



This is Issue No. 2 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 January 10th to February 10th, 2020.

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



The rise and fall of tensions, within Iran and outside the borders

In the early hours of Wednesday, December 5, 2019 the news of the rocket launch at the air base of Ain al-Assad, a major US military base in Iraq, and then another rocket attack in Erbil was announced by the IRGC. The operation took place in retaliation for the assassination of Qassem Suleimani immediately after the end of his mourning period. The attacks took place while Islamic Republic officials threatened to retaliate severely for Soleimani's assassination and Trump's announcement on widespread military action and even destruction of cultural centers of Iran.

In the early hours after the attack, which was marred by fears of a full-scale war, the political-executive of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) issued a statement warning of the continued brawls between

Trump and Khamenei: ". After the attack, the leaders of the Islamic Republic have spoken out of a vengeance they had promised and US officials have repeated their claim of their invincible military powers. Although following the attack both parties have turned down their threat of war language but the fact of the matter is that at the moment our country and the entire region are in real danger of starting the war ... either party's promise to avoid war is far less convincing than their adventurous tactics to start it." The Declaration emphasized the need to prevent the war and destruction by fostering the widest range of tension relief and anti-war measures, both nationally and internationally, and to counter the dangerous adventures of Trump and Khamenei.

During the aforementioned operation it was reported that a Boeing 7 passenger plane belonging to the Ukrainian Airlines crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran International Airport and 176 passengers were killed as a result. Islamic Republic authorities first declared the technical failure as the reason for the plane crash but their incoherent and inconsistent explanations raised many doubts about the plane's crash to the point that officials stopped issuing any authorized or unauthorized statement for a while. Only three days later, with the urging pressure from outside world the widespread public skepticism they admit that the plane had crashed after firing two IRGC missiles.

In the days of officials silence and denial the party expressed its sympathy with the victims of the tragedy and called on the authorities for a credible investigation into the cause of the heartbreaking incident and to respond to the grieving families. After the regime acknowledgement the Party declared the cause of the disaster to be the atmosphere of war stemming from the actions of the two Iranian and American governments and declared the Islamic Republic to be the principal responsible party for the disaster: "... this tragedy ... could



take place only under the tension and war circumstances. Thus putting the blame on an insignificant and subordinate agent is a cover-up of the subject matter. The cause of the tragedy is the ever existent war atmosphere in our country and the responsibility lies with those whose slogan is 'no negotiation, no war'. The main criminal is Khamenei, the supreme ruler and the commander-in-chief, who has played the central role in preventing the calming of the turbulent conditions in our country ... Looking at this shocking incident, even from military perspectives shows the culmination of this government's irresponsibility for the lives of people. One should ask why the government did not stop passenger flights during their military adventures.

The anger, despair and protest were a reflection of the situation of Iranian society in the days following the announcement of the cause of the crash. Concealment and three-days cover-up, continuation of secrecy in some parts of the government, trying to put the blame on the "enemy" for the disaster, and heavy pressure on the families of the victims in various ways and even preventing some families from mourning their loved ones sparked a wave of anger and protest throughout the country. Demonstrations and marches in universities and social gatherings in cities across the country, boycotts of state-run celebrations and festivals by artists and intellectuals, expressing sympathy for the victims' families and nullifying the authorities' pressure to crush the solidarity of the people were the realities of those days.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) acted as an outlet for spreading protests, resistance to the regime's pressure and supporter of the protest. Our party invited people to join mothers, fathers, wives, children, relatives and friends of those who had been perished in the criminal act committed by the Islamic Republic. It praised artists' boycott of the state run "Fajr Festival" and declared their movement as "a

new wave of protests by artists in the context of Iranian society's uprising against the Islamic Republic, a significant rise of dissent by the country's cultural society".

Statements on the current political situation

The events of the past two months are parts of a fast moving process which in our opinion has result in significant changes in Iran's political sphere. The Central Council of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has addressed the current political situation in the form of a set of 16 statements:

1. The Islamic Republic has fallen into economic crisis over the course of its forty-year tenure in pursuing hostile policy with the West, as well as in the face of broad US sanctions. The country's economy is in deep crisis due to government economic policies and sanctions. Oil sales have fallen to less than half a million barrels a day and foreign exchange earnings have fallen sharply. As a result the government is facing a severe budget deficit. So far, efforts to sell more oil have failed and the government is pressing the US to ease sanctions by taking radical measures and by creating tensions. On the other hand, by giving concessions to Russia and China and conducting joint maneuvers in Oman Sea the Islamic Republic has also sought to increase its pressure on the United States. The Islamic Republic's reliance so far has been on buying time and using the gap between the US and Europe, as well as enjoying the differences between the US and Russia and China.

2. The recent protests by the people of Lebanon, Iraq, and especially Iran have put the Islamic Republic in a weak position within the region and inside the country. Signing contracts between the Iraqi government on one hand and Russia and China on the other hand have also raised concerns for the Trump administration.



3. The recent US military operations have benefited the Islamic Republic situation in Iraq. As a result, the ranks of the Islamic Republic's opposition in Iraq were weakened and the position of its supporters strengthened. The political sphere turned to the benefit of the Islamic Republic so that opposition to Islamic State intervention in the shadow of anti-American sentiment temporarily subsided.

4. The assassination of Suleimani, which should be regarded as a clear violation of Iraqi sovereignty, resulted in strengthening Islamic Republic's damaged position both domestically and in Iraq temporarily.

5. The Islamic Republic succeeded in producing a false nationalist atmosphere in the country after Suleimani's assassination. The government was able to attract some seculars towards its policies. Filling the gaps within the system through unity against the foreign enemy is the regime's main tactic in dealing with crisis.

6. The widespread public participation in Soleimani's funeral represents the bitter reality that the regime has succeeded to propagate its disastrous policy of "Strategic Depth" based on general concern of the current tragic situation in the region. As a result, the government has got our country involved in most of the Middle East conflicts as well as in a destructive competition with Arab countries.

7. The Islamic Republic's coordinated "revenge" in retaliation for Qassem Suleimani's death was an action that was ultimately beneficial to both sides. However, shooting down a Ukrainian passenger aircraft by the Islamic Republic of Iran cancelled out all they gained by their so called revenge. After three days of denial, the government of Iran had to admit its deadly "mistake" and justify its lies and concealment of the truth.

8. The people's protests from different backgrounds and the most prominent of them, the University students invalidated

regime's propaganda of removing its crimes from general memory of Iranians. The protests entered a new phase: This time the entire structure of the government and at the top Khamenei was the target.

9. Khamenei's remarks in the Friday prayer in Tehran were a showcase of the Islamic Republic's blind eye to the realities of society and country crisis. His speech was the sign of weakness and mismanagement of the Islamic Republic's government in facing of the current crisis.

10. Tension between the Islamic Republic and the US government have intensified, but both governments have avoided war. At the moment, for the Trump administration, what matters is the media and war atmosphere, not the war itself. The Islamic Republic also needs this turbulent atmosphere more than ever, to unite its ranks and suppress the protests of the Iranian people. Both parties are not currently seeking war despite their different motives.

11. There is no sign that the period of tension in relations between the US and the Islamic Republic (IR) is declining and most likely this situation will continue until the next presidential election in US. However, the likelihood of a change in the current trend, based on the needs of either side of the equation, is not entirely impossible.

12. The hasty approval of the law of the US withdrawal from Iraq is a political blow to the US, but has little practical aspect. However, the US withdrawal has made Russia happier than the IR. This decision has immediate impact on the balance of power in Syria. Implementation of this decision by inviting the United Nations to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawal of foreign forces is very important.

13. Policies of the US and its allies have created chaos, hostility and proxy wars in the Middle East and the region and provided fertile ground for extremist forces such as ISIS. The US imperialist and hegemonic



policies has put peace and stability in the region at risk. The way out of the intimidation and war atmosphere is the call for dialogue between hostile sides, break from the circle of hostility and war, and orientation towards economic, political and cultural cooperation.

14. While we have a clear opposition stance against the US government interventionist and dominant approach, we condemn military interventions and provocations of the IR in the countries of the region. We demand the withdrawal of the US military forces and retreat of the IR from Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

15. Nowadays, the center of the US and IR showdown is taking place in Iraq. Continuation of this process has created the risk of direct confrontation between the two sides in Iraq. We believe that the United Nations engagement in the dispute between the two governments is necessary and positive.

16. Our policy is "No to War and Sanction" and "No to the Islamic Republic." We are against war and will not stand by any side of the warmongers. Our party fights for transition from the IR and establishment of a secular and democratic republic by reliance on civil and political movements and democratic struggles of the Iranian people.

The Central Council of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)



ELECTION BOYCOTT

Election boycott

The Parliamentary elections for its 11th assembly will be held on February 21. The

Iranian people have gained precious experiences with the previous ballot boxes but public opinions and polls indicate that people are not welcoming the upcoming election. The acute socio-economic and environmental crises, the risky and adventures foreign policy of the government, continuation of suppressing any demands and objections, the structural corruption within the regime and the previous unfulfilled promises have caused the people to turn their back to the ballot boxes. This shift despite its ups and downs in recent months has gained momentum to the point that more and more reformists have opted to boycott the upcoming election. The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has also boycotted the February 21 election. A statement from the political-executive body of the party, describes the current situation and the unprecedented action of the 'Guardian Council' to disqualify many candidates, including 100 members of the current parliament. It states: "The LPI (PF) requests all party members and sympathizers, by Emphasizing the importance of boycotting elections under current circumstances and in order to undermine the Islamic Republic, encourage people to not attending the election. It is our duty to not let the regime to attract a portion of population to their ballot boxes by means of deceit, lies and empty promises. Any denied vote would blow a heavy punch to the government face and it will create fear in their hearts. We must appreciate the significance of every single vote and use them to bring the tyrants to their knees. Today our vote is our weapon. Let's aim the heart of despotism by our weapons. We reiterate our readiness to take a joint position with all the forces that believe in transition from the Islamic Republic to a secular and democratic republic in Iran."

It is noteworthy that in a joint statement with the "Republican Union of Iran", "The National Front of Iran" and "Republican Solidarity of Iran", the Iranian people were invited to not participate in the elections. In



addition, we are in the process of negotiations with several opposition organization in declaring a common position regarding the elections. The negotiations are now underway.

achievable not through the path of official recognition of the occupation and accession of the Palestinian territories by Israel, but in the context of equal national rights of both sides embedded in the UN resolutions."



On Trump's "Deal of the Century": Recognizing Occupation and

Expansion is Against the Coexistence of Two Nations Side by Side!

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) Executive Board issued a statement in relation with the "Deal of the Century", a plan Trump proposed to resolve the longstanding Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It describes the plan as a unilateral plot to recognize occupation and expansion: "The LPI (PF) while solidifying with the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to establish their own state and despite disputes within the Palestinian political forces finds it difficult to implement the so-called "deal of the century" with its absolutely one-sided trend in favor of Israel and in recognizing the violation of the Palestinian people's existing historical and political rights. We assess the plan as being opposed to peace and security in Middle East. We acknowledge and praise Palestinians rejection to this plan. We reject the anti-Palestinians propaganda bombardment as if the Palestinians have always been blind to see opportunities. As always, we recognize the Islamic Republic's "destructive policy" of destroying Israel against the interests of the Palestinian people and the region. The two independent Israeli-Palestinian states project is



Sympathy and support

Natural disasters and calamities caused by mismanagement have been accompanied by the repression of the state has turned life in Iran with constant resentment and fear. Painful deaths of dozens of people during the funeral of Qassem Suleimani, flooding in Sistan and Baluchestan, a southeastern provinces of Iran, with heavy damage to the people and poor conditioned infrastructure of the province and the news of a number of political prisoners currently on hunger strike in protesting discernment against them are heavy burden on our hearts.

The Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian) has expressed its sympathy with the families of the victims of those disasters. The party has asked citizens to help the flood sufferers of Sistan and Baluchistan. We have demanded the release of prisoners: Hashem Khastar, Mohammad Hossein Sepehri, Fatemeh Sepehri, Mohammad Nourizad, as well as French researchers, Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marshall, and all political prisoners of the Islamic Republic's prisons.