



***This is Issue No. 8 of the “IRAN: View from the LEFT” which will be published for those who want to get to know the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) positions. Each issue contains selections of the party’s positions on a monthly basis. The current issue covers August, 2020.***

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



## **Political developments in the region, a barrier to regional politics of the Islamic Republic**

Developments that have taken place in the region in recent months have changed the situation to the detriment of the policies of the Islamic Republic in some countries and have weakened its position in the region. Several factors play a role in this process, the most important of which are: the recent developments in Iraq after the formation of the new government, the formation of the fragile balance of forces in Syria, the socio-political and economic developments in Lebanon. These factors, along with the economic and political pressures of the US government and various Israeli offensive operations have

caused many problems for the regional policy of the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, the situation in the country has become more unsettled due to the destructive performance and policies of the Islamic Republic and the blockages resulting from the intensification of US government sanctions have limited the government's ability to continue its costly policies in the region.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) in a detailed analysis of the above-mentioned influential events and developments and other related events concludes:

*The regional policy of the Islamic Republic which is mostly based on ideological-military influence and the organization of armed units in the critical areas of the region faces several obstacles. For example, the current influence of the Islamic Republic in the region with its interventionist and aggressive features is not proportionate with its presence in other areas, namely its economic and cultural. In addition, the financial and human resources capabilities of the Islamic Republic are not sufficient to continue its policy like before. The regime is already facing grave economic problems in the country. At the same time, given the severity of the Islamic Republic's disputes with the United States and its allies in the region, the longer the conflict goes on it would become more costly and the line-up against the Islamic Republic will become wider.*

*While condemning the terrorist and subversive acts of the right-wing Israeli government in Iran, we believe that questioning the existence of Israel in*



*justifying the government's audacious policies in the region is a good platform for escalating tensions. Not the two governments but it is the people of Iran who suffer the most because of this ideological policy. By continuing this policy, the Islamic Republic has damaged the national interests of the country as well as those of the Palestinian people. Blind enmity with Israel has nothing to do with the interests of our country and the people of Iran. The recent explosions at the Islamic Republic's nuclear and missile facilities are a warning that the status quo is getting more dangerous.*

*The regional policy of the Islamic Republic has intensified tensions and caused harmful damage to our country in every way. Defending the Assad regime and organizing militant movements has led to the notoriety of our country and the spread of hatred of Iran and Iranians in some Arab countries. The "strategic depth" policy of the Islamic Republic has become a dark spot in our country's relations with its neighbors and friends in the region. Our country needs to establish friendly relations with all governments in the region. The leaders of the Islamic Republic claim that by advancing the policy of "strategic depth", they have been able to bring the war in the streets of Tehran to the battlefields of other countries and provide security within the borders of the country. However, the recent explosions and especially the one in Natanz proved once again how real and appropriate the expression of concerns and warnings were in this regard. Those warnings, including by our party, proved the fact that this policy has made the country more insecure.*

*Now, in the run-up to the US presidential election, it is not unlikely that Trump and his regional partners will stir up the atmosphere with adventurous actions. By magnifying the danger of the Islamic Republic for the region and the world, especially for the United States and Israel, and creating a foreign crisis they will try to incite domestic nationalist sentiments and influence American voters to make up for the Trump's gap with his rival Joe Biden. There is no doubt that the policies of the US government and its allies have escalated the tensions in the Middle East, turning the region into a hotbed of constant hostilities and proxy wars and a breeding ground for radical forces. US imperialist and hegemonic policies endanger the establishment of peace and stability in the region. Those policies serve the interests of the conservative governments of the region. Our party has repeatedly condemned this coercive and intrusive policy of the United States.*

*The policy of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has always been to emphasize the end of the ideological, tense and adventurous foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, withdrawal from critical areas and renunciation of militant forces. We believe that withdrawal from critical areas and changing the country's policy towards peace and security in the region is the only way to secure the interests of the country and the Iranian people.*

*Today, more than ever, it is imperative to declare readiness for dialogue and friendly relations with all nations on the basis of mutual interests, maintaining peace, ensuring security in the region and*



the world, and moving towards economic, political and cultural cooperation.

More:

<https://bepish.org/node/4071>



## Continuation and expansion of workers' strikes

In the previous issue of "View from the Left", we reported on a 30-day strike by workers at the 'Haft Tappeh' sugar factory. The strike is still ongoing and a wave of strikes has broken out in other industrial and service units of the country. We see dozens of strikes and protests in different parts of the country on a weekly basis. For the first time in decades, the simultaneous strike of workers in several companies in the oil industry shows the depth of working-class dissatisfaction, the rise of their consciousness and their readiness to demand their rights:

*Workers are not the only section of the society on strike and protest against their wage and working conditions and the pressures of employers and the government. Nurses, teachers and retirees also went on strike and demonstrated.*

*These strikes have more or less common grounds. Payment of unpaid wages, increase of wages and wage benefits, regular payment of insurance premiums and social security fees, implementation of job classification, securing the workplace, dismantling contractors and intermediaries, official employment, providing job security, ending the lawlessness in the environment, recognizing labor and trade union rights are collectively the demands that the workers demand. The 'Haft Tappeh' and 'Hepco' workers also demand the cancellation of the privatization of their production units.*

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a statement in support of the strikes:

*We salute the striking workers and support their demands and strikes and we express our solidarity with them. We believe that striking workers in unity and solidarity can force employers and the government to raise wages and accept other demands. One of the main reasons for the poverty and misery of the workers is the suppression of trade unions and labor parties. Hence, the formation of trade unions is essential in workers' struggles. Without unions and organizations, workers will not be able to defend their rights effectively. Undoubtedly, the workers who can strike can establish their unions and an organizations throughout their struggle. With the formation of trade unions in the workplace, workers' ability to defend their rights in an organized manner increases dramatically.*



## **Crime does not guarantee the survival of regime**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Islamic Republic executed 30 years old Mustafa Salehi, who had been arrested for participating in the December 2017 protests. This happened while many of those arrested during the December 2017 and November 2019 protests are still in prison and are in danger of execution at any moment.

The statement of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), which was published in protest of this execution reads:

*The Islamic Republic is worried about the uprising of the people. The reasons that took people to the streets in December 2017 and November 2019 are not only still there, but also the misery and poverty of the people, especially after the corona has intensified. In this situation, the government has considered intimidation as a solution and has resorted to further executions and intends to send a number of those arrested to the execution squad in order to prevent the people from protesting against the current miserable situation. The list of protesters sentenced*

*to death has grown and they are in danger of losing their lives at any moment.*

*While expressing its disgust with the execution of Mostafa Salehi, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) expresses its sympathy with his family and friends. The lives of another number of imprisoned protesters are now in danger. We call on all political organizations and civil society institutions to confront the government which has made the execution of protesting citizens a means of its survival in any way they can. Together, we can prevent the death of our compatriots.*

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## **Joint national action to achieve truth and administer justice**

Thirty-two years have passed since the implementation of the program of mass murder and organized killing of political prisoners. The purge of political prisoners was the government's calculated plan to eliminate the opposition. During the massacre, thousands of prisoners of all ages, from



teenagers to prisoners over the age of 70, were massacred. The regime handed over the prisoners to the death squad in groups, regardless of their affiliation and political views. They executed even those who had served their sentences after asking a few questions. Undoubtedly, the main culprit of this crime against humanity is Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic Republic. However, Khomeini was not alone. All the commanders and perpetrators and all those who have held positions in the management of the system at the time are also responsible for this crime.

The statement of the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of this national tragedy reads:

*This massacre, which in the first few years after the tragedy was met with silence and denial by government leaders, was gradually reflected in the selfless resistance and tireless efforts of the families of the victims and with the support of political and democratic organizations at national and international levels. As a result of public pressure, government officials were forced to break the silence. The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, Khamenei, in an open defense of the massacre of political prisoners in 1988 appointed one of the members of the death squad, 'Ibrahim Ra'isi', as the head of the judiciary system. This revealed the place of criminals in this rotten and corrupt system. Breaking the silence of the government and the confession of one of the members of the delegation, 'Pour*

*Mohammadi' to that crime, is the victory of the plaintiffs, the 'mothers of Khavaran' and all Iranians who respect human dignity.*

*For more than three decades after that brutal massacre, the pursuit of litigation has continued in various forms and the struggle for the truth has yielded valuable results but the amount of energy and time spent pursuing litigation still does not match the desired results. It is important to coordinate the scattered work of this collection, especially the political parties, and to create a single and common database in the first place. The massacre of the summer of 1988 was a national catastrophe. Its victims were from all political currents opposed to the government who said 'NO' to the Islamic Republic in the wake of their death. The lawsuit in this national catastrophe only succeeds if it is pursued at the national level.*

*On the 32nd anniversary of the national catastrophe, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) commemorates the martyrs of the path to freedom and greets all heroes who turned their bodies to raised flags against tyranny. We will stand by the families of the victims of the massacres of the Islamic Republic and other justice seekers to punish the crimes of the Islamic Republic. We welcome any effort to work together and coordinate political parties and organizations, human rights activists and all libertarians to make the advocacy movement work. Such actions will undoubtedly serve the struggle for truth and justice*

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## European Parliament'- Cornelia Ernst



### Parliament's delegation chair expresses concerns over human rights situation in Iran

July 13, 2020

Amidst the global pandemic which has hit countries such as Iran particularly hard, and with Germany taking over the EU Council Presidency, the chair of the European Parliament's delegation to Iran **Cornelia Ernst** (DIE LINKE, Germany) is urging dialogue and greater cooperation with the Islamic Republic during these difficult times, in particular on trade and on human rights:



"I am very concerned by the human rights situation in Iran. I urge the German EU Presidency to work towards lifting US-imposed economic sanctions so that prompt, flexible authorisation for essential medical equipment and

supplies can reach Iran, including from the EU."

"I also call on EU member states to strengthen INSTEX, in particular by providing it with the necessary financial means and political support to enable trade with Iran. I urge member states to work towards the release of an IMF loan as requested by Iran," she added.

On the issue of human rights, Ernst said:

"The European Parliament has repeatedly expressed its concerns at the human rights situation in Iran. I regret that dialogues between the EU and Iran have not yielded sufficient results so far. The European Parliament will continue to follow the situation closely, in particular with regards to women's rights, the defenders of human rights, dual nationals, and minorities."

"I also call on the Iranian authorities to end the use of intimidation, prosecution or violence in dealing with dissent. I urge the Iranian authorities to release of all prisoners of conscience, including Sakharov Prize winner Nasrin Satoudeh. I am also deeply troubled by the sentencing against the Franco-Iranian anthropologist Fariba Adelkhah that is based on vague or unspecified 'national security' and 'espionage' charges. Finally, intimidation and repression levelled against religious minorities, in particular the Baha'i community, must also end."

Link: <https://www.guengl.eu/parliaments-delegation-chair-expresses-concerns-over-human-rights-situation-in-iran/>