



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



The Iranian government has announced Mr. Raisi after engineering and derailing the election from its natural course. As a human rights and peace advocate, who has lost everything in the past years, I don't accept Mr. Raisi's presidency because he is one of the most serious human rights violators in the past 42 years. Although the last election was not free or fair, presidency of a person who must be answerable to the Iranian justice seekers is not acceptable. We seek justice for the victims of killings, executions, imprisonments, tortures, poverty and misery, and Mr. Raisi must be held responsible before being a President.

As a human rights activist, I want to know which country, government or international organization who speaks of human rights can congratulate his presidency.

Narges Mohammadi



One month with the "presidential election" in Iran

The 13th term of the Islamic Republic's presidential elections was the dominant event in May and June in Iran. Elections in the Islamic Republic have always had many restrictions. These include the exclusion of women, the entire opposition entities, religious minorities including even Sunni Muslims from being running and elected, and the restricting candidates to those hand-picked by the 'Guardian Council'.



Despite the ever growing set of restrictions, the elections of the past several terms had become an arena for the presence and initiatives of the people and the emergence of unexpected results. However, the regime this time took even more steps to control the elections by announcing the list of candidates approved by the Guardian Council which in fact determined the results of the "presidential elections" before it was held. The Guardian Council did not even approve the credentials of someone like Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Islamic parliament for several terms and a man who occupied many other high-ranking positions and one of the closet trusted allies of Khamenei.

The removal of Khamenei's closest confidants from the fundamentalist and



conservative forces by the Guardian Council indicated the regime's efforts to hold controlled elections. The government of the Islamic Republic also avoided controlled competition. This feeling of insecurity was a reflection of the fear of the society in any form. The sharp polarization of relations between regime and people has left no room for polarization within the government.



In the June elections, goals were pursued beyond electing a president from within conservative ranks. Harmonizing of the country's elected bodies and their coordination with the appointed institutions and ensuring full cooperation with Khamenei's intended successor is a key link in this "election". Also, taking advantage of the favorable situation after the lifting of sanctions and the release of Iran's blocked assets, showing the government more efficient despite the removal of other parts of its current pillars, are part of the unannounced plan of the governing body.

The unprecedented restriction of the list of candidates came at a time when the crackdown on public protests in 2017 and 2019 had created a deep rift between society and the government with people turning away from the government and boycotting the fake elections. This was already going on for months. The regime's decision to unify the elected portion of the government and prevention of any competition, even among

and within its own ranks added to the dimensions of this embargo.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has previously announced its policy of active boycott of this elections. Following the announcement of the list of candidates, the party's political-executive board wrote in a statement:



The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the boycott of the regime's sham elections as a step towards building a collective will to confront the oppression of the Islamic Republic and an end to the dictatorship of the Supreme Leader Khamenei. We call on the republican secular and democratic forces to unite around the slogan of active boycott of the elections and to unite with all pro-libertarian forces to fight for free elections as one of the important and basic conditions for achieving a free and just society. Let's work hand in hand to pave the way for a social movement for change by resonating with the "do not vote" voice; We call on all our compatriots to further strengthen the democratic movement for the transition to democracy in Iran by boycotting the fake elections in the Islamic Republic. Let's try to demonstrate the power of the people to take control of the destiny of our society by encouraging the organization and formation of various sections of popular movements.

Subsequently, in the final days before the election by reviewing the situation of the



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N0.18

society, the government and the opposition the party's central council, stated:

From the position of the interests of the Iranian workers and toilers, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) fights for the convergence of the Republican forces for the transition from the Islamic Republic to the establishment of a secular and democratic republic in Iran. In our view, the source of the legitimacy of the government is the will of the people. We declare our readiness to create a secular and democratic Republican front and we welcome dialogue with all forces.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the general boycott of the "elections" as an important step in strengthening the people's protest movement, in strengthening the opposition and critics of the Islamic Republic, and a step towards the transition from the Islamic Republic. We call on all secular Republican and Democratic forces to take joint action in this area and to align our activities to stand up to the Islamic Republic. We call on party's sympathizers at home and abroad to consider the campaign of "I do not vote" and "No to fake elections!" as a tool to counter the plans of the regime.

The three political organizations including the Union of Republicans of Iran, the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran also issued a joint statement against participating in elections:

We, the three political organizations, once again call on the people not to participate in the sham elections. By actively and purposefully sanctioning the elections you demonstrate your protest against planned elections, destructive government policies, poverty, unemployment and inflation, and the adventurous policies of the Islamic Republic in the region. Inform the rulers that you do not allow the government to use the people's vote to restore its legitimacy. We call on the liberal

and democratic political forces to oppose the government's plan to hold these fake and degraded elections. We want to observe the standards of free and fair elections in the framework of the transition to democracy and the establishment of a democratic secular republic instead of the Islamic Republic of Iran and handing over the country to the real elected representative of our society.

Finally, the election was held on June 18. The results showed the victory of society's 'NO Voting' answer to the sham elections. The political-executive board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) wrote in a congratulatory statement to the Iranian people:



With the official announcement of the results of the Islamic Republic's "election", it became clear that despite all efforts to win the people's vote, even threatening and intimidating groups of people and keeping polling stations open illegally until 2 midnight on Saturday, a maximum of 48% have participated in the elections. Inclusion of the 3 million and 726 thousand invalid votes takes the votes of the boycott campaign to more than 58%. Although the eye-witness observations show that the number of voters is much lower than the announced number but, nevertheless, these official figures show your great "NO" answer to the architects of this fake election and the sinister plans of the Supreme Leader and the powerful forces



within the regime. By implementing this plan, Khamenei was forced to accept the biggest confrontation of the Iranian society with the Islamic Republic and to make this government even more futile. Thanks to your "no" to the Islamic Republic and at the head of it, the Supreme Leader, a historic day was recorded on the path of by-passing the Islamic Republic. Khamenei's attempt to appoint a criminal to the post of presidency will lead to more protests inside the country and abroad. At the same time as announcing the results of the elections, The Amnesty International called for the prosecution of Ibrahim Raisi on charges of "crimes against humanity".



The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) which four and a half months ago called on everyone to actively boycott the fake elections, appreciates your resistance to the dictatorship of Khamenei and the ruling gangs. The party congratulates your victory in boycotting the "elections" and views the solidarity established over the boycott of this "election" as a step towards strengthening the struggle for the transition from the Islamic Republic to the establishment of a secular and democratic republic. The party also appreciates the members and supporters of the party who actively participated in our campaign. Solving the country's problems, ending poverty and unemployment,

discrimination and structural corruption, and establishing effective governance are not possible except through this. The will to challenge and successfully oppose the government's plans to confiscate the homeland is commendable. This resistance must be continued by empowering society, strengthening popular movements, and paving the way for the transition from a system that has made such a criminal its favored figure.

<https://bepish.org/node/5630>

<https://bepish.org/node/5646>

Early signs of the foreseen problems for the new President

From the first day of summer, protests by contract workers at refineries, petrochemicals and power plants across the country have led to a nationwide strike. Since then, other companies have joined the nationwide strike on a daily basis. The workers' strike and demands have the support of employees of the oil industry, both full-time and contract workers. The strike was called by the "Council for Organizing Protests of Oil Industry's Contract Workers" and is called "The Campaign of 1400" (Year 1400 converted to Roman Calendar is the year 2021). The full-time workers of the oil industry have been given the date of June 29's ultimatum to the management of the Ministry of Oil to end the violation of their rights. Otherwise, they would go on strike as well.





The most important demands of the workers in this strike are monthly wage increase to 12 million Tomans (480 US Dollars) in proportion to the increase of other prices, determination of wages with the consent of the elected workers' representative, correct implementation of job classification, direct employment of contract workers by the oil company, increase of vacations, improvement of the safety of the working places and working conditions. The strike comes as contractors refuse to implement last year's oil company management directive on job classification, wage increases and following the labor laws. In addition, the contractors have begun shortening the duration of contracts, decreasing wages and benefits and increasing pressures on workers in response to the protests. This strike is a justified response to the behavior of the employers and their supporters in the government who take every opportunity to deprive the workers of their rights. Another significance of this strike is that it is taking place at the time of the appointment of someone to the presidency who intends to make a series of new changes against workers' rights at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. Those changes will worsen both the working and living conditions of workers.



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

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) supports the nationwide strike of contract workers in the oil industry and calls on other workers and left-wing, democratic and justice demanding forces to do whatever they can to support the just strike and demands of oil workers. Those demands are the wish list of all workers and toilers of our country. The success of this strike and the failure of the anti-labor goals of the contracting companies and their supporting and collaborating agents within the government are crucial at this time as they attempt on a new attack on the rights of the working class. Strike is part of the trade union rights of workers and toilers. We condemn any use of force to suppress the strike and call for the strict observance of trade union rights and the demands of the striking oil workers on the basis of recognized labor rights.

<https://bepish.org/node/5671>

Our Sympathy



On June 23rd, a bus carrying environmental journalists who had traveled to Lake Urmia to cover the situation overturned near the town of Naqadeh. ISNA environmental correspondent, Mahshad Karimi and IRNA correspondent, Reyhaneh Yassini were killed and several others were injured in the accident. The police chief of Naqadeh city and the reporters present at the site of the accident stated that the cause of the overturning of the bus was a "technical defect" and "faulty brake" of the bus. The



bus, is said to be unlicensed to travel due to technical issues and a number of local Azerbaijanis who are fully familiar with the road have said it has witnessed such tragic events many times and taken many lives but no thought has ever been given to improving the road conditions.

With this tragic accident, Reyhaneh and Mahshad died at the peak of their young lives. Their colleagues are also struggling with death. This is not the first tragic accident in the Islamic Republic for journalists and the overturning of a bus. 40 journalists and photographers were killed in a C130 plane crash near Mehrabad Airport a while ago. Many people lost their lives in the Azad University and the Olympiad student buses' incidents.



They are the victims of the incompetence of the officials of the Islamic Republic. Instead of responding, the governor of West Azerbaijan justified the issue of the loss of life of environmental journalists by saying that we naturally have a lot of these incidents. In this accident, the Ministry of Environmental Issues is responsible for using a worn-out bus to transport journalists.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) extends its condolences to the families, colleagues and friends of the two journalists and demands to investigate, identify the main culprits and bring them to justice.

Press conference of Cornelia Ernst, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the Parliament for Iran



Dr. Cornelia Ernst took a stand in a press release regarding the appointment of Ebrahim Raisi as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ms. Ernst is a member of the German Left Party, a member of the European Left faction in the European Parliament and a member of the Parliament's delegation on relations with Iran.

Ms. Ernst's statement referred to the non-competitive nature of the presidential election in Iran and said that Ibrahim Raisi was the candidate of Ali Khamenei. Ms. Ernst adds that the Rouhani government has disappointed Iranian voters, both economically and in terms of human rights. The statement said that the withdrawal of the Trump administration from IAEA and the unprecedented US sanctions against Iran benefited the extremists in Iran. Ms. Ernst has called on Western countries to reconsider their policies toward the Middle East and the Middle East.

Ms. Ernst added that the IAEA Board should be revived immediately so that nuclear weapons do not spread to an unstable area and the risk of war increases.



The statement said that the recent elections are making things more difficult for human rights activists in Iran. Ms. Ernst has expressed solidarity with human rights defenders in Iran.

Press Release

The "Election" Show Ended with the Announcement of the "Victory" of the Regime's Candidate.

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced an individual as the president of Iran, whose "victory" before the "election" seemed certain. The Guardian Council, the Supreme Leader's appointed body, had previously disqualified all 14 candidates from the Reform Front, including Jahangiri, Rouhani's deputy and a prominent fundamentalist and former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has now announced that Ebrahim Raisi has been "elected" with 61.9% of the votes, while the turnout has been 48.8%. But polls by the regime-affiliated institutions in recent months have shown a widespread reluctance on the part of the Iranian people to participate in the election. Objective evidence and reports from neutral sources also indicated the people's boycott of large-scale. Our party, as well as the vast majority of political forces inside and outside Iran, boycotted the election. Hence, the accuracy of the announced figures is questionable.

Ebrahim Raisi is one of the main perpetrators of the executions of the last four decades, especially the massacre of the Black Summer of 1988. He is accused of participating in the murder of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, who were mostly tried and sentenced to prison and awaiting the end of their imprisonment and release. Ebrahim Raisi, who is accused of murder, has

been promoted several times. He was appointed head of the judiciary two years ago and will now be president for the next four or possibly eight years with the support of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic.

Elections in the Islamic Republic are not free, fair, and competitive. Opposition parties and critics of the regime do not have the opportunity to run freely and participate in the election process. The fate of the elections is determined not by the people's vote, but first and foremost by the institutions affiliated with the leadership of the Islamic Republic. Therefore, in practice, the person who is "elected" does not take accountability to the demands of the voters and is more subject to the will of the Supreme Leader.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) considers the "election" of Raisi to be a step towards increasing pressure on Iranian civil society, intensifying the repression of political and civil activists, and continuing the tense policy in the international arena. Together with all the forces defending peace, freedom, and social justice, we will fight against the regime's policy of repression and escalation of tensions in the region and the world. We call for free and fair elections, establishment of a secular and democratic republic, and the enactment of laws in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) - International Relations

June 19, 2021

<https://bepish.org/node/5635>