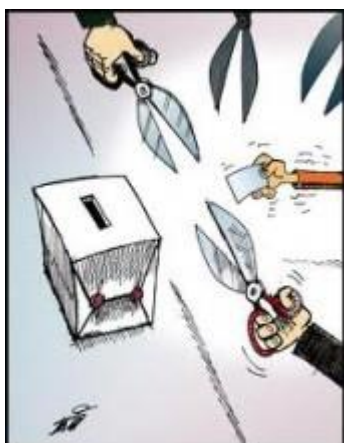




This is Issue No. 0 of the “IRAN: View from the LEFT ” which will be published for those who want to get to know the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) positions. Each issue contains selections of the party’s positions on a monthly basis. The current issue covers November 10<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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

## Parliamentary Elections



On November 10, 2019, The Central Council of the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) (CC of LPI (PF)), issued a statement on its position regarding the upcoming parliamentary election. The 11th parliamentary election will be held in February 2020.

The CC of LPI (PF) statement has emphasized on unconditional right of candidacy of different social groups representatives, change of the electoral laws of the Islamic Republic (IR), and acceptance and implementation of monitoring conditions of fairness of the election process to prevent fraud and manipulation of the votes as the basic duties and functions of governments in delivering political

freedoms and citizen rights. Our party has stated that holding free and fair elections is one of the basic principles of democratic governance and the fight to hold that aspect is one of our political strategy.

Based on experience of the last forty years and conditions that the IR has imposed on the election process, the LPI (PF) has concluded that boycotting the parliamentary election is in the people’s interest and calls on all forces and political currents who defend people’s freedom of will reflect their “No” to this so-called election and demand free elections for a constituent assembly and the drafting of a new constitution.

## Arrest of an Iranian citizen in Sweden on suspicion of crimes against humanity



On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Swedish media broadcast the news of arrest of an Iranian citizen on charges of participating in the summer of 1988 mass killing of political prisoners. In the summer of 1988, at the direct order of Khomeini, several thousands of political prisoners, while some of them were awaiting their release, including hundreds of members of constituent organizations of the LPI (PF), were massacred in the IR’s prisons. Human right organizations have recognized that crime as the crime against humanity. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/blood-soaked-secrets/>

The arrest of the Iranian citizen was issued by a Swedish court and the prosecutor asked



the court to extend his detention for four weeks.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Political-Executive Bureau of the LPI (PF) in an statement stated that the Swedish judiciary action was a message to the IR rulers to know that “world is very small for criminals to escape and the field for executing justice is getting wider every day.”

The statement supported the action of the Swedish Ministry of Justice and stated; “we call on members and friends of the party to do their part with cooperating with the judicial authorities of the Swedish government in executing justice. We call on political parties and human rights and democratic organizations to assist the process of a fair trial with their joint cooperation.” At the same, “we warn the Swedish government for intervention of the Islamic Republic in the course of the trial, like the Court of Mykonos in Berlin, in France and Austria in the investigation into the assassination carried out abroad by the Islamic Republic.

## Iranian people protest



On Friday, November 15, 2019, large groups of Iranians protested the announcement of a 300 percent increase in gas prices. As expected, the Islamic Republic suppressed the protests with excessive force and to prevent the leaking of the news of the massacres the government shut down the Internet. Khamenei, the leader of the Islamic

Republic, issued a direct order to shoot the people.

The protests which took place in more than a hundred cities and towns on November 5 and the days after, resulted in the confirmed death of at least 156 people with the expectation of much higher death toll. In addition, thousands have been injured and detained. There are news of brutal treatment of the detainees by authorities. The state-run TV and media have broadcasted a series of interviews with so called “experts” who recommended that the protesters must be tormented according to the rules set in Koran, the holly book of Muslims. Death threatens the lives of many detainees.

The LPI (PF) declared its stand in regards to the protests from the beginning and in accordance to the highs and lows of the events. In its first statement, the party's Executive Board announced their support for the demands and uprisings of the people, as well as their solidarity with the people on the streets of Iran. The statement declares:

*‘We call on the people of Iran to join the protests and support their demands as those are the demands of every single freedom fighter and justice seeker in our country. We call on the demonstrators to avoid resorting to violence. We condemn the suppression of the uprising and warn the leaders of the government to stop shooting peaceful demonstrations.’*

As the protests grew larger and as the killings and arrests increased, the party issued a statement to the military and law enforcement agencies:

*‘People demand that you do not shoot at them. Lest your batons cut a head or slit a body. Don't beat the young protesters. Don't be the government's puppet. Disobey orders of suppression. You can avoid clashing with your own people.’*

The political- executive board issued another statement after Ali Khamenei personally ordered firing at people. The



board declared sympathy with the victims and named the Islamic Republic and ultimately Khamenei responsible for the massacre of protesters. The board called on the international community to support the Iranian people against the murderers of the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic Republic's attempt to cover up its brutal repression of demonstrators by shutting down the Internet for several days resulted in issuing a statement calling the Internet disruption as a sign of the government's determination to onslaught protesters:

*'While condemning the disconnection of the Internet, the LPI (PF) supports the uprising and in particular the youth's struggle for unrestricted internet. The regime must be aware that the road they have chosen to face the crisis ends up in a valley which undoubtedly will swallow the tyrants and their corrupt discriminating system.'*

In one of its last stances in relation to the protests, the political-executive board of the LPI (PF) addressed the political forces of the opposition, stating that the lack of organization and the absence of a trustful opposition force against the government implies unity:

*'The LPI (PF), in view of the needs of these critical moments, calls on all freedom fighters who believe in the sovereignty of our nation to establish a coalition... We are ready to accompany, coordinate and take joint actions with all those whose priority in the fight against the Islamic Republic relies on people's demands and believe in the establishment of a secular and democratic republic voted by the people of Iran. Our history shows our efforts on uniting pro republic seculars and democrats. We welcome any efforts by opposition parties in this regard and warmly shake the hand of anyone sharing the same views.'*

*From our point of view at this critical moments, establishing committees of activists anywhere in the world among Iranians to*

*express solidarity and support with the people and participate in the ongoing popular uprising is an urgent task. We declare our willingness to work on a case by case basis in support of the uprising. Our party insists on establishing dialogue among all those who adhere to democracy, secularism, and free voting systems.'*

## Coalitions

The Left party of Iran (People's Fadaian):

- strives for the formation of a left-wing bloc and a united struggle for freedom, social justice, democracy and socialism;
- Acts to create a nucleus force of secular and democratic Republican forces;
- At the same time, it welcomes dialogue with other opposition forces.

In this context, the party, together with the "Republican Union of Iran", the National Front Organizations of Iran, and the "Republican Solidarity of Iran" have taken a joint stance on several occasions over the past weeks, including in a statement and a letter to Mr. Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

*'We call on the United Nations and international human rights organizations to take immediate action to prevent the killing of protesters and the torture and persecution of detainees in Iran.'*

*We emphasize that instantly:*

- *Detainees arrested in the recent protests and all political, media and civil rights prisoners be freed;*
- *The increase of the price of petroleum which has caused higher prices for other consumer goods be removed;*
- *The present undeclared martial law throughout the country be lifted;*



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- *Freedom of demonstration, assembly, freedom of expression and the right to express protest by people be formally recognized;*
- *Press censorship and threats against journalists by security agencies be stopped;*
- *The right to public access to the Internet and the free flow of information be recognized;*
- *A fact-finding commission be set up under the auspices of the United Nations to investigate the recent events and to publish the results of their findings;*
- *Provide the right for the families of the killed and injured to seek justice.*
- *An international and independent committee investigates the killings in Iran.*