



IRAN: View from the LEFT

May 2023

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Word of the Month

A new order for the Middle East

After World War II the USA gained hegemonic dominance in the Middle East. All regional governments had to toe the line. Any disobedience was seen as a challenge to this order. The recalcitrant faced heavy pressures and, ultimately, a coup.

The US was determined to impose a NEW country in the region. Israel was established.

Arab leaders had to demonstrate their obedience to this new order. For example, in the 1970s, as a result of their submission to American interests, the US dollar became the sole currency for international oil transactions. The vast fossil fuel deposits of the Middle East were exploited primarily by American companies, most notably, ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia. The proceeds of this oil wealth belonged to the region's peoples, but instead were placed at the disposal of successive US governments. The relatively small amount retained by local rulers was wasted through their extravagant personal spending.

US influence reached its apex when the US became the sole superpower of the world following the collapse of the USSR. It was in this period that the US invaded Iraq. The stated aim was to rebuild Iraqi government and military structures from the ground up according to American designs.

Luckily this period was shortlived. American intentions in Iraq failed, as did the American adventure in Afghanistan. The scandalous withdrawal from Afghanistan, after twenty years of disastrous occupation, followed US failure in Iraq and heralded the momentous change of political order in the Middle East. American influence has shrunk drastically.

The Saudis and the United Arab Emirate leaderships are now on friendlier terms with Moscow and Beijing. They want friendly relations with America but on their terms. Saudi oil production is now more in line with Russian interests than with the liking of the US. The recent rapprochement between the Saudis and the Islamic Republic is another indication of the extent to which the Middle East is changing.

There is a general movement towards a new order in the Middle East. The Saudis have a far fetched and ambitious vision of grandour. They are not alone, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the UAE, amongst others, have similar ambitions. Sadly, their ambitions focus primarily on industrial - and specifically military industrial -- goals, and do not extend to social issues and issues of social justice.

This new order cannot mean a period of stability and happiness for the people of the region. Homegrown tensions can be as nasty and as tragic as internationally-induced ones. An unorthodox, ambitious sense of self-confidence is creeping into the minds of Arab, Iranian, Turkish and Israeli leaders. This may not be in the best national interests of the peoples of the region, but it is homegrown. Welcome to the new order



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The necessity of a broad solidarity



This year, International Workers' Day in Iran coincided with the revolutionary movement "Woman, Life, Freedom" on the one hand, and on the other hand with a strike in 94 companies related to the oil industry. The strikes proved the fact that in light of their dire situation, workers struggle continues to exist. It also revealed the need for broad solidarity: the need for linking the struggles of workers and other toilers for a decent livelihood with a more comprehensive struggle for freedom and democracy. The Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaaiian) in its statement about May 1st reviewed the

various aspects of the life of workers and other toilers in the past year which reads: *Iran's Left Party (People's Fadaaiian) supports the protests and large-scale strikes of workers and employees of contracting companies in the oil and petrochemical industry, and a number of mines and production units, which are ongoing with the demand for increased wages and other wellbeing demands. We support the fight against the repressive measures of the Islamic Republic, especially the fight against the chemical attack on schools and the massive arrests of civil and political activists, and at the same time, we encourage the workers to unite and solidarity, organize and establish links with the 'woman, life, freedom' movement. We call for the removal of the Islamic Republic, which is the main obstacle to*

the progress and welfare of the people.

"Coalition for the Secular Democratic Republic in Iran", known as 'Hamgami', of which the Left Party of Iran is one of its components, also wrote in a statement on the occasion of May 1st:

"Hamgami" honors International Workers' Day and supports the demands and struggles of Iranian workers and the large scale strike of workers of 110 production units. "Hamgami" believes that child labor should be prohibited, equal wages should be paid for equal work for men and women, work safety and job security should be guaranteed, the right to strike and the formation of independent unions should be recognized for workers and independent labor unions should regulate laws in the High Council of Labor with freedom from security pressures and



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restrictions to have active and real participation. The Islamic Republic should not impose the cost of its disastrous economic crisis and its crisis-creating and militant foreign policy on the vulnerable sections of society, especially the workers.

Read [more: https://bepish.org/node/9399](https://bepish.org/node/9399)

Appreciation

Nilufar Hamed, Elaha Mohammadi and Narges Mohammadi, three brave women who are paying the price of their commitment and standing for freedom by imprisonment, have won the most important award of the United Nations in

the field of press freedom for their "commitment to truth and accountability". Narges Mohammadi is a steady fighter who is talked about a lot and admired by everyone.

Nilofar Hamed and Elaha Mohammadi are two journalists who played an important role in sparking the Mahsa-Zhinaa Amini movement. They shed light on Mehsa Amini's murder in the dark corners of the government's detention centers and tried to reveal the truth in front of everyone until the moment of arrest.

Also, the 'May 18th Foundation' has announced that the 'Coordinating Council of Trade Union

Organizations of Iranian Teachers' won the Special Peace Prize for Human Rights 2023. In its statement, this foundation mentioned the reason for awarding the council is for its activity for two decades and especially its efforts to create international solidarity to condemn the policies of the Iranian government in violation of human rights in suppressing teachers and labor union activists.

The declaration of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) in recognition of the honorable efforts of three imprisoned women and the coordination council of trade union organizations of Iranian Teachers wrote:

The Iranian society, with the existence of brave women like Nilofar Hamed, Elaha Mohammadi and Narges Mohammadi,





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with institutions like the Coordinating Council of Trade Unions of Iranian Teachers, will continue its struggle and will not stop until this murderous government is dismantled.

Continuation of teachers' protests



At the invitation of the 'Coordinating Council of Educators' Trade Union Organizations', once again teachers in 11 provinces of the country started a protest rally. These gatherings were held in Tehran in front of the parliament and in other cities in front of the Ministry of Education offices. Teachers protested poor living conditions, improper grading practices, and the

commoditization of education. The security forces, especially in several cities of Kurdistan, attacked the gathering of teachers to prevent the continuation of their struggle.

The announcement of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) wrote about this:

Iran's left party (People's Fadaian) firmly defends the teachers' rightful protests and demands. We condemn the ignorance of their just rights and demands, suppressing their protests, and arresting and imprisoning union activists and members of teachers' organizations. We ask the liberation forces to support the teachers' demands and intensify the struggle to release the imprisoned teachers.

Stop the executions! The execution machine of the

Islamic Republic never stopped functioning during the month of May:

In the first days of this month, more than 20 Baloch prisoners were executed. This is despite the fact that during the past eight months, more than 100 Baloch prisoners were executed and our compatriots were killed in the streets of Zahedan, Khash and Fanuj (cities of Balochistan province). On Monday, May 8, 2023, the bloody hands of the judiciary took the lives of two social media activists. Yusuf Mehrdad and Sadrollah Fazeli Zare were hanged on the charge of having beliefs other than those of the reactionary rulers and the promoters of religious superstition, with the charge of "insulting the Islamic sanctities" and "Sab al-Nabi" (insulting the Prophet Mohamad). In the third week of the month, the Islamic Republic committed



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another crime by executing three protestors of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. Saeed Yaqoubi, Majid Kazemi and Saleh Mirhashemi were executed on the

their futility to preserve the Islamic Republic and asked the political organizations and civil institutions and human rights defenders to create a joint campaign against execution. By doing so,

Yaqoubi, Majid Kazemi and Saleh Mirhashemi, believing that the only way to prevent Executions is the united and powerful people's struggle against the government and forcing it to withdraw and stop these crimes. This work will be possible when the opponents of the regime join hands while maintaining their differences in other fields, by uniting action against the regime of death and execution, paving the way for the formation of a broad and strong movement against this regime. The "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement has shown that such an outcome is possible and freedom from the evil of the Islamic Republic is possible. We call all opponents of execution and torture to a united front. We are ready to have a dialogue with all democratic opposition forces in this field. Action must be taken to prevent more executions.



morning of May 19. The case on which they were tried was dictated to them by government interrogators and with torture. The fakeness of the accusations is clear and obvious, their show trial was protested by lawyers and human rights defenders.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) condemned these crimes at every turn and emphasized

we can put pressure on the Islamic Republic to comply with the people's demand to stop the executions. The announcement of the board on the occasion of the last executions reads: *The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) declares its disgust with the continued killing of people's children in the prisons of the regime, with great regret and shock over this crime and with condolences to the families of Saeed*



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Read more:
<https://bepish.org/node/9427>

Panel Discussion in European Parliament on Iran



A round table was held on the 26 of April to review the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and the expectations of Iranians from the European Parliament to strengthen this group. Ms. Mahdiah Golro and Mr. Mehdi Fatapour and Mr. Hamed Esmailyoun participated. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Cornelia Ernst and Hannah Neumann. Ms. Golro spoke about the women's movement in Iran, its history and its role in the formation of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement. Mr. Esmailyoun spoke

about the violation of human rights and the violence committed by the Islamic Republic, the protest of Iranians in this movement against the crimes committed and he emphasized the continuation of this movement despite the repressions. Mr. Mehdi Fatapour defined this movement as a cultural, socio-political movement and emphasized the success of this movement in changing the cultural atmosphere governing the society and changing the balance of power between the people and the government.

In this meeting, it was emphasized that the defense of human rights and the women's movement in Iran should not be subject to the ups and downs of protests in Iran. The 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and protests against human rights violations continue to exist in Iran. It was

emphasized that although Iran's foreign policy and human rights violations in Iran are a whole and are interdependent, Iran's foreign policy should not be the main factor in pressuring the regime. Protesting human rights violations in Iran and supporting civil and women's movements in Iran should not be subject to changes in foreign policy priorities.

April 27 report

The meeting on April 27, which was held with the participation of all the contributors, was dedicated to examining the possibilities and ways of transition to democracy in Iran and the specific expectations of Iranians from the European Parliament.

Ms. Roza Rozbahan opened the conference in the European Parliament by pointing out the importance of supporting the



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protesters inside Iran as the first and most important task.

She said the Islamic Republic's harsh treatment of any objection to its rules has now reached the point of unimaginable cruelty and as such, we are asking European Union to put pressure on Iranian authorities to release political prisoners, demand to stop force against civil and peaceful movements and release the non-Iranians and those with dual citizenship from prison, support, participate, and give speeches in Iranian peaceful demonstrations in Europe as well as the continuation of the political sponsorship of Iranian political prisoners.

Mr. Massoud Fathi indicated the certainty of all efforts which should be aimed at ending the suppression of the

struggles of the people, strengthening the civil institutions, and making it possible for them to emerge more powerful in the country's developments. A strong civil society is the main tool for transitioning to democracy and maintaining it.

What Europe can do is put pressure on the Islamic Republic in any way possible to end the suppression of the people's movement for freedom and democracy. The pressure on the Islamic Republic to end the repression serves to strengthen the democratic movement. Europe should make all efforts in encouraging the Islamic Republic to change its harsh treatment of the people.

It is important to use international instruments for more effective monitoring of

human rights violations. Even the negotiations with the Islamic Republic should respect human rights and the demand for the visits of prisons by human rights defenders.

It is also imperative that government institutions such as the Islamic labor councils, which are present in international organizations such as the International Labor Organization instead of Iranian labor unions or other independent institutions, should be expelled and the presence of representatives of independent labor organizations in this institution should be supported.

Read More:

<https://bepish.org/node/9512>





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The Congress of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) on June 2-4:

For Transition from the Islamic Republic, Our Positions and Policy!

The upcoming congress, including the founding congress in 2018, is the fourth congress held by the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) in the last 5 years. This Congress will be held six months before the scheduled date in honor of the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement, and its main agenda is to evaluate the country's important political developments in the light of this revolutionary movement.

Read More:

<https://bepish.org/node/9453>

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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