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International Workers' Day

Iranian workers protests spread across Iran

Protestors chanted:

*“Khamenei the tyrant,
every day is May Day”*

*“Clergy rule, tyranny,
Must be destroyed”*

Maryam Rajavi:

*“May Day protests foretell
of a nation’s cry for freedom
and workers’ perseverance to
attain their rights”*

Protests against the clerical regime, especially by the workers, reached a peak on the International Workers' Day. Widespread strikes, protests and demonstrations have been going on throughout the year by workers who had not been paid for months or laid off without any pay. Workers in different sectors have also been complaining about their working conditions and low pay. Fearing protests by workers and other social sectors, Tehran authorities banned all demonstrations and rallies and organized their own ceremonies in closed halls under heavy security arrangements.

In the course of a series of intense measures to prevent or counter the uprising on May Day, the clerical dictatorship put on an overwhelming show of force. To enforce maximum control and to stifle any dissent, the regime did not hold its usual annual stage-managed demonstrations. In Tehran alone, at least 15,000 suppressive forces were deployed.

Demonstrations in Tehran

At 14:30 local time workers' demonstration started from Azadi Street and the crowd marched towards the Ministry of Labor. Entrances from streets leading to Azadi Street were blocked by security and suppressive agents, plainclothes security agents were roaming in most streets and people were stopped and searched. At least 48 people were arrested in clashes between the regime's security forces and the workers and youths in front of the Ministry



May Day in Tehran - Los Angeles Times



“We will not rest until we gain our rights”, Fars Meet Industry's expelled workers

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27 executions in 20 days, a prisoner flogged in public

With three more hangings reported on April 28 in cities of Dezful (southern Iran) and Mashhad (northeast Iran) the number of executions in 20 days reached 27.

The state-run daily Quds reported that two prisoners were hanged in Mashhad. It gave no details about the prisoners.

Another prisoner identified as Rahman R. was hanged in Dezful on April 20 (State-run Fars news agency, April 27). On the same day, a prisoner named Reza S. was flogged in public in the southern city of Masjed-Suleiman.

On the brink of May Day, the clerical regime is creating an atmosphere of intimidation and terror in a bid to prevent spread of public protests especially by workers. To this end it has stepped up executions, some in public, and the medieval punishment of flogging in public.

Political prisoner sentenced to death on charges of “moharebeh”

On April 26, the religious fascism ruling Iran sentenced Jafar Kazemi, a political prisoner, to death at the mullahs' appeals court on charges of “moharebeh” (waging war against God) and “propaganda against the establishment through cooperation with opposition groups.”

Jafar Kazemi, 47, is a father of two and self-employed. He was arrested on September 18, 2009, and transferred to Tehran's Evin prison, where he was placed under torture and immense pressure. The regime's henchmen pressured him to partake in the mullahs' appalling propaganda, show trials and forced confessions on December 27 (religious festival of Ashura). When these desperate measures failed, a phony case was fabricated against him and he was sentenced to death. The cruel punishment, which had not been communicated to Kazemi before, was unexpectedly confirmed at an appeals court. The increasing trend of issuing and implementation of cruel punishment by hanging, coupled with heightened pressure on political prisoners on the brink of International Workers' Day, is a means for intensifying the atmosphere of terror in society and prevent protest movements in solidarity with Iranian workers and laborers.

Tehran's membership in UN women's commission, a dagger to the heart of liberated women and counter to the commission's goals

NCRI's Women's Committee Chair, Ms. Sarvnaz Chitsaz, in a letter to the UN Secretary General, President of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and heads of member states, condemned the membership of the religious and misogynist dictatorship ruling Iran in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, describing it as being contrary to the objectives and programs of the commission.

“Membership of Iran's misogynous regime to the UN commission is a bitter irony and a dagger to the hearts of all freedom-seeking women and equality advocates across the world,” Ms. Chitsaz said and reiterated: “Membership of a regime that has even rejected the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women makes a mockery of all conventions and human rights achievements.

Ms. Chitsaz emphasized: “Of course, it is quite clear that the regime, following its scandalous failure to become a member of the UN Human Rights Council, managed to join the UN commission in collusion with other human rights abusers in order to compensate for that humiliating defeat. These types of futile efforts cannot save the regime from being overthrown. Through their active participation and leadership role, Iran's courageous women have in the past 30 years, especially in the last few months, insisted on obtaining their just demands, namely democracy and freedom as well as women's rights and liberties.

Mullahs withdraw candidacy in UN Human Rights Council

In a humiliating retreat, the mullahs' regime announced on April 24, that it has withdrawn its candidacy for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The decision comes at a time when in recent days the religious fascism ruling Iran had been predicting in its Goebbels-type claims its “imminent approval for membership” in the UN Human Rights Council as an “international endorsement of Iran's dedication for Human Rights.”

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described the regime's retreat as an indication of its overwhelming isolation and lack of legitimacy in the international arena. “The time has come for the expulsion of the mullahs' regime from other international bodies especially those related to human rights and humanitarian issues”, Mrs. Rajavi said, adding, “This regime not only does not represent the Iranian people, but it is a disgrace to humanity and should be isolated from the international community over its atrocities against the people.”



Two prisoners murdered in two prisons

Inmates punish prison warden

The clerical regime's authorities in Orumieh prison brutally murdered two inmates. On April 18, the special guard in Orumieh prison attacked inmates to quell their protests. In this attack an inmate identified as Seifoddin Yahya Zadeh was murdered by blows of baton to his head. The protest in prison was provoked by the murder of another inmate earlier who was identified as Iraj Ghamangiz.

On the same day, the guards in Gohardasht prison attacked inmates in Ward 1 and destroyed or stole their personal belongings. The inmates confronted the attackers and punished the warden and forced them to retreat. This is the second time that the warden has been punished by the inmates.

Belgian committee condemns suppression of Ashraf residents

In a press release on April 21, the Belgian Committee of Parliamentarians for a Democratic Iran strongly condemned the latest attack on Ashraf residents by the Iraqi forces.

The statement by Senator Dirk Claes, Chair of the committee, “warns against such repressive measures by the Iranian regime and the Iraqi government and call on the United Nations, the U.S. embassy and the American forces in Iraq to take necessary steps to end the violations of the rights of Ashraf residents.” It added, “We strongly demand the United Nations to assume protection of Ashraf residents and call on the US forces to guarantee the protection as it had committed itself to at the time when it disarmed the residents.”

Five members of an Ashraf resident family sentenced to death as Mohareb

In an unprecedented and inhumane decision, the Iranian regime has sentenced five members of an Ashraf resident family to death charged with Mohareb. Mr. Mohsen Daneshpour-Moghadam, 67, a bazaar merchant along with his wife Mrs. Motahareh (Simin) Bahrami, 55; their son Ahmad Daneshpour; Mrs. Bahrami’s niece Ms. Reyhaneh Haj-Ibrahim; and Mr. Hadi Ghaemi, a family friend, had been arrested and transferred to Evin Prison on Ashura day (December 27, 2009).

The family was arrested for their visit to Camp Ashraf last year to see their son and a relative. Mr. Daneshpour, a political prisoner of the 1960’s had already spent five years in Iranian regime’s prisons on the charges of sympathizing with the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran.

The cruel sentences on the basis of having relatives in Ashraf are handed down while a number of agents of the Iranian regime’s Ministry of Intelligence and Security posed as members of families of Ashraf residents are stationed at the entrance of the camp with full support of Nouri al-Maliki’s government.

Cruel treatment of a political prisoner on death row

In a cruel and inhumane act, on April 20, the clerical regime put on trial on fresh charges a political prisoner already sentenced to death. Ali Saremi is the father of one of the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. The 62 year old was inhumanly taken to the regime’s court while in chains just two short days after undergoing a serious surgery. The show trial came to an end without any rulings and was ordered to resume at a later date.

The presiding judge is a former member of the “Death Committee” responsible for the massacre of political prisoners in 1988. The subject of the proceedings was a brutal attack in September 2008 which was carried out against political prisoners by a number of dangerous inmates organized by Evin prison officials. During the show trial, Mr. Saremi protested against the new plot of prison officials and the creation of a phony case against him, as well as his exile to Karaj’s Gohardasht prison. He also stressed on his rights as a Muslim and a PMOI supporter in the face of the judge’s insults and accusations.

Since the inception of the mullahs’ regime in 1979, Mr. Saremi has been imprisoned four times on charges of supporting the PMOI. He has spent 23 years of his life in prison during the Shah’s rule and the clerical regime. He was last arrested in August 2007 for participating at a memorial ceremony for the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran. In December 2009, after spending two and a half years in legal limbo, he was abruptly sentenced to two years in prison and execution without facing a fair trial. The clerical regime is deeply vengeful toward the relentless struggle of Saremi, whose son currently resides in Camp Ashraf. The regime is thus trying to fabricate a new legal case to exert more pressure on him.

US Congress takes step towards Iran sanctions

AFP, April 22 - The US Congress took a critical step on April 22 towards imposing new economic sanctions on Iran, as lawmakers warned time was running out to keep Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

“This may be our last chance to apply pressure on Iran before it is too late,” said Republican Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who charged Iran was sprinting “to the nuclear finish line.”

The House of Representatives voted 403-11 to appoint “conferees” to huddle with their Senate counterparts and meld the two chambers’ rival versions of sanctions legislation into one compromise bill for passage within weeks.

The House measure urges its delegates to wrap up their work by May 28 on the legislation, which takes aim at Iran’s reliance on imports of gasoline and other refined petroleum products.

Because of a lack of domestic refining capacity, oil-rich Iran is dependent on gasoline imports to meet about 40 percent of domestic consumption.

The House overwhelmingly passed its version of the bill in December, followed by the Senate in January, but the two bills diverge on several critical points and face some resistance from the US State Department.

President Barack Obama’s administration has pressed lawmakers to hold off on US sanctions until it can try to win new UN sanctions against the Islamic republic, which denies Western charges it seeks a nuclear arsenal.

Ros-Lehtinen, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, warned: “The clock is ticking, the centrifuges in Iran are spinning.”

Top US military officials told lawmakers last week that Iran could enrich enough weapons-grade uranium for one bomb within a year, and could overcome other obstacles and assemble one weapon within 3-5 years.

“The world faces no security threat greater than the prospect of a nuclear Iran,” said Democratic Representative Howard Berman, the panel’s top Democrat. “We must make certain that the prospect never becomes a reality.”

McCain criticizes Iran policy, calls for sanctions

Bloomberg, April 18 - The U.S. lacks a “coherent” policy for dealing with Iran’s suspected nuclear-weapons program, Senator John McCain said, calling for President Barack Obama to impose tough sanctions. “We have not done anything that would in any way be viewed effective,” McCain said.

The former Republican presidential candidate from Arizona was asked about today’s New York Times report that Defense Secretary Robert Gates sent a secret memo to the White House in January warning that the administration lacked an effective strategy to counter Iran, should diplomacy and sanctions fail.

“I didn’t need a secret memo from Mr. Gates to ascertain that,” McCain said. “We have to be willing to pull the trigger on significant sanctions. And then we have to make plans for whatever contingencies follow if those sanctions are not effective.”

Iranian workers protests spread ...

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of Labor.

A man in his 30s was arrested carrying a placard that read, "Workers: Recognize that a right must be taken; What is just will survive and what is unjust will vanish." Anyone carrying a camera or cell phone was brutally suppressed.

The clerical regime also used a number of helicopters hovering over central parts of Tehran, to identify gathering locations of protestors.

Some 40 workers who were trying to join the demonstrations were attacked by suppressive forces. They were beaten with iron bars and batons and two workers had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Outside the Ministry of Labor in Tehran's Azadi street workers were chanting "Down with tyranny," "velayat (clergy rule), tyranny, must be destroyed" and "Khamenei the tyrant, every day is May Day."

In east Tehran, protestors stormed one of the headquarters of the Iranian regime's suppressive forces, which led to clashes with the regime's agents. One of the agents was thrown off from the building seriously wounding him.

In central Tehran's Toupkhane Square, close to 500 protestors chanted "death to Khamenei," and engaged in clashes with agents of the paramilitary Bassij Force and the State Security Forces (SSF). About 36 people were wounded. A number of Bassij and SSF agents were also beaten by protestors during the clashes.

Self immolation

A 32-year-old worker identified as Mohammad Nia set himself on fire on May Day in order to convey his protest and that of millions of impoverished Iranian workers against the clerical regime to the world.

He intended to meet the mullahs' President Ahmadinejad at the regime's staged event held at the Ibn-e Sina Theater, which is owned by the University of Tehran. However, Ahmadinejad refused to see him, subsequently he set himself alight in front of the university.

Protests in other cities

In Esfahan, protestors chanted "Khamenei is a murderer, his rule is illegitimate." They were attacked by regime forces.

Protesters gathered outside Esfahan University chanting "Workers, Students, Unite, Unite." They were attacked by the regime's agents.

People and relatives of the injured gathered in front of the al-Zahra hospital and chanted against the clerical regime. The gathering was aimed to prevent the kidnapping of the injured by the regime's agents.

People of Dastgerd in Esfahan attacked the municipality. Subsequent to an attack by the SSF agents against the people, three of the agents were disarmed by angry protestors. Several people were wounded after shots were fired by the regime's agents.

In Homayounshahr of Esfahan, heavy clashes broke out in Khomeini Street, which led to the wounding of 16 people.

In Falavarjan, protests took place in front of the labor office of the city. There were heavy clashes. A large number of people were injured and the authorities had to dispatch reinforcements to contain the situation.

In Qazvin, up to 8,000 workers staged a gathering in the city's sports stadium chanting "Workers, Unite, Unite". They held banners asking for annulment of a decision to close their factory and demanded their unpaid salaries for the past seven months and the New Year bonuses.

In Shiraz, hundreds of workers including the workers of "Fars Meat Industry" and "Ramak Milk Industries" gathered in front of the Governor's office. Workers of the long distance communications, who had not received their salaries for the past 13 months, also participated.

In Ahwaz, a group of workers of the Pipe Mill gathered in front of the regime's Labor Office to protest. They were holding a banner that read, "We will die from hunger but will not be humiliated."

Maryam Rajavi lauds workers' uprising

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, lauded the uprising by, and solidarity among, Iranian workers, teachers, students and young people against the clerical dictatorship on International Workers' Day. She said: The protests against the regime with chants of "Down with Khamenei" and "down with the dictator" neutralized the regime's suppressive ploys designed to prevent rallies. These protests foretell of a nation's cry for freedom and workers' perseverance to attain their rights.



May Day protest by workers outside the Interior Ministry in Tehran



Above:
Student
protest in
Tehran

Right:
Ahwaz Pipe
Mill workers
on strike
(Archive
photo-2009)

