



IRAN: **View from the LEFT**

May 2022

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Word of the Month

War in Ukraine

A shift?

There are indications that the West is weighing changes to their Ukrainian machinations.

Utilizing the West's powerful media, they played Zelensky and his Ukrainian compatriots, fanning the flames of war rather than encouraging negotiations. Zelensky was invited to address many European parliaments, often broadcast to the whole world, and naively committed his country to pursue Ukrainian nationalists' wildest dreams.

As the fighting rages on without any end in sight, though, its ramifications are unnerving stock markets and the West is having second thoughts. The whiff of a very painful territorial compromise may be in the air, ultimately dashing Ukrainian dreams...

The outcome cannot be predicted, but leaders of the rest of the world should be wary.

When the West encourages you to risk everything, look for their motives and aims!

■ A broader look at the war in Ukraine

Three months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a wider analysis of the war and

its aftermath is now both possible and necessary. This war has created an atmosphere in which different looks at world affairs, in political as well as ideological views are expressed and

almost everyone including Political parties, experts and political activists are in a position to determine their position and express their views. The Central Council of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has issued a detailed statement in this regard. Emphasizing the previously stated positions, the statement describes the direct destructive effects of the war, calling it a blatant aggression against an independent state, and writes:



In our view, the denial of the existence of Ukraine as a state propagated by Putin and the ideologues of the Russian government is



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unjustifiable, and a war that lacks any explanation on the basis of international standards is illegitimate. No power has the right to attack another country from the skies and below and kill its people with untruthful rationalization. This kind of argument is nothing but legitimizing military intervention in other countries and enforcing the law of jungle in international relations. In this regard, we consider Russia's aggression against Ukraine, in spite of any conspiracy against Russia, to be a gross violation of the rules of world peace.

The statement noted the undemocratic behavior of the Zelensky administration towards the opposition and leftists, the presence of the far right forces in the government, and the extreme irresponsibility it has had in burning opportunities to prevent war. At the same time, it considers the efforts of the West and NATO to turn this war into a proxy war against Russia in order to intensify the killings and destruction in Ukraine and contrary to the international efforts for peace and tranquility in this country. The Statement considers the main issue at the moment to be calls for the immediate

establishment of peace and writes:

The main task now is to establish peace in the country as soon as possible, and not to blow into the furnace of war, which can take on a continental and transcontinental dimensions. The occurrence of the war and the emphasis on its aggressive nature can not overshadow the context leading to the war. The responsibility of the aggressor government does not diminish the responsibility of the US government and other Western states in creating the pre-conditions for war. In fact, what was not seen before the war or intentionally ignored by both sides, as far as the cessation of the war is considered, now has become the focus of both the direct and indirect sides of the war.

The statement goes on to describe the Ukraine





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War Declaration as a manifestation of the ongoing rivalry over the power struggle for global hegemony.

This war is a milestone in the current turbulent process with the theme of the transition from the American dream of a unipolar world under American hegemony to a new situation. The US plan, as the leader of the post-Soviet world that sought to replace the Cold War-era bipolar situation, has failed. The US strategy, which went through phases of international human rights violations in Serbia in the 1990s, the neoconservative wars of the early twentieth century in Afghanistan, Iraq, and shortly afterwards the invasion of Libya, finally proved to be a dead end in Afghanistan. The retreat after the defeat in Afghanistan was a sign of the insolvency of the doctrine of a unipolar world. What is at the center of the conflict now

is the lion's share that each superpower and any power wants to get.

Finally, the statement points to the stagnation of the Islamic Republic's nuclear talks with the 4 + 1 countries in Vienna, including the direct impact of the Ukraine war, and writes:



Prior to the invasion of Ukraine, all parties announced the agreement within a few days or weeks, but now for more than two months there is no sign of continued negotiations. There can be no doubt that the suspension of the negotiations is due to the differences between the main parties of the Iran's nuclear deal but the war in Ukraine and creation

of new and opposing camps have had an impact on the cessation of the talks. The strategic considerations of the Islamic Republic have a special role in this regard. The one-sided policy of "looking towards East" of the Islamic Republic is a double catastrophe, the remnants of which are against the national interests of the country and the people of Iran.

■ Inflation, protest, repression

Rising prices disproportionate to purchasing power, has been a reality for decades in Iran's crisis-ridden economy. However, in recent months, the Iranian people have seen unprecedented increases in the prices of food, housing, medicine, clothing and many other basic necessities. The news of the increase in the price of white flour from a bag of 70k to 670k tomans plunged



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people into astonishment and anger. With the announcement of this news by the Minister of Agriculture, first the price of goods and items that are produced with flour increased up to 300%, and then the ripple effects increased the price of other goods. The jump in prices is so great that it has become difficult and impossible for two-thirds of the country's population to make a living.

The government has blamed the sharp rise in flour prices on "preventing smuggling flour into neighboring countries, drought and war in Ukraine," but the policy of "economic

liberalization and adjustment," in which rising cost of living is an inevitable consequence, has been going on for 3 decades now. Since the inauguration of the Raisi government, the policy of price liberalization has accelerated both from the point of view of different spectrums of government as well as economic bankruptcy and severe government budget deficits.

The government has decided to eliminate subsidies altogether and multiply the prices of goods and services, while more than half of the population living below the poverty line. 26% of the population are below the absolute poverty line and nearly 10 millions are either unemployed or suffering from unsustainable employment and low wages. There are 20 million low-income and marginalized people living in the country, and the wages and salaries of 75% of employees and retirees are not enough to meet their basic needs. Undoubtedly, due to the elimination of subsidies





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and the sharp rise in prices, people's lives will become more exhausting and unbearable.

The statement of the political-executive board of the Left Party of



Iran (People's Fadaian) declared its opposition to the elimination of subsidies for basic goods until the establishment of a balance between wages, incomes and unemployment rights with the inflation rates and writes:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers widespread protests and strikes by all opponents of the elimination of subsidies for basic goods as a powerful tool to stop the

government and the anti-popular, impoverishing policies of the government and aggression against the empty food tables of the people and it Supports

popular movements in this direction. We call on the political forces and popular institutions to show solidarity with the people in their struggle against the government and against its destructive economic policies and joint actions in this regard.

As expected, the decision of the 13th government led by Ebrahim Raisi to eliminate the preferential currency

exchange rate, reduce indirect subsidies and liberalize the prices of some basic goods has led to a new round of protests against rampant inflation in many Iranian cities. As always, the government has responded by suppressing protests and attributing them to "foreigners." At least six protesters have been killed so far.

In opposition to the government's repressive response to the protests, the political-executive delegations of the Republican Party of Iran, the Iran-Europe National Front (Sixth Organization), the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), the Socialist and Secular Republican Party of Iran, the National Front organizations abroad and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran wrote in a joint statement:

Attributing political protests and slogans to



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"foriegners" and "dissident groups" by the government and its propaganda apparatus is more unreliable than even credible within the social basis of the system. The main factors in creating the current unsettled conditions and setting the stage for popular protests are the destructive and ill-considered policies, actions and decisions of government officials.

We, the six Republican-Democratic organizations who emphasize on the peaceful transition away from the Islamic Republic of Iran declare our support of the protesters' demands and fully defend the right to protest, rally and strike by emphasizing public and common demands. We support the popular protests and warn government officials to end repression, violence, internet outages, blocking of information and denial of protesters' demands.

We also demand the immediate and unconditional release of those detained during the recent protests and all political, ideological, and trade unionist prisoners.



It is noteworthy that the public protests against the high prices coincided with the presence of young people and women, the strike of drivers and workers of the Tehran Bus Transportation Company to protest the refusal of the municipality to pay higher wages approved by the Supreme Labor Council, and especially another round of teachers' nationwide protests. Prosecution of workers' and teachers' union activists, and the sentencing of a significant number of

them to long prison terms, have gone hand in hand with the protesters' mass shootings and mass arrests.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has issued other statements declaring the Left Party's support for the demands of workers, teachers, and retirees, and condemning the repression of the protests. In one of these announcements we read:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) supports the strikes and protests of the workers and wage earners to increase their wages and other demands, including the strike of drivers and workers of Tehran's Transportation Company and workers of Karun, Maroon and Aghajari companies and their demands, and other workers and forces. We expect other workers and democratic forces and



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justice seeker to support these protests with all their might. We condemn the arrest and imprisonment of trade union and civil society activists and the prosecution of two French trade union activists and four representatives of the drivers' trade union and the Coordinating Council of Teachers Trade Unions. These shameful acts must be stopped, and the imprisoned teachers and workers, including the 11 bus drivers and other political and civil prisoners must be released



■ **Solidarity with a discriminated minority in Iran**

May 17 has been the International Day against Homophobia

since 2005. It is a day of awareness and action against violence and discrimination against homophobia and non-acceptance of sexual diversity and gender identities. This day is also an opportunity to raise the demands of sexual and gender minorities and the LGBTQQIAP community in the world. On this day, associations and institutions, parties and organizations advocating for gender diversity and gender identities try to make public aware of the discrimination and threats they are constantly facing as well as to raise awareness about the systematic repression and pressure against sexual and gender minorities in some communities, including Iran. Those parties and entities demand the recognition of this portion of the populations' equal rights.

The Political-Executive board published a statement on this occasion:

This year, May 17, the day of struggle against homophobia, coincides with the large protest movements of our people against inflation, the continuation of widespread protests by teachers and workers across the country, arrests and detentions of labor activists and teachers, government attacks on protesters and shootings towards them in some parts of the country. It is at this time that the effort to build solidarity between the protest movements of the people in all areas becomes a pre-condition for the success of anti-discrimination and rightful struggles.

Emphasizing solidarity in the struggles of righteous and anti-discrimination movements in all areas, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaiian) fights for the equality of all



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citizens of the country and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the creation of equal opportunities for all. Our party supports equality in all areas and struggles for social, economic and political life commensurate with human dignity. We condemn discrimination and violence against gender minorities and call for the recognition of their equal rights with other citizens of the country.

■ **With the recognition of Labor Day**

The first day of May this year, despite the restrictions imposed by the Islamic Republic against the workers and the justice seeking forces in Iran, was a promising day for the democratic movement in Iran. On the occasion of this day, the political-executive delegations of the Republican Party of Iran, the Iran-Europe National Front (Sixth

Organization), the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), the Socialist and Secular Republican Party of Iran, the National Front organizations abroad and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran in a joint statement on the occasion of May Day, released the first accomplishment of their cooperation. This joint declaration, describing the dire situation of the lives of workers and toilers, wrote:



We, the signatories of this International Workers' Day statement, congratulate all the workers of the world and urge the fulfillment of the following demands:

Unemployment and job seekers should be paid grants.

- Freedom of expression and strike should be

recognized for all social groups.

- May 1st be declared an official holiday and no restrictions are imposed on the celebration of May Day.

- Eliminate any gender discrimination and injustice against migrant women and workers, especially Afghan workers in Iran.

- Imprisoned labor activists, including Ismail Bakhshi, Parvin Mohammadi and their supporters, Sepideh Qalyan and Amir Amirgholi, as well as Alireza Saghafi, a trade unionist and member of the Writers' Association, should be released immediately and unconditionally.

- All political prisoners should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Finally, we believe that social justice for workers, toilers and other sections of society is not possible



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without the removal of the Islamic Republic system and the establishment of a national, just and democratic system.

It is noteworthy that the six organizations have taken a common position on other issues as well: against the government's repressive response to the ongoing protests in Iran, and demanding the release of Ahmad Reza Jalali, a dual Iranian-Swedish physician and researcher. Declaration of 6 parties in this regards reads:

Announcing the imminent execution of Ahmad Reza Jalali (Iranian-Swedish dual phisitian and researcher) who has been on death row for several years, a threat from the Islamic Republic against the independence of the Swedish judiciary and disrupting the trial of Hamid Nouri in order to prevent him from being sentenced to life in prison

sentence. We, the six parties of Democratic and Republicans of Iran, while declaring our principled opposition to the "death penalty", consider sentencing Ahmad Reza Jalali to death as an attempt to democratize and cover up the regime's crimes in the 1980s, especially the summer of 1988. We believe this act is nothing but a ransom. We condemn the arrest and demand the immediate release of Mr. Ahmad Reza Jalali.

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■ **Irannian Woman who scaped Iran recieved the Best**

Actress prize in Cannes Film Festival 2022



This prize was awarded to Zar Amir Ebrahimi for her role in "Holy Spider" directed by Ali Abbasi.

Zahra Amir Ebrahimi, born in 1981 in Tehran, is amovie and television actress.

She has a bachelor's degree in theater. At the height of her fame, she was deprived of the opportunity to live in Iran due to the release of a private film and was forced to emigrate.

She started her career in 1999 when she was 17 years old by making a short film called "Khat" and entered the theater after working on several acting programs.



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Ms. Ebrahimi became famous with the popular series "Narges" in the summer of 2006

Shortly after the end of the Narges series, a private film attributed to Zahra Amir Ebrahimi and a person named Shahriyar Shahamat was widely broadcast in Ramadan 2006.

Unfortunately, at that time, the CD of this private film was widely traded all over Iran

After some interrogation, on the day of the trial, Zahra Amir Ebrahimi left Iran for fear of being convicted, but the court process revealed that the film had been released by another person.

The court finally sentenced Zahra Amir Ebrahimi and Mr. Shahamat to 90 lashes and a 10-year ban from performing in the arts for illegitimate relations.

After emigrating in 2017, she continued her

work with the theater "Dream of Silent Appearances" in France and also played a role in the film "Sweet" by Abbas Kiarostami.

In 2006, in response to the purchase and sale of the actor's private film, rapper Yas released a song titled "Break the CD" jointly with Amin.

The song gained a large audience and was downloaded nearly 1 million times in the first days of its existence on the InternetMs.

Ebrahimi appeared in

the film "Holy Spider" directed by Ali Abbasi in 1401, which was able to enter the Cannes Film Festival 2022.

Finally, Zahra Amir Ebrahimi won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival

Knowing the moment of receiving his award, the actor cried, referring to the events in the Abadan and Iran metropolises; My heart is with Abadaneh, my heart is with Iranian men and women...

IRAN: View from the LEFT" is published for those who are interested to know the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) stance on current issues on a monthly basis.

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

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)

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