



IRAN: **View from the LEFT**

September 2022

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Word of the Month

Women, Life, Liberty

Iran is in turmoil. In over 80 towns and cities all across the country young people, especially young women, are fearlessly staging huge protests despite growing police and para-military repression. Their slogan " Women, Life, Liberty" encompasses the gender equality and democratic rights, free from Islamist repression, that they demand. So far, the official number killed has passed 50 but the actual number is almost certainly far higher.

Mahsa Amini, just 22 years old, was arrested because she was not fully compliant with the regime's strict dress code. Three days later, she was dead. The regime claims she had a heart attack but her parents say she had no history of heart problems.

Amini's brutal death is just the latest of innumerable acts of savagery by the Islamic Republic, which has consistently targeted women who defy its misogynistic prejudices and rules.

This latest movement is the result of years of suffering under a system of political Islam. This system has failed.

Overwhelmingly, those taking part in these protests are the grandchildren of those who propelled the 1979 revolution against the US-backed Shah's dictatorship. They are too young to have felt the terror or bear the scars of previous Iranian movements. Their outrage is matched only by their fearlessness in the face of the regime's thugs and firepower.

No one can foretell the outcome of the present struggle, but any failure to finalise agreement and reinstate the JCPOA is likely to further inflame the situation.

Woman, Life, Freedom



Mahsa (Zhina) Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish girl who was arrested and beaten by the Islamic Republic of Iran's so-called morality police officers on September 14 died 3 days later due to cerebral hemorrhage.

The political and social life in Iran in the following days were completely dominated by the heartbreaking death of this young girl. The victims of gender, ethnic and religious oppression - the vast majority of Iranian society - have come to the streets in nearly 100 cities and protested the violence and systematic



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oppression of the Islamic Republic with the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom". The reaction of the security and law enforcement agencies, as always, has been harsh and bloody

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)'s initial reaction to Mahsa's murder is as follows:

crimes belongs to the corrupt government of the Islamic Republic, headed by Khamenei. In the fight against pressure and oppression, our party stands with the people, especially the freedom fighting women of our country, and demands for the dismantle of the morality police patrols and freedom of women's choice over hijab.

Following the announcement of Mahsa's death, the Center for the Cooperation of Iranian Kurdistan Parties, a group of political parties in Iran's Kurdistan, issued a notice calling on all segments of the people of Kurdistan, other political parties, civil organizations and human rights activists to "go on a general strike on Monday, September 19, to protest the anti-human and anti-women policies of the regime and to protect the dignity of Kurdish girls and young women". The



against the protesters. At least 33 people have been killed during these protests. However, the scope of protests has been continuously expanded to more cities while increasing the number of participants.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) while expressing sympathy with the family of MahsaAmini and expressing revulsion for this crime by the so-called morality police, declares that the main responsibility for such



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political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) welcomed the call and wrote:

The left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) supports the call of the Kurdistan Parties Cooperation Center for a general strike on Monday, September 19. We call on all those who are fighting for freedom and liberation from the shameful government of the Islamic Republic to participate in this strike and protest the murder of Mahsa (Zhina)Amini. This strike can be a crushing response to the killers of people's children and a manifestation of solidarity with their bereaved families.

One of the prominent aspects of these protests is the leadership of women who not only stand in front of the police and security forces but also remove their hijab and burn them in a symbolic

gesture. The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) called for the expansion of this movement in a declaration:



The Islamic Republic has not and will not be able to dissuade women from their demands through repression and imprisonment and the repression apparatus will not be able to arrest and imprison millions of protestors. Without any doubt, if women in the workplace and in public continue to fight forced hijab, the government could do nothing but surrender. Iranian people have the right and can overthrow the government. Let us by popularizing the

movement to abolish the compulsory hijab, force the government to surrender.

The ever-growing demonstrations of the people against the killing of Mahsaby police officers once again has put the repressive apparatus of the Islamic Republic to choose between continuing to act as a tool of repression against the people or disobey the orders and stand with people. The declaration of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) asks those forces to disobey the order to suppress the people:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) is of the opinion that in the current situation of the country's movement and the ever-growing demonstrations, one of the pillars of the popular demonstrations is the enlightened work among the personnel of the law enforcement,



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military and even security forces. You should try to make them realize that tomorrow they will reap what they sow today. They should be encouraged to stand up against the oppressive orders and disobey the government's oppression in any possible way. They should be told that people are monitoring their every single move.

It should be noted that the political-executive boards of six organizations and political parties - the Union of Republicans of Iran, the Iran-Europe National Front (6th Samane), the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), the Social Democratic and Secular Republican Party of Iran, the organizations of the National Front of Iran outside of The country, and the solidarity of the Republicans of Iran - who have reached common goals in the last several months, also



reacted to the events of recent weeks in Iran on several occasions, including:

We, the six republican and democratic organizations and political parties, while offering our condolences to the honorable Amini family and the people of Iran, once again

condemn the oppressive, criminal, and corrupt Islamic Republic of Iran and at the head of it, Ali Khamenei, as the main perpetrator of this crime. The most popular and urgent demands by people include the removal of so-called morality patrols and the



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volunteer hijab for women. We ask international organizations to condemn this crime and we call on all Iranian men and women inside and outside the country to protest the unbridled violence of the government.

Also, following the call of the Coordinating Council of the Iranian Cultural Trade Union Organizations for



teachers and students to refrain from going to classrooms on September 26 and 28, the political-executive boards of the mentioned parties declared their full support for this call and wrote:

We, the six republican and democratic organizations, while announcing our full support for the strike of teachers and students, workers, businesses, and professors, are calling to coordinate their efforts with the protesters and participate with those who by sacrificing their lives stand on the streets every day and night in

the cities and in every corner of the society.

We request the national artists and sportsmen to join the protests in any possible way and to avoid association with the government organization and its propaganda apparatus, especially the

government's radio and television.

While saluting the protesters again, we believe that the continuation of the protests in the streets paves the way for the transition from the Islamic Republic. The destructive system of the Islamic Republic should also know that suppressing and killing protesters has no result other than increasing the anger of the people who demand their fundamental rights.

■ The new academic year with old and new demands

September 22nd is the beginning of the academic year in Iran. This day is important not only for educational reasons, but for many other reasons for the general society, and this year it has gained double importance. The two-years long covid-19 pandemic also had its



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destructive effects on education: not only limited to its virtualization, but also during this period, the inequality of education in various forms intensified. In addition, the opening of schools and universities this year coincided with widespread protests over the murder of MahsaAmini. This coincidence provides a very favorable field for the movements of students and teachers which has had a significant presence in the protests and social atmosphere of Iran in recent years.



The statement of the office of the youth of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) on the beginning of the academic year, with a

comprehensive look at the educational environment in Iran, writes:



The youth working group of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), in unison with the teachers' movement and the student movement:

We consider the increasing trend of privatization and commodification of education as the structural reasons for the increasing class conflict in the society, and we demand free and high-quality education for all members of the society. We consider providing education for Afghan citizens in Iran as an urgent task of the education system. We consider the arrest of teachers and students protesting the current

situation as a sign of the totalitarianism of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Imprisoned teachers and students must be released immediately and unconditionally. We consider the false accusations against the detained teachers and students to be a desperate attempt by the security institutions of the Islamic Republic to break the position of the teachers and students' movements. We condemn this act.

We defend the right of teachers, students, and university professors to organize. Having an independent organization is the right of every social group and militarizing this demand ultimately has no purpose other than suppressing these forces and their demands.

Forcing clergy men upon the education system for the purpose of brainwashing of students not only is unprofessional but also



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considered to be heinous, immoral and an example of violation of the rights of children and teenagers.

We consider education in native language as an essential right and we consider ourselves a partner in the struggle to achieve it. Iran is a country with diverse cultures and languages, and all citizens of the country have the right to be educated in their mother tongue.

We consider the censorship of the struggles and efforts of the teachers' movement and the student movement by some Persian-language media abroad and the unprecedented attacks by supporters of the defeated dictatorship on the activists of the teachers' movement and the student movement to be in line with the goals of the Islamic Republic. Those acts are worrisome.

We support the struggles of teachers and students in the new academic year and their demands.

The Office of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), while congratulating the beginning of the new academic year to students, teachers, university professors, personnel of educational institutions and the people of Iran, emphasizes that educational institutions are essential instruments to not only achieve democracy but also to maintain it. The direct intervention of these institutions is a necessity that cannot be ignored for the realization and consolidation of democracy. The future of Iran will not be made by the monopolistic thoughts of the rulers of the Islamic Republic, but by a generation that uses every opportunity to show its opposition to the existing situation;

the generation who is the leader of protests and struggles. The future of Iran belongs to a new-thinker and modern generation that does not tolerate tyranny now, nor in future.

■ An anenormous problem



Drought is a known problem in Iran. This problem turned into a real crisis last month in Hamadan, one of Iran's 31 provinces. The lack of water has caused many problems for the people of Hamadan. Among other things, it has caused serious problems in hospitals and operating rooms. Although water in Hamadan city is rationed but it is not distributed. Due to the drought and the decrease in seasonal rainfall, the water



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volume of the dams in Hamedan, especially the water of the Ekbatan dam, has greatly decreased. The amount of water behind the dam has decreased from 36 million cubic meters to 1.6 million cubic meters. The city of Shahrekord and its surrounding villages and towns have had a similar situation.



In addition, 22 provinces affected by the flood also have problems with water scarcity.

The people of Hamedan came to the streets in the excruciating heat of the summer to protest the lack of water and, referring to the mismanagement and

corruption of the ruling government, they chanted: 'Death to incompetent officials' and 'If one embezzlement is reduced, the problem will be solved'. As usual, the response of the authorities was to resort to the police forces, confront the people's protest and arrest a

number of protesters.

The announcement of the environmental working group of Iran's left party (People's Fadaian) writes:

Water, as a national issue, should be scientifically managed with regard to balanced and sustainable

development in agriculture and industry. Self-sufficient, jihadi and revolutionary slogans along with unprofessional plans will not solve the water shortage crisis in our country and will have serious social and political consequences to the point that our country will face the risk of territorial collapse. We support the protest of the people of Hamedan against the incompetent officials and their demand for access to drinking water, and we emphasize on expert work in water supply projects and attention to their environmental effects.

■ **The man accused of committing a crime against humanity is in the United Nations General Assembly**

Ebrahim Raisi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, traveled to New York to participate in the annual



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United Nations General Assembly to give a speech. This happens while Raisi was directly involved in the murder of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, a crime he has openly defended many times. In 1988, thousands of political prisoners who were serving – and in some cases had even served – their prison terms were handed over to the death squads after attending short term (in most cases 15 minutes) trials. A crime was committed which according to some international legal organizations, was an example of a crime against humanity.



The declaration of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) on the eve of Raisi's trip writes:

The left party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the presence of Ebrahim Raisi, the murderer of thousands of Iranian youths, in the United Nations General Assembly to expose the crimes of the Islamic Republic and invites all freedom fighters who do not tolerate the atrocities of the Iranian regime to campaign against this regime and its murderous representative in every possible way. Considering all the efforts made in this field

as positive, we ask the members, supporters of the party and fellow fighters to participate in organizing a nationwide action against the presence of Raisi in the United Nations, to expose the crimes of the Islamic Republic against the people of Iran and demand to have him trialed. Ebrahim Raisi should be held accountable for his criminal actions in the competent courts.

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.

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