: what would the United States target?

One assessment links the likelihood of an attack directly to the midterm election's outcome. If Trump and the Republicans retain control of both chambers of Congress, the chances of military action could increase. Conversely, if Republicans lose control of one or both chambers, Trump may face greater domestic political constraints. An opposing assessment argues that Trump could launch an attack regardless of the election results, particularly if Republicans suffer a defeat in one chamber. From this perspective, the Doha negotiations are unlikely to produce an encouraging outcome for the Iranian people, and the confrontation could escalate into more intense military action.

There are indications both for and against an imminent US strike. Its objectives remain unclear, but Iran's response is considered relatively predictable. Reports suggest that the United States may target



Mount Kolang. However, Iran is unlikely to limit its response to a specific geographical area. Retaliation could include cyberattacks, economic measures and actions affecting regional security. Statements by different factions within the Iranian leadership, despite variations in tone, appear to convey a broadly unified message of resistance.

Another assessment considers a US attack possible but rejects the prospect of an apocalyptic, all-out war. The coming confrontation could instead take the form of limited military engagements in which both sides might achieve some tactical successes. While Iranian threats are not directly aimed at Europe, the possibility of disruptions to undersea communications infrastructure has been raised. One assessment suggested that the threat might concern British submarine infrastructure rather than Europe as a whole.

On the domestic political front, Republican control of the House of Representatives is considered highly vulnerable, while the Senate could also undergo significant changes. Opposition to war and growing economic difficulties are becoming increasingly important issues in the United States. Democrats are seeking to challenge military spending and have raised the possibility of impeaching the Secretary of Defence.

Statements by Iranian officials also suggest that the country's leadership is searching for a way out of its current predicament: mounting economic pressure, persistent US and Israeli military threats, and the risk of further escalation. The response could take either diplomatic or military forms. Reports that Iran's Supreme Leader wants to end the current state of neither war nor peace may reflect the growing pressure on the regime to find a way out of the crisis.

Elections in Israel, Serbia and Brazil



Recent elections in Israel, Serbia and Brazil have also produced developments with wider political significance.

In Israel, Netanyahu's coalition secured 53 seats, while the opposing alliance associated with Eisenkot and Lieberman won 48. However, the most notable development was the success of Arab parties, which collectively secured 19 seats, compared with only eight previously. Despite the prevailing political climate, Arab voters participated much more actively than expected. Given that Arab citizens make up approximately 20 percent of Israel's population, their electoral representation was particularly significant.

In Brazil, Lula defeated his rival in the second round of the presidential election. His victory can partly be attributed to Bolsonaro's threatening, arrogant and dehumanizing statements following the first-round results. At the same time, Lula's campaign mobilized women and young people, bringing many voters who had abstained in the first round back to the ballot box. Lula's victory is encouraging, although his next term will undoubtedly be difficult.

In Serbia, the success of the student movement and its electoral list in the parliamentary elections was particularly significant. The movement expanded rapidly following an incident that exposed the incompetence and failures of the governing authorities. It subsequently put forward candidates drawn from university professors and respected public figures. Its development invites comparison with the Chilean student movement, which challenged and defeated the right six years ago, as well as with Iran's *Woman, Life, Freedom* movement.

It is also worth noting that Vučić's electoral adviser was reportedly the same political consultant who had worked with Netanyahu. The Serbian students' achievement can be understood, in part, through the concept of autonomism: an independent, grassroots political movement that seeks to preserve its autonomy from established political parties and power structures.

Taken together, these developments illustrate different forms of political mobilization and electoral resistance, from increased participation by marginalized communities to independent student movements and campaigns capable of challenging established political forces.

From Iran to France: Solidarity for Peace, Freedom and Social Justice

The protests by young people and working people in France for quality education, decent public services, affordable housing,

economic security and a dignified future resonate with the struggles of people in Iran. For us in the Left Party of Iran, these demands are far from unfamiliar. Rising living costs, declining purchasing power, job insecurity and the growing commercialization of education, healthcare and housing affect millions of people in both societies. In Iran, authoritarianism, discrimination, sanctions and war have further intensified these hardships.

Our solidarity is rooted in the recognition of these shared concerns and in the belief that the struggle for freedom, peace and social justice is international. The war against Iran, whose people have paid a devastating human price, has also had economic repercussions worldwide, particularly through disruptions to trade and energy supplies. Defending people's livelihoods and public services is therefore inseparable from opposing war and militarism.



Rising military expenditure across Europe raises fundamental questions about government priorities. Resources devoted to the arms race should instead be subject to public scrutiny and compared with the urgent needs of education, healthcare, housing and social protection. Public debt and budget deficits cannot be used to avoid debate about the fair distribution of wealth, progressive taxation and the protection of workers' rights.

The struggles of French students, teachers and young people for better educational conditions and affordable housing remind us of the difficulties facing Iranian families and youth. In both countries, access to education, housing and decent employment should not depend on family wealth or social background. Although the political conditions and opportunities for organizing and protesting differ considerably, the demand that the economy serve people's needs is shared.

We particularly welcome cooperation between youth organizations, teachers and trade unions in France. Linking educational demands with workers' rights and wider social concerns can strengthen the movement through collective action and organized participation. The right to organize and protest must be respected. The French authorities must respond to social demands, protect detainees' rights and ensure independent investigations

into allegations of police violence. At the same time, isolated incidents of looting and destruction must not be used to justify collective punishment or suppress legitimate demands.

We also reject attempts by the far right to turn social discontent into hostility towards immigrants and minorities. Working people must not be divided along lines of nationality or origin. The causes of economic insecurity lie in political and economic choices and the unequal distribution of wealth and power, not in migration.

We call on progressive, left-wing and democratic forces, trade unions and civil society organizations in France to strengthen solidarity with the Iranian people in their struggles against war, sanctions, authoritarianism and discrimination. We also encourage freedom-loving Iranians living in France to participate actively in the social struggles of the communities in which they live.

The struggle for decent schools, hospitals, wages and housing is inseparable from the struggle for peace and democracy. Those who suffer the direct consequences of war in Iran and those who bear its economic costs in France share a common interest in opposing militarism and defending social rights.

From Iran to France, we stand alongside the people in their struggle for peace, freedom, equality and a dignified life.

International Affairs - Left Party of Iran

Environment in Iran

Khuzestan Longs for Fresh Air as Air Pollution Reaches Red Alert in 12 Cities



Air pollution has intensified in Iran's Khuzestan Province, with the air quality in 12 cities reaching red alert levels, indicating unhealthy conditions for all population groups, according to the latest announcement by the provincial Department of Environmental Protection. This marks a sharp increase from Saturday morning, when only five cities were classified as being in the red zone.

The recurrence of polluted days in Khuzestan has once again highlighted the province's long-standing dust crisis, the drying up of wetlands, emissions from the oil industry, and the ineffectiveness of pollution-control measures. On Sunday, October 26, the Khuzestan Department of Environmental Protection announced that the Air Quality Index (AQI) in 12 cities across the province had exceeded 150, placing them in the red zone. According to Mehdi Mousavi, acting head of public relations at the department, the cities of Ahvaz, Mollasani, Hoveyzeh, Masjed Soleyman, Shushtar, Gotvand, Shush, Dezful, Andimeshk, Abadan, Shadegan, and Hendijan were experiencing air quality levels considered unhealthy for all population groups. According to data recorded at 10 a.m., the AQI reached 165 in Abadan and Shushtar, 160 in Shush, 157 in Andimeshk and Hendijan, 156 in Dezful and Gotvand, and 155 in Hoveyzeh. Dezpart and Haftkel had acceptable air quality, but none of the province's cities enjoyed clean air. A report issued on Saturday morning, October 25, showed that five cities—

Ahvaz, Shush, Shushtar, Masjed Soleyman, and Gotvand—were in the red zone. The increase in the number of polluted cities to 12 on Sunday indicates that the geographical spread of air pollution expanded significantly within just one day. An Air Quality Index between 151 and 200 indicates air that is unhealthy for everyone. Exposure to such conditions can be particularly hazardous for children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with heart or respiratory conditions. It also makes reducing prolonged and strenuous outdoor activities essential.

Khuzestan's Chronic Air Pollution Crisis

The current situation is part of a much broader crisis that has affected cities across Khuzestan for years. Air pollution in the province stems from a combination of natural and human-induced factors, ranging from the expansion of dust sources in Iran and neighboring countries to the drying up of wetlands, the flaring of associated gas from oil production, industrial emissions, and the burning of agricultural residues.

In December 2025, Khuzestan Governor Mohammadreza Movalizadeh identified oil flares and the drying up of the Hoor al-Azim Wetland as major contributors to the province's air pollution. He also reported that approximately 200 oil flaring installations were operating in Khuzestan. These flares release various pollutants into the atmosphere by burning associated gas produced during oil extraction. Meanwhile, the drying of parts of the Hoor al-Azim Wetland and the decline in vegetation have created conditions conducive to the expansion of dust sources. In July 2026, the Deputy Director-General of Environmental Protection for Human Affairs in Khuzestan stated that, based on assessments, ongoing dust-control projects had achieved only about 40 percent effectiveness. According to the official, this figure demonstrates that existing measures are insufficient to address the scale of the crisis.

The consequences extend beyond environmental indicators. Officials at Ahvaz University of Medical Sciences have previously warned of increased risks of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as the broader impact of air pollution on public health.

Repeated school closures and disruptions to everyday activities have also become recurring consequences of air pollution in Khuzestan.

Despite announced plans to collect and utilize associated petroleum gas, restore wetlands, and control dust sources, the continued red-alert air quality in multiple cities across Khuzestan demonstrates that air pollution remains one of the province's most serious public health and environmental challenges.

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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