



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.

Word of the Month

More hope than fear in Vienna talks

There are many signs of hope for an agreement in the Vienna talks. On the Iranian side: Khamenei, the leader of the Islamic Republic, declares that "if necessary, we must negotiate with the enemy"; Iranian Foreign Minister, Amir Abdullahian, does not rule out direct talks with the United States; The statements of the other negotiating parties, even the Americans, which indicate the strengthening of the chances of an agreement do not meet with the principled denial of the Iranian authorities.



On the US side: Officials have been warning for weeks that the

opportunity for a deal is limited to a few weeks; The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency makes no attempt to pass a resolution against the Islamic Republic; Certain People calling for a US maximalist approach within the US negotiating team are leaving the delegation team.

There are also alarming signs: the movement of extremist forces opposed to the agreement on both sides; The continuation of Israel's efforts to influence the outcome of the negotiations; Growing tensions between Russia and the "West" which could also affect the Vienna talks.



Solidarity



According to the Sudanese Communist Party, security forces, police and paramilitary forces fired tear gas and live ammunition at protesters during a December 30 demonstration in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, Omdurman and several other cities. This resulted in the death of four people and the wounding of 200 others. Many leaders of the resistance committees have been arrested during this brutal crackdown.

International Relations of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) wrote in a



letter in solidarity with the struggles of the Sudanese people:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), while supporting the call of the Sudanese Communist Party, declares its solidarity with the struggles of the Sudanese people and the resistance forces against repression. Our party calls on all international forums and progressive humanity to join and support the Sudanese struggle for democracy and against the martial law. We demand the immediate release of the detained leaders of the resistance committees and all political prisoners.

Read More: <https://bepish.org/node/6520>

The death of another prisoner of conscience which may not be the last loss of life in Iran's prisons



Abtin Baktash, a writer, filmmaker and a prominent member of the Writers' Association of Iran, has died in the prisons of the Islamic Republic after suffering from Corona disease. Mr. Baktash (1974-2022) contracted Covid 19 for the second time in prison. Despite

being informed of his serious condition, the prison authorities denied him the necessary medical attentions, despite timely warnings from his family, the Writers' Association and other political activists.



Abtin Baktash was imprisoned for his membership in the Writers' Association of Iran on charges such as "propaganda against the regime" and "conspiracy to act against the security of the country." His so called criminal record included publishing the internal bulletin of the Writers' Association of Iran, participating in the compilation of the association's history book and statements, as well as attending the ceremonies of the victims of serial political assassinations and the anniversary memorial of Iranian Poet, Ahmad Shamlou.

Statement of the Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) writes in this regard:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) extends its condolences on the tragic death of Abtin Baktash to the Writers' Association of Iran, the Baktash family, the cultural community and all the freedom-loving people of our country. We hold the Islamic Republic responsible for



the murder of Abtin Baktash, We call on all activists and political institutions, the democratic and cultural assemblies of the country, and human rights organizations not to remain silent in the face of this crime and to spare no effort to pressure the government to release political prisoners. We declare our readiness to participate in any effort for the immediate and unconditional release of members of the Writers' Association of Iran and other political, civil and cultural activists from prison and to end the dark shadows of the tyranny that the Islamic Republic has established in our country.



Also the political-executive boards of the Union of Republicans of Iran, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran issued a joint statement:

We, the three secular Republican Republican organizations, hold the judiciary system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and above all, Ali Khamenei, responsible for delaying and making it difficult for Baktash to receive timely treatment for the deadly Corona virus which resulted in Mr. Baktash's manslaughter.

We express our condolences to the family of Baktash and members of the Writers' Association of Iran, and invite the people

of Iran to express their sympathy for this great grief in any way that they deem appropriate. Officers of the government's security agencies, in accordance with their usual tyrannical and fearful practice, did not allow the funeral to take place at the request of the family and the plans set up by the Writers' Association of Iran. The protest against the death of Abtin Baktash is in support of freedom, the independence of art and literature, the appreciation of socially concerned intellectuals, and the entanglement of human responsibility with artistic endeavor. Also, while emphasizing the end of the shameful phenomenon of having political-ideological prisoners as soon as possible, the medical and health needs of prisoners should be adequately met so that we no longer witness suspicious and tragic deaths in prisons. We call on the international community, especially the Pen Association, to condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran for the death of Abtin Baktash and to demand the release of the imprisoned members of the Writers' Association.



Unfortunately, the death of Abtin may not be the last case of death of political prisoners as a result of the "negligence" of the officials of the Islamic Republic in their responsibility for their lives. Two examples (and there are many more):



Mr. Mehdi Salehi, a detainee of the 2019 Winter Uprising, suffered a stroke on Tuesday, January 11, due to a "wrong drug injection" and a delay in sending him to a hospital outside prison. Mr. Keyvan Samimi, president of the association for the Defense of Press Freedom and a political activist imprisoned in Evin, is another matter of great concern. He was sentenced to three years in prison only for participating in Labor Day celebrations on charges of "conspiracy to act against national security." Despite his poor physical condition and a history of heart disease and his age at 73, authorities are seeking his deportation to another prison with much more difficult conditions.

The Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) calls against murder in prisons and for the release of political, cultural and civil prisoners:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) holds the Islamic Republic responsible for the killing of political prisoners. We condemn the dire conditions of prisons and the fabricated sentencing of the courts of the Islamic Republic against political, cultural and civil activists. Our party demands the immediate release of the members of the Writers' Association, human rights activists and all political and civil prisoners. We call on all political activists and organizations, including the democratic and cultural communities of our country and human rights organizations, to spare no effort to pressure the government for the release of political prisoners.

We declare our readiness to participate in the campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of members of the Writers' Association of Iran, human rights lawyers, and other political, ideological, civil, and cultural prisoners from prison. We call on the international community to condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran for the murder of writers, political prisoners, prisoners of conscience and civil activists in prison, and to demand the unconditional release of writers, lawyers and political, ideological and civil activists and the recognition of Freedom of opinion, expression and association in Iran.

Read More: <https://bepish.org/node/6583>



A Futile Journey

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, paid a visit to Russia on January 19-20. The trip was accompanied by extensive publicity about the "turning point" in Iran-Russia relations, the signing of a 20-year strategic cooperation document between the two countries, etc. However, the official news coming from both presidents' offices clearly indicate no agreements have been signed and not even a joint statement has been issued.



The Islamic Republic's foreign relations, previously based on "neither East nor West", have in recent years been based on "considering East". According to this policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran views Russia and China as strategic allies and it wants to pursue a policy of antagonism with the United States by forming a triangle of Russia, China and Iran.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a statement after Raisi's visit to Moscow. It reads:



"Looking to the East" is based on the illusion of a bipolar world, and the Islamic Republic, by dividing the world powers into good and evil, seeks a foothold in this somewhat imaginary world. The duration of Iran-Russia Cooperation Document, signed in 2001, was originally ten years old and it has been extended twice for additional terms of five years. An attempt to turn this document into a comprehensive strategic agreement with Russia is a dream that was not fulfilled during Raisi's visit. Such document, just as the signing of a 25-year memorandum of understanding with China without its terms being known even to the regime's own parliament, is part of the plans of the leader of the Islamic Republic and his puppet government for the country. They

consider themselves the owners of this country. They have no regards for the people and see no need to keep them informed of the terms of the memorandum that affects the fate of the citizens of Iran.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the policy of "looking to the east" of the Islamic Republic, unilateral reliance on Russia and China and the continuation of enmity with the West and the United States against the interests of the country and the people of Iran. In our opinion, the secret agreements of the Islamic Republic do not provide the interests, welfare and security of the Iranian people and the independence of the country and as such, they are invalid. We believe that the hostile and convulsive foreign policy of the Islamic Republic during the last 42 years has resulted in international isolation and convulsions in relations with neighbors and other countries as well as the elimination of the country's development opportunities. We oppose polarization in international relations, the division of countries and nations into friend and foe, and we consider a balanced and reciprocal relationship with all countries as vital to the national interests of the country.

Read more: <https://bepish.org/node/6604>





Continuation of the protest of cultural communities of Iran



In recent weeks, various cities in Iran have witnessed enthusiastic and impressive organized civic, and union gatherings of teachers. They, once again, shouted their accumulated historical demands and protested against the disregard for the position and dignity of teachers by government institutions. Intelligence and law enforcement agencies initially tried to end the rallies peacefully but after the continuation of the protests, the regime within the framework of its usual policy of intolerance for independent protests, attempted to beat and arrest a number of teacher activist.

The main demands of teachers are: appropriate ranking, job security for all, equalization of pensions, release of imprisoned teachers, free and high quality education, and the supplementary insurance. They also voiced their displeasure with "the dominance of ideological ideas over teaching curriculum", "the government's view of schools as barracks", "disregard for the value of the training of excellent human resources" and "disrespect for the dignity of teachers".

The joint statement of the political-executive delegations of the Union of Republicans of Iran, the Left Party of Iran

(People's Fadaian) and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran reads:

We, the three secular Republican organizations, believe that positive changes in the education system require both the organized efforts of educators, students and their families, as well as fundamental changes in the power structure and an end to religious and government interference in education. Although the struggle of the protesting teachers is completely non-political but given the existing realities such as the ruling political obstruction and the institutionalized inability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fulfill the demands of the teachers, their movement will inevitably have political consequences like other social strata and other union activities. Therefore, it must be said that in the current situation in Iran, their struggle is both political and union. Of course, the best policy is the one that pursues fundamental changes in social and cultural structures and in the intensification of social protests of different classes and coalitions of social movements without the will to rule the country and to gain power.

Last but not least, by supporting the demands of the Iranian teachers' union, we emphasize the immediate and unconstrained release of imprisoned teachers. There is no place for free and responsible teachers in prison. Instead, they should be appreciated. Also, the educational system of the country should be managed with the effective participation of teachers' activists and independent and institutions that rely on the representation of teachers.



IRAN: View from the LEFT

3rdYear

January 2022

N0.25

We, the three secular Republican organizations, believe that positive changes in the education system require both the organized efforts of educators, students and their families, as well as fundamental changes in the power structure and an end to religious and government interference in education.

