



***This is Issue No. 5 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 May, 2020.***

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



## **An obvious start!**

May 1 is International Workers' Day. On this occasion, the working group of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) first described in detail the many difficulties of workers and toilers in Iran and their movements during last year, including a slight increase in wages to 25 percent below inflation, suppression of protests, widespread unemployment, etc. All these happened under exacerbated conditions caused by US sanctions and the spread of Covid-19, and the government's

insistence on returning to normalcy without proper safety regulations in the workplaces. Nonetheless, the first day of May is also a day of celebration and solidarity. The party's political-executive board wrote in a statement addressed to Iranian workers and toilers:

*The LPI (PF) which considers itself to belong to the global left movement, believes that freedom is intertwined with social justice and socialism is intertwined with democracy. Our party which defends the freedom to organize social groups, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, and the free activity of political parties, congratulates the International Workers' Day to all freedom fighters and social justice seekers. LPI (PF) greets workers and toilers for their extensive struggles against tyranny, poverty and injustice. We have always supported and will continue to support the rightful struggles and demands of the workforce and we will continue to be with you in this absolutely just and humane struggle.*

More... <https://bepish.org/node/3634>

<https://bepish.org/node/3587>

**FREE ALL  
POLITICAL PRISONERS  
IN  
IRAN**

**Stop arrests and end sentencing!**

**With Another Party:**



In a situation where everyone's attention is towards the fight against corona, the Islamic Republic's repressive regime is still detaining, murdering, and depriving citizens of their rights. Despite calls for the release of detainees to prevent the outbreak of corona in prisons summoning, sentencing and execution of civil and press activists has increased during the past few weeks. The joint statement of the political-executive boards of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian), the Union of Republicans of Iran,

the National Front of Iran, and the Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran, while enumerating the number of political and civil activists arrested and sentenced in the context of the extremely dangerous conditions in Iranian prisons after the Corona outbreak states:

We strongly condemn the continued process of detaining, summoning, convicting, and executing civil rights activists and dissenters. We demand the immediate release of political, ideological and civil rights prisoners. We request the release of all prisoners whose freedom does not pose a threat to the society. We believe these are necessary steps in countering the spread of corona in the prisons.

The Corona Biological Crisis has opened a new window on the Islamic Republic's anti-human rights actions and revealed the growing dimensions of the human rights crisis. Health, wellness, and the protection of life according to the universal Declaration of Human Rights is an important part of human rights but the people of Iran, especially the low-income and disadvantaged who are the most vulnerable to the biological, psychological

and economic consequences of Coronavirus pandemic have no protection or support. We call on the libertarian forces to work together to protect the right to life of prisoners in the current crisis, and call on human rights organizations and institutions to demand the release and safety of all those at risk of corona and death in prisons.

More <https://bepish.org/node/3584>



Tehran University 40 years ago - „Cultural Revolution“

## **A manifestation of the struggle between tradition and modernity**

Forty years ago on the month of May when freedom was not dead yet, the Islamic Republic under the so called "Cultural Revolution" flag attacked Universities throughout the country in order to fight science and logic. Their attack left the centers for knowledge and teachings in ruins.

Shortly after issuing the order to attack the universities Hezbollah's mobs were sent to the universities to draw their daggers on the country's next generation in order to expel students and professors out of the last stronghold of freedom and progressive ideas. Following this criminal act the



university remained closed for nearly three years and when the door was opened, nonconformists were not allowed to go back to their classes. During this time, the freedom seeking students were slaughtered, forced to leave country or stay home and imprisoned. The progressive thinking instructors were labelled anti-revolutionary and the University podiums were deprived from this scientific and cultural wealth. Many of them were forced to leave the country. In those three years, more than 40,000 dissident professors and teachers were ousted from their positions.

In a statement addressed to professors, students and cultural figures in Iran, the party's political-executive board explained the goals of the Islamic Republic for its crime and its devastating consequences as well as its inevitable failure. It reads:

*The capacity of our society has been and is such that it can increase the country's higher education centers many times in a short period of time, and the phenomenon of university in Iran despite any failure, has been able to spread throughout the country. Despite institutional schooling and gender discrimination, the number of female students surpassed the number of male students. The consolidation of the seminary and the university did not succeed. The failure was so bad that the ruling clergy roared in anger from the mouth the supreme leader. Khamenei rose up in revolt against the "promotion of immorality and deviation from principles" in the university's social sciences and like Don Quixote ordered a change in the direction of the university according to religious doctrines. The puppet student organization, the Islamic Office for the*

*Consolidation of Unity which regarded as the fruit of the Cultural Revolution took a totally different direction than regime and its founding goals in just few years and it produced secular factions within its ranks. Although the Cultural Revolution did great damage to science and academia but it eventually failed. There are already over 4.5 million university students, and the graduates is close to a quarter of the country's population.*

*On the 40th anniversary of the attack on universities under the flagship of "cultural revolution", the L P I (P F) congratulates all progressive thinkers, researchers, artists and art producers for their enormous effort to fight back and to counteract its destructive effects. We wish the continuation of your struggle to progress science and art in our country.*

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Afghanistan migrants in Iran

## Crime against the neighbor

According to the news, on May 2, twenty three deported Afghans from Iran drowned and died in the border river of Harirod. The news was widely reported on Afghan news networks and was accompanied by reports of the incident. According to them, the



border guards of the Islamic Republic arrested this group, beat them and then threw them into the river. Expressing concern over the incident, the Kabul government said it would investigate. The Islamic Republic has described the incident as merely a rumor to destroy good relations between the two countries but the latest news confirms the statements of the victims of this painful incident and the Afghan authorities.

This incident has provoked many reactions in solidarity with Afghans, condemning the Islamic Republic, and expressing shame and condemnation of it in Iran. The party's political-executive board, the "Union of Republicans of Iran", "Organizations of the National Front of Iran Abroad" and "Solidarity of the Republicans of Iran" issued a joint statement which includes:

*We, the four parties and political organizations of the Democratic and Republican Opposition of Iran hold the Islamic Republic's rulers accountable for the crimes committed on the border between the two countries. We strongly condemn this crime, extend our condolences to the people of Afghanistan, and express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. We want an international investigation to shed light on the dimensions of the crime and its perpetrators. The perpetrators of this crime must be tried and punished in the competent courts. We hope that this catastrophic event will not damage the historical and friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries, and that the relations between the peoples of the two neighboring countries will continue*

*based on peace, friendship and cooperation.*

Lawyers Association



## **A united opposition to the judiciary System**

The Deputy of the Judiciary has asked the Bar Association and Jurists across the country to comment on Article 22 of the Lawyers Association's Independence, passed in 1954. All suggestions will be amended by the Judiciary and approved by the head of the Judiciary system. Professors of law and more than 12,000 lawyers and members of the country's Lawyers Association have called the move illegal, saying the head of the judiciary lacks the legal authority to pass such regulations. They rightly point out that Article 22 clearly states that the regulation of the by-laws is carried out by the Lawyers Association.

In a statement, the party's political-executive board said that the main goal of the judiciary is to deprive the judiciary of its independence and to make it dependent on the judiciary. An approach that would destroy the people's right to a fair defense





and undermine the means of independent defense against the regime. The announcement added:

*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) condemns the government's decision to overthrow the country's Bar Associations and declares its support for the demands of more than 12,000 lawyers and a group of professors and lawyers to oppose the amendment of the regulations and to stop this action.*

More <https://bepish.org/node/3644>

## "A Voice for World Care Leadership"



May 12 is World Nurses' Day. Every year on this occasion, the great work of nurses and their role in the medical care of the country is appreciated all over the world. This day is an opportunity for this group of workers, who are rightly called the backbone of the medical system in any country, to become the center of public attention. This day is more special nowadays that during the corona epidemic, nurses around the world trying to save the lives of patients with their splendid self-sacrifice activities day and night.

In a statement, in addition to the above mentioned, the party's political-executive

board has used the occasion as a pretext to draw attention to discriminatory views at all levels of the health care system in Iran including the lowest wage level of nurses among government employees. The declaration reads:

*The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) congratulates all nurses in the country on World Nurse's Day and wishes them success and good health in these difficult days. We believe that the long due demands of nurses such as the implementation of the tariff law, fair wages, occupational safety, the reduction of the gap between university education and the realities of patients' beds, career development, etc. must be executed. It is also important to honor the nurses who gave their lives in the fight against corona and to support their families. We demand the nurses will be given fair bonuses and in the wake of the Corona crisis they must be able to take advantage of leave of absence with rewards for recovering their worn-out strength.*

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## Returning to the negotiating table is an inevitable necessity!

On May 15, Khamenei tweeted in praise of "Peace." However, both the Islamic Republic and the Trump administration continue to raise tensions. Just a day before Khamenei's tweet, Trump vetoed a congressional resolution restricting the president's military powers against Iran.



The Islamic Republic also tried to show that it has achieved advanced space technology by launching its first Satellite. In a recent speech, Mike Pompeo in conjunction with the oppressive Arab leaders of the region instead of 'Persian Gulf' used the phrase 'Arabian Gulf' ... What does this set of indiscriminate signs mean? Getting back to the negotiating table or escalating tensions?

The Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) states that:

*... Neither side is thinking of solving the problem and dealing with the issue. Buying time and declaring a political victory at this point is the goal of one side and coming out of an economic crisis is the other side's motivation. Both sides have postponed the outcome of the game to the results of the US election and what is missing is the interests of the Iranian people and the interests of peace and collective security in the troubled Middle East region.*

The announcement adds:

*The LPI (PF) believes the only way to end hostility between the two countries is to return to the negotiating table, stop threats against each other and start negotiations without preconditions. When negotiations stops any small incident, especially in the Persian Gulf where the forces of the two sides are at a short distance from each other, could lead to a full military conflict. On the other hand, avoiding negotiations in a situation where the country is in a deep economic crisis and sanctions have made life difficult for a large part of the population has no meaning other than imposing more poverty and misery on the ordinary people. Returning to negotiations*

*to end sanctions and prevent further economic misery, as well as to eliminate the risk of military conflict and to overcome the current dangerous tensions is an inevitable necessity.*

More... <https://bepish.org/node/3683>



picture: iranesabz

## **Economic bankruptcy and social crisis**

Corona's outbreak threatens Iran's economy which is already embroiled in chronic crises and US sanctions with more severe and more far-reaching effects.

Signs of a lack of funding and severe pressure on the Islamic Republic are evident. The government's main revenue which mainly consists of the sale of oil and gas and petrochemical products either because of sanctions and/or because of the crash of oil prices are at their lowest level in the past 40 years. Declining government revenues from taxes, exports and customs duties, and the closure of a significant portion of the service sector have left it paralyzed. Withdrawal from the National Development Fund to cover the costs of Corona is just emptying the bag altogether.



The statement of the Political-Executive Board of the LPI (PF) analyzes the current socio-economic situation and the short-term future after Corona:

*It is on this basis that the hardships of public life, in other words, the acceleration of rising unemployment and growing public poverty have caused the decline in public demand and the intensification of the recession in the form of closures of production and service units. Workers in small units and their lower strata are facing the threat of unemployment and facing income constraints, while large units are also facing the nightmare of bankruptcy. The middle class, which has long since declined sharply in terms of income and living standards, is now struggling with a sense of shared pain with workers and the masses as living standards decline. In particular, workers of the service sector experience a severe impact and they view a dark landscape of irreparable and full discontent. Worst of all, however, are the poor and marginalized who remain the storehouse of gunpowder for the post-Crown era and perhaps even during the Corona.*



picture: eghtesademihan

*What is needed now more than anything else is to emphasize the need to provide funding for the livelihoods of millions of*

*people including street dealers, porters, couriers, seasonal workers, construction workers, women working under table, child laborers and self-employed entrepreneurs who have become unemployed or financially damaged by the Corona crisis. In this regard, there is an urgent need to reduce the military, police, judicial system's budgets and to cut budget lines to repressive security agencies and all ideological and propaganda institutions of the regime. The long term vision must be adopted and promoted and the income from gained above should be allocated to the most vulnerable sector of the society in the form of medical services and cash payment. In parallel with these urgent measures, it is necessary to make a public demand for unrestricted insurance coverage and providing quality services to the community.*

*Raising public awareness of the full picture and revealing the destructive role of the Islamic Republic in bringing the country to this critical situation and creating and strengthening an independent civil movement are crucial issues in the struggle to bring the country and the people out of the current crisis.*

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Poverty in society