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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

13.01.2019

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14.01.2019

Call for Support for the Labour Movement in Iran

In the wake of the forty years of capitalistic Islamic State in Iran, on December 28, 2017, massive demonstrations against corruption and inflation raised up and spread to 150 cities in Iran quickly.

Soon later, demonstrations target the whole Iranian regime with the aim of overthrow of the regime. Despite of the waves of suppressions, arresting of activists and protesters, and increasing the number of executions, the protests have continued in various sectors of Iran's society including Haft Tapeh Sugarcane Company, Ahvaz Steel Co. , Hepco Machine Building in Arak, teachers, retired people, women, unemployed, the banned Syndicate of Tehran Bus labours and hundreds of product and service sectors as the pioneers of class struggle.

While the demands of the workers and toilers of Iran, is reflected in the **slogan "Bread, Work, Freedom and Workers' Council"**, in December 2018, the Islamic state sent the most brutal repressive forces to repress the movement. For instance, in Isfahan, teachers, women and men were confronted, on December 27, 2018 by special forces and tear gas attack and around 50 people were arrested. Truck drivers' strikes throughout Iran have been threatened with hanging. However, these protests are now moving towards a nationwide uprising in Iran.

As mentioned, despite of mass arresting and punishment of workers with lashes, workers' struggles have expanded to more areas. As an example, Ismail Bakhshi, workers' representative of Haft Tapeh, spoke to the workers before his arresting:

"...We gather today to emphasize on some words before we start our councils' tasks. we come to decide for ourselves to say what the workers' council means. We decide for ourselves and make decisions and act for ourselves. We are working for our future and destiny..." and continued:

"...Today we gather to see what the meaning of the Independent Workers' Council is. It means to get together, not to have anything to do with anyone else. If you have put your hopes in the state's help, if your hope lies with the private sector, I do not know, but if you hope that someone else will come to rescue us, let me put your mind at rest. It's going to be the same, it will be the same soup and the same bowl all over again."

"Our alternative is a collective council. We are not individual-centred, and we do not want individualism. Individualists, nationalists, racists and reactionaries do not associate yourselves with us. Our alternative is a workers' council; collectively we will decide for ourselves, we will issue demands from the below. Enough is enough!"

Ismail Bakhshi was arrested on 18 November along with 18 other workers. After this arresting, the demonstrators in the streets shouted:

"The arrested workers must be released," and "we are workers, not troublemakers" and etc.

As a sign of solidarity and unity, a similar protest occurred in Ahvaz Steel Co. with the slogan: **'Long live the unity of Steel and Haft Tapeh'** and broke the barriers to class unity and solidarity.

Later, Ali Nejati, a leading worker and a pioneer of Sugarcane activist, was arrested and taken to torture chamber in an unknown jail on November 29, 2018. Dozens of leading workers at the Steel Co. in Ahvaz have been arrested too and tortured, many of teachers are under arrest and torture. Mohammad Habibi, activist of the Teachers' Council was sentenced to seven and a half years imprisonment and 74 lashes, and truck drivers and buses, as well as free men and women, have been whipped and tortured in prisons throughout Iran. Against of this mass arresting, Thousands of Steel factory workers chanted, **"We are steel workers, we will uproot tyranny", "We will fight against tyranny and injustice", and "we will stand till the end."**

In sum, the workers witnessed a growing trend and progress towards a revolutionary situation with chants for councils and the call for the abolition of the rule in Iran. Neoliberal policies, state terrorism, military interventions, proxy warfare and the billions of dollars spent on arming nuclear weapons and the production of missiles on the continent, and the rule of rentier economics, trafficking and mafia, have paved the way for

the destruction of society. The most important reason is that the majority parts of economic sectors are in the control of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Supreme Leader's bands which moves in parallel with the government.

Now in support of:

Sugarcane workers syndicate

Syndicate of Tehran and suburbs bus

Tehran teachers Guild Association

Group of the Alliance of retirees

The Coordinating Committee to help build labour organizations

Teachers for Justice

who declared in their latest statement: "we will continue with our struggles until we win, and we will not let threats and obstacles prevent us from reaching and supporting each other. United and organized workers are everything and individual disperse workers are nothing! » (7 December 2018)

we call upon all labour and socialist activists, and all freedom fighters and labour organizations to stand in solidarity with workers in Iran. We request them to condemn and ask to stop the brutal suppression of the Islamic capitalist against the workers and demand the release of all labor activists, teachers, students and political and ideological prisoners in Iran. A general uprising for bread, labour and freedom and human values in Iran is an objective reality.

Bureau of International Relations of the Communist Party of Iran

December 27, 2017

