



This is Issue No. 12 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 December, 2020.

"IRAN: View from the LEFT" may occasionally contains news from Iran that media might not have drawn attention to.

Dear readers:

We celebrate the one year anniversary of the publication of "IRAN:View from the Left". Thank you for your support. We hope that 2021 brings peace and justice and overcoming the corona virus pandemic and war.

No to assassination, No to execution

The last days of the last month coincided with the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a senior scientist at the Ministry of Defense and former head of the Physics Research Center (PHRC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to Benjamin Netanyahu's statements two years ago about the Israeli government's operation to transfer a large number of documents from Iran's nuclear



program abroad and the emphasis he made in his propaganda show on Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, as well as the involvement of Israeli agents in the assassination of an al-Qaeda leader, Abu Muhammad al-Masri, on August 7th of this year in Iran, the blame lies with the Israeli authorities.

The Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a statement condemning the assassination, with the title of "Conspiracy to intensify the tension" and wrote:

Such assassinations in the context of the hostile relations between the government of the Islamic Republic and the government of Israel, have dealt the greatest blow to the Iranian people and have served to strengthen the position of the far right-wing blocs within the two countries. This assassination is a conspiracy to escalate the tensions and even impose the darkest bloody scenarios in the region at the time of Mr. Biden's victory which paves the way for the US to return to The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the possibility of loosening the US sanctions against Iran. In addition, this assassination once again exposes the fragility of the security of the country and our people, which is the result of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic to expand the policy of "strategic depth" beyond the borders of the country.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) condemns this terrorist act, which is a threat to peace and tranquility in the region, and considers the result of this act to be the escalation of tensions and war in the region. The people of Iran and Israel, and especially the labours and workers of our country have a lot to lose as a consequence of these terrorist activities. We call on the political parties and the progressive forces and the peace-keeping groups to expose the warfare plans drawn up by the far-right forces in the region and



condemn these assassinations which causes pain and suffering for the Iranian people and nations in this region.



Mr. Fakhrizadeh's assassination provoked widespread international condemnation such as Mr. Josep Borrell, who described it as a criminal and terrorist act.

In the weeks that followed, the Iranian and international community were shocked by the execution of Ruhollah Zam by the Islamic Republic. Ruhollah Zam, an Iranian journalist, after leaving Iran and seeking asylum in France, had set up a news channel to expose the government activities from within. His news media was rather very popular in Iran.

Ruhollah Zam was tricked to travel to Iraq in September last year and he was abducted and smuggled into Iran by the Revolutionary Guards in cooperation with the Iraqi



government. He was repeatedly televised to confess. He was charged with a variety of espionage charges in favor of the Israeli and French intelligence services, collaborating with the US government and participating in the gathering of classified information. His tally of 13 accusations was his pathway to issuance of death sentence in court. However, the central issue in this scandalous

case, according to government officials, was his revelations against the regime and his role in the January 2018 uprising.

The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) in a statement condemning the execution of Ruhollah Zam wrote:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) condemns the abduction and execution of Ruhollah Zam. We want the death penalty to be abolished. Execution is a tool in the hands of the ruling tyrants to impose oppression and repression on the society. Let us try to stop the machine of repression and execution in the Islamic Republic through the joint and united work of political groups, civil society organizations, human rights activists and all those who respect the dignity of human kind. At the same time, we warn all regime officials involved in kidnapping, torture, television interviews, court hearings, executions, imprisonments of dissent and critics that they should not think their role in these crimes will be forgotten. Society records all these acts in its memory, and in a time not too far from now, it will bring the perpetrators of repression to justice and will not accept any excuses. We call on all human rights advocates and civil society organizations to emphasize in their struggle for human rights, the abolition of the death penalty, and an end to repression and killing.

The execution of Ruhollah Zam also provoked many protests worldwide. The cancellation of the "Europe-Iran Business Forum", which was to be held with the participation of the Iranian Foreign Minister, was one of these measures. The European





Parliament has also issued a resolution condemning the execution of Ruhollah Zam. Ms. Ernst's statement entitled **"Iran: Human Rights without double standards" criticizes the resolution:**

"Once again we have to address fundamental human rights violations in Iran and we will not stop to do so as long as political dissidents and dissenters are persecuted, imprisoned or even executed. We condemn the execution of Ruhollah Zam, call to withdraw the death sentence against the Iranian-Swedish scientist Dr. Jalali and his release, and are deeply worried about the wellbeing of Nasrin Sotoudeh, who was returned to prison against the advice of her doctors. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the countless imprisoned people whose names we do not know and whose families fear for their lives. We cannot simply go on with business as usual when such human rights violations are taking place. "Human rights are neither a bargaining chip in political games nor a gift graciously granted by the powerful, they are the birth right of every human being. This also means that there can be no double standards when we talk about human rights violations; no life is worth more than another is. That is why we believe that a condemnation of murder of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh is missing from the resolution to underline Europe's universal commitment to human rights and to make a credible show of our European values. Unfortunately, the resolution is also lacking a clear condemnation of the U.S. policy of maximum pressure on Iran, which leave countless Iranians suffering who were already in a precarious social and economic situation following the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have to state clearly that the actions of the current U.S. administration constituted an infringement of fundamental human rights." "The Iranian people's path to freedom and democracy is a long and winding road. Europe's task is to reach out to the Iranian people, to stand side by side with them in solidarity and talk on equal terms. We should

let Europe's values in their entirety guide us in our conduct."

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4678>

Relationship with The United States: Yes, no, how?



With the election of Joe Biden as President of the United States, the issue of resumption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) talks - and in the broader context of normalization of relations with the United States - and the difficulties and obstacles facing these relations has become one of the central issues in Iranian politics.

Efforts to opening a window to resolve issues between the two countries have been tempered by the assassination of Fakhrizadeh and the direct efforts of the Trump administration and other powerful circles in the United States to make diplomatic resolution more difficult. Extremist supporters of the leader of Islamic Republic regime have stepped up their efforts to prevent the revival of (JCPOA) by sabotage and to create an atmosphere of hostility with the 5 + 1 countries. These forces have tried to block the way for de-escalation, negotiations and actions to lift economic sanctions by approving a plan called "Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Interests of the Iranian Nation" in the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

According to the above mentioned parliamentary resolution, the government is obliged to suspend the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol



two months after the announcement of the resolution, unless the parties remaining in JCPOA agreement fully lift Iran's oil and banking sanctions. Exploitation of metallic uranium production plant in Isfahan, optimization of Arak heavy water reactor and the design of another 40 MW heavy water reactor with the aim of producing hospital radioisotopes are also emphasized in this decree. This resolution obliges executive bodies to lift restrictions on nuclear activities, start enriching uranium at 20%, using 6th and 8th generation centrifuges, producing and storing 120 kg of enriched uranium annually, and producing and storing 500 kg of low richness uranium per month.



The political boards of the United Republicans of Iran, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran in a joint statement declared parliament's decree a step towards "intensifying the crisis" and wrote:

Ali Khamenei has so far not opposed the parliament's decision. Although the immediate approval of the parliamentary resolution by the Guardian Council shows that he approves the resolution. However, Khamenei may act in such a way that the parliamentary resolution is used for reaching both internally and externally objectives. This means using the parliament's resolution on the one hand to strengthen the extremist fundamentalists in the balance of power and on the other hand as a lever to gain more concessions against the Biden government. It is unfortunate that Khamenei, instead of taking advantage of the opportunity created

by Biden's victory still seeks to pursue a destructive policy of "neither war nor negotiation." He is mainly responsible for the current catastrophic situation in the country.

If fully implemented, the resolution would mean losing the opportunity after the US election, putting the 5 + 1 countries in a common position against the Islamic Republic, and forcing them to use the snapback mechanism which in turn leads to returning the United Nations Security Council sanctions. We, the three political parties that believe in the non-violent transition from the Islamic Republic, consider this decree as a highly destructive act against the people and national interests of Iran, and despite the awareness that the fundamental solution to problems in the field of national security and foreign policy involves changing the Islamic Republic but we warn the heads of government not to play with the fate of the people and the country anymore and not to lead the country to disaster. Take advantage of the opportunity to lift economic sanctions to alleviate the people's problems. The country is in a dangerous situation.

Given the importance of the change in the above mentioned relations, the political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has issued a detailed statement on the possible future prospects in the relations between Iran and the United States. The statement with the headline: "Change in the United States political sphere" has declared the immediate shift from Trump's "maximum pressure" to Biden's "smart pressure" unlikely to happen. The shift rather depends on US coordination efforts with Europe and bargaining talks. The statement reads:

According to Biden's election promises, some of the Trump administration's actions will be stopped. Unlike Trump, Biden will try to reach agreements with three European countries, France, Germany and Britain, as



well as Russia and China to revive the initial 5 + 1 collective consensus.

If initiated, possible bilateral and multilateral talks will not go beyond merely reviving JCPOA. It will go beyond the initial agreements in 2016. The Islamic Republic's regional policies, its missile program, and its position on the Israeli government will play a prominent role in future negotiations. Like US, the European countries in addition to emphasizing the need to prevent Iran from becoming nuclear are also critical of regional policies and its missile program. Therefore, without reaching a mutual agreement on the mentioned issues, the complete lifting of sanctions and the opening of relations between the two countries will not be easily possible and will not be achieved in a short time.

Biden will also review US relations with Israel and Saudi Arabia as he sets his policy toward the Islamic Republic. These two topics are intertwined and inter-related and because of that they will form the focal political point in US-Middle East policy. Biden is likely to moderate Trump's unconditional supportive policies toward Tel Aviv and Riyadh but the return of US to JCPOA and the continuation of negotiations with the Islamic Republic without giving some concessions and guarantees to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Another issue is the position of Russia and China. Biden will not easily get along with Russia and China. Both countries are not happy about Iran's nuclear program. So, it will be easy for the United States to reach an agreement with them. However, both Russia

and China need the Islamic Republic to play a role in the region as a playing card with the United States. At the same time, it should be noted that the gap between the three countries, especially between the United States and China, is widening.

The statement then addresses the difficulties facing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the core of power is still headed by Ali Khamenei believes that with the arrival of Biden or the departure of Trump there will be little change in foreign policy of US but it is clear that continuing the current situation will not be easy for the government. Enmity with the United States and the policy of "neither war nor negotiation" face serious challenges, not only in society but also among forces close to the hard core of power. If Biden returns to JCPOA, it is unlikely that there will be serious opposition in the Islamic Republic to negotiating within the framework of the 5 + 1 at the highest level.

Public opinion and social and political groups, even some of the forces close to the leadership of the Islamic Republic, want to negotiate and get the country out of the current dire critical situation. This will be one of the serious challenges in the coming months in Iran. In addition, factors such as the heavy economic pressure and the concentration of political, social and civil forces pressuring the government to negotiate cannot be ignored.

If the talks are initiated, the IRGC's actions similar to the previous ones and maneuvers to use the Islamic Republic's power in order to gain a possible concession could further strain relations with the United States.

In any case, it is very difficult at the moment to reach a quick agreement between the Islamic Republic and the United States. The Khamenei-led Islamic Republic is unlikely to accept the expansion of the negotiating areas



to regional policies and missile programs. The Islamic Republic's missile program and regional policy are the Achilles' heel. As long as Khamenei is alive, a positive outlook for the progress of the negotiations is inconceivable as the anti-Americanism and hostility to Israel have become the hallmarks of the regime.

Thus, in the near term, tensions between the Islamic Republic and the United States and its allies in the region will persist and sanctions may be eased only to a limited extent. However, this adjustment will not be enough to rebuild the country's economy, which is suffering from a structural crisis even without the sanctions.

The statement concludes:

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) believes that a change in policy in the United States is the best possible time to seize a limited opportunity to end the atmosphere of "neither war nor negotiation" between Iran and the United States. This occasion provides a framework to end the regime's ideological and adventurous foreign policy in the region and establish a diplomatic and conventional relationship with all UN member states, and in the first step normalize relations with Saudi Arabia and abandon the policy of destroying Israel. We have no doubt that all issues between Iran and the United States are intertwined and can be discussed and agreed upon in combination.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4636>

Letter to Mr. Josep Borrell



The holding of a virtual meeting between the representatives of the 2 + 3 countries and Iran on December 16, 2020 on ways to maintain JCPOA and the effective implementation of the commitments of the parties - which was the first meeting after Mr. Biden's election - was the basis for international affairs committee of the Left Party of Iran to send its ideas to Mr. Borrell and the participants of the December 16 meeting as follows:

- We welcome the meeting of observers on the JCPOA, the effective implementation of the commitments of its parties and the continuation of meetings at the ministerial level.
- We welcome President Elect Joe Biden's announcement that the United States is ready to return to JCPOA and we call on the parties to make a diplomatic commitment to resolve the dispute between both sides.
- Although the Islamic Republic has spared no effort to stop violation of human rights and the execution, imprisonment and torture of human rights activists and dissidents, continue we welcome the resumption of negotiations and believe that any action to bring Iran to the negotiating table to improve Iran's relations with other countries is to help bring peace and detente to the region. In this regard, we consider the lifting of many of the Trump administration's sanctions against Iran and the appropriate return of Iran to its commitments in the JCPOA as appropriate measures to express goodwill and build mutual trust.
- Although we oppose the regional policy of the Islamic Republic and support the efforts to reach an understanding on regional security with the participation of the public directly involved, but at the same time we do not see the trying to expand the framework of negotiations within the JCPOA framework



to include Islamic Republic's regional policies as a positive approach.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4668>

Restricting the already restricted independence of lawyers



By order of the Deputy Judiciary, an office called the "General Office for Supervision of Lawyers" has been established to monitor the conduct of lawyers in terms of observing Islamic standards, including hijab, adherence to the Supreme Leader and the Islamic Republic in the courts and cyberspace.

The issuance of this order has been protested by bar associations across the country and their trade unions. The Central Bar Association called the issuance illegal and that the order violates the independence of the Bar Association and called on the head of the Judiciary to "prevent the extension of the authority of the said office to lawyers."

The Executive Political Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has issued a statement calling the establishment of the Lawyers 'Supervision Office' as violation of lawyers' already restricted independence:

The purpose of issuing such order and the result of such interference in the work of the Bar Associations is to continuously control the lawyers and file a case against them up to the point of revoking the lawyer's licenses. This tricky act of the judiciary is aimed at

independent lawyers in order to weaken the ability of the Bar Association to defend its independence.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) condemns the continuation of government interference through the judiciary in the independence of the country's bar associations and reiterates its support for the right demands of more than 12,000 lawyers, professors and scholars of the country. We emphasize the importance of supporting the struggle of independent lawyers in various forms by all pro-freedom and pro-democracy parties

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4620>

Execution, Prosecution, Hostage-Taking, Kidnapping of Dissidents and Detention of Civil Activists

Spreading the Repression by the Islamic Republic at the Height of the Corona Crisis!

We call on progressive humanity and international human rights institutions to confront these crimes. With the aim of halting the death sentences and freeing political and civil prisoners, we urge political, civil and human rights activists to spare no effort to force the Islamic Republic to retreat. The experience of the last four decades has shown that the Islamic Republic can be forced to retreat only through a united and nationwide struggle. Let us not to let the criminal regime to shed the blood of the children of the Iranian people.

Link: <https://bepish.org/node/4711>

