



IRAN: View from the LEFT

December 10 – January 10

2019-2020, Nr.1

This is Issue No. 1 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 10th to January 10th, 2019-2020.

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



Threat of another war in the Middle East

On the third day of the New Year, US forces stationed in Iraq assassinated Qasim Soleimani by the direct order of Donald Trump. Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran and the second most powerful man in the Islamic Republic's hierarchy. The attack also killed several commanders of the Iraqi militant militia 'Hashed al-Shaabi. The move which the Iraqi government has rightly declared a 'blatant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and international charters' has changed the dynamics of the strained relations between Iran and the United States from the proxy war to the brink of direct war between the two countries. Khamenei, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has threatened the US government with 'severe revenge'.

As a result of recent events the Left Party of Iran (People’s Fadaian) issued a statement describing the role of Qassem Suleimani in

the Islamic Republic's expansion policies in the region. The statement condemned the US's act of assassination and called for de-escalation of tensions between the two countries. The statement reads: ‘... we invite both parties to negotiate and resolve their disputes over the negotiating table. Continuing the current trend could make the situation in Iraq more volatile and it would overshadow the Iraqi people's movement for change in their country. In order to achieve stability and prosperity in Iraq we believe foreign governments must leave the country and respect the rights of the Iraqi people to determine their own destiny. Our Party’s policy ... is to stop the intervention of the Islamic Republic in the countries in the region, defending the peace and cooperation and friendship with all the neighboring countries. The immediate solution for the current situation is recognizing Iraq's national sovereignty and avoiding retaliatory measures by the two governments of Iran and Trump and establishing a policy based on unconditional negotiation between the two countries and an invitation to play a more active role by the United Nations in resolving the current conflict.’

On the other hand, in our party's joint statement with three other Iranian organizations - the Republican Union of Iran, the Iranian National Front organizations abroad, and the Republican Solidarity of Iran - while condemning the assassination of Qassem Soleimani and expressing concern over escalating tensions between Iran and the United States, we stated that ‘Conducting unconditional talks between the Iranian and US Governments, inviting UN into the resolution of this conflict, avoiding vengeance and focusing on political actions, Recognizing Iraq’s national sovereignty, and ending expansionism policies as well political and military intervention in other countries, including Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria by Iran and other countries, respect for an independent Iraq and stopping the disproportionate response by



IRAN: View from the LEFT

December 10 – January 10

2019-2020, Nr.1

the US government are the only measures to pave the way to resolve the current crisis.'

Warning in respect to escalating tensions

Two days before the assassination of Qassim Suleimani, US forces had bombed Iraqi "Kataeb Hezbollah" militia bases in Iraq. This act was in retaliation for the militia's attacks on several US bases on the Iraqi-Syrian border. The bombing caused 25 deaths and tens of people injured. Kataeb's attacks on US positions had resulted in the death of an American contractor and four injuries. Kataeb Hezbollah is one of the Iraqi militia sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The LPI (PF) called both attacks a "semi-proxy war in Iraq, and described them as an immediate danger to the people of Iraq and Iran" and warned that "the continuation of this process would drag the current proxy war inside Iranian borders before long." The LPI (PF) has also declared "the recent civil movement in Iraq as expressing the national consciousness of Iraqi people against any kind of interference and our recognition that the interests of the Iranian people is in an independent, democratic and citizen-centered Iraq". .



Europe has no alternative than moving towards left!

Iran's Left Party at the 6th European Left Congress

The 6th European Left Parties Congress was held on December 13, 14 and 15 in the city of Benalmádena on the outskirts of Malaga. The congress was attended by 400 delegates, observers and guests from 20 European left

parties and a total of 40 European parties from other parts of the globe.

The LPI (PF) was also present at the congress as a guest, and its head of international relations, Mehdi Ebrahimzadeh, was able to read the party's message to the Congress. The message reads: "We expect your solidarity with the fight against neoliberal politics in Iran, for your solidarity with the thousands of Iranian workers who are striking against privatization, failure to pay their salaries and mass layoffs. The hard working people of Iran are part of the global struggle for the rights of the oppressed and exploited. We express solidarity with the struggle of our comrades in Europe who oppose neoliberalism. We declare solidarity with the People's Democratic Party of Turkey in their struggle. The common ground of leftists in both countries is resisting authoritarian regimes violating human rights. We express solidarity with millions of Iraqi men and women who have been protesting against corruption and bandits' regime for months."

The unsolved puzzle of the recent uprising



Iran witnessed widespread protests in more than hundred large and small cities in the country in the wake of a 200 percent increase in gas prices last November and the government's violent suppression against the protesters. Despite criticism from even within the Islamic Republic circles against the bloody clampdown, the Islamic Republic avoids providing official numbers on the killings. The regime continues to persecute the victims' families who are protesting the killing of their loved ones and the



IRAN: View from the LEFT

December 10 – January 10

2019-2020, Nr.1

government even started to arrest the family members. The detainees are under a variety of physical and psychological tortures.

According to government officials, Reuters' news agency reported the death toll has risen to more than 1,500

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-protests-specialreport/special-report-irans-leader-ordered-crackdown-on-unrest-do-whatever-it-takes-to-end-it-idUSKBN1YR0QR>

The site 'Kalame' close to Mir Hossein Mousavi, who has been under house arrest for the past six years, has reported at least 631 people killed in the November protests, according to figures provided by inside secret bulletins from various parts of the country. Officials' silence has cast doubt on their security agenda to impose a climate of terror on society. Apart from being silent about this, the relatives of killed protesters have been threatened to avoid holding memorials. In one occasion, the relatives of one of the martyrs have been detained simply because they had called for a memorial. In addition, those protesters detained are treated with completely illegal and outside the realm of human rights. Everything indicates the authorities' intention to rely on terror to suppress civil movements.

The LPI (PF) has reacted to all such events and behaviors and has provided a detailed assessment of the uprising in November. The outlines of this assessment are: "Highlights of the uprising", "it's Impact on different layers of government", "Response of political organizations", "Forecasts" and "Our overall policy". The last part of the assessment indicates: "One of the major weaknesses of the uprising is the lack of a capable force to present a credible alternative to the liberation efforts of the Iranian people. The united view of the Republican, secular and democratic opposition forces in the country's political sphere is crucial. It is very important that all political forces who believe in ousting the Islamic Republic and

their agenda includes the establishment of a secular democratic republic based on free elections unit through common agendas and actions....".

Harsh treatment of the detainees, arresting the families of fallen protesters and the intensification of pressure on other civil-political activists and political prisoners is the subject of another joint statement by The LPI (PF) and three other political organizations mentioned above.

University Students Movement



Sixty years ago on December 6 the police officers of the Shah's regime attacked students inside Tehran's university in an effort to silence their protest. The uprising took place months after the US-British-Mohammad Reza Shah coup against the Mossadegh government. Three students were killed in the attack. Since then, December 16 has been a symbolic day in the struggle of Iranian students for democracy and a pillar of their struggle.

The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been trying to destroy the independent student protest movement, on the one hand by suppressing it, and on the other by creating a student-led government movement in universities. Against this backdrop however, we saw a significant uprising this year as well: Students united in their protest against government crimes for killing civilians in the weeks leading up to December 16, against arresting thousands of protesters, demanding to name the perpetrators and their leaders, release of



IRAN: View from the LEFT

December 10 – January 10

2019-2020, Nr.1

detainees, and against the neoliberal economic policies.

The LPI (PF) praised the students' achievements on December 6. Students became the voice of people in the days of supreme horror imposed by the Islamic Republic: "Students are united by common civil and political agendas. Uniting these two aspects of the struggle to broaden the ranks of the student-led fight are the key to the success of the December 6 movement.

Against Persistence of Trump and Khamenei's Dangerous Escapades!

January 8, 2020

The risk of resorting to adventurous tactics by both sides is far more than their reassurance of avoiding war. These tactics could often lead to a war that could result in human casualties and terrible destruction. Our country and the civilized world do not need a war. Let us resonate our voice of "We do not want war!" across Iran the world!

Noble People of Iran!

Peaceful and Freedom-Loving Forces!

In the early hours of Wednesday January 8, 2020, the news of firing rocket at the "Ain al-Asad" air base, one of the main headquarters of the US forces in Iraq, then another firing rocket at another base in Erbil, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in revenge of the assassination of Qasem Soleimani was announced. News indicate that none of the attacks led to human casualties of the US forces.

The IRGC missile attacks which were conducted immediately after the end of three days of the Islamic Republic (IR) mourning for Qasem Soleimani, is equally irresponsible and flagrant violation of the international laws and must be condemned as the assassination of Qassem Soleimani by the US forces in Iraq. Both Trump and the IR, by violating sovereignty of Iraq have made

this country as a field of fire exchange between themselves.

After this action, the leaders of the IR spoke of the promised revenge and the US officials bragged about their power. Now, later renewed, both parties claim that they will act with more deliberation. But the reality is, given the escalation of tension between the two sides, the current moment has become a very serious moment for our country and the region. Decisions made behind the closed doors of both sides can determine the present and future fate and life of our people and our country. The adventurous policies of the US and IR, especially Trump and Khamenei, have brought our country to the brink of horror that is not far from a full-fledged war. By fueling the broadest anti-war and conflict actions at the national and international levels, it is possible to avoid falling into the trap of war and destruction.

The risk of resorting to adventurous tactics by both sides is far more than their reassurance of avoiding war. These tactics could often lead to a war that could result in human casualties and terrible destruction. Our country and the civilized world do not need a war. Let us resonate our voice of "We do not want war!" across Iran the world! Trump and Khamenei have gone to the brink of war. Let us stand up against persistence of their unbridled and dangerous adventures in every possible way!

Political-Executive Bureau of the Left Party of Iran (People's Fadaian)

January 8, 2020