

# INTERNATIONAL KAAR (LABOUR)



*organisation of Fadaian (aghaliyat) - Abroad committee*

March 2018

## **Strong steps of the labour movement, revolutionary prospect**

Labour protests and strikes are spreading continuously. Workers class struggle is advancing with strong and unwavering steps towards higher phases, and is now in a stage that political pressure and the police state, threats and intimidation, and the use of violence, imprisonment and torture, and economic hardship, none can prevent its rise. Numerous strikes and marches shows this fact.

Just highlights of the labour movement in the current month are as follows.

### **Haft-Tappeh Sugar Cane Factory**

Workers Haft-Tappeh Sugar Cane Factory in southern Khuzestan Province went on strike on 31 January. They have been on strike many times this year. Lies and empty promises, intimidation and the employer-hired stooges' attempt on Esmail Bakhshi, the representative of the workers and the managers' vain efforts to divide

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## **Message to the strong and freedom- loving people of Iran**

The stormy street protests in various cities throughout the country shook the pillars of the oppressive and reactionary palace of the oppressors and robbed them of their sleep. News of the unleashed insurgency, the courage and the will to oppose and put an end to the misery created by the Islamic government were visible in prime time worldwide.

The Fadaian Executive Committee (aghaliyat) strongly supports the protests against poverty, inflation, injustice and discrimination and against the criminal and corrupt regime in Iran, which has caused all of this.

The majority of the population, the workers, teachers, nurses, pensioners and other members of the underclass live below the poverty line. Therefore, their powerful uprising against a host of exploiting parasites that have undermined all the economic sectors and taken the

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Strike in the Neyshekar Haft-Tape Factory—Khusestan Province \_ South Iran

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workers could not weaken the workers' unity and decision for pursuing their demands. In the fifth day of the strike, the anti-riot police and other security forces brutally attacked workers and beat them. They arrested 34 workers, including the workers representatives. By this atrocious assault, the employer, as well as the supporting government authorities, could not intimidate the workers. They did not go back to the work. On 5 February, all workers from all departments of the factory unanimously went on strike, and even retired workers supported the strike. Women workers and wives of the striking workers also joined the picket. They even went further and took the control of the sugar depot of the factory on 7 February. They unloaded trucks and stopped sugar shipments to be transported out of the factory. In this way, workers in Haft-Tappeh showed their will and ability to control the factory and exercise their management.

### Hepco Factory

Workers in Hepco Factory, which manufactures road construction machinery, continued their struggles. In early 2017, the factory was privatised. The private owner could not keep his promises on paying arrears. In late September 2017, Hepco workers held a joint demonstration with Azarab Factory workers. The government tried to respond the strike and march with an iron hand. Owing to the vast condemnation of the police's violence, Labour Minister Ali Rabbiei had to appear among the workers and promised to meet their demands. Following the protests, the factory was assigned to the state-run Privatisation Organisation, and again the workers were promised their arrears would be paid. Simultaneously, security and judicial measures against the workers were intensified. The court summoned 20 striking workers. The employer tried to silence the

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HEPCO FACTORY WORKERS MARCH IN ARAK, CENTRAL IRAN



The Organisation of Fadaian (aghaliyat) is a communist organisation that fights for overthrowing of capitalist order and establishing of a communist society.

The Organisations of Fadaian (aghaliyat) fights for establishing a society without classes where every sort of exploitation, oppression, discrimination, social inequality and suppression are abolished. All the society's free and equal members live in happiness, welfare and their abilities are thrived.

The immediate goal of the Organisation of Fadaian (aghaliyat) is overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran and establishing the Soviet State of Workers and Toilers. Soviet State, which is the manifestation of the most consequent and complete form of democracy, will establish the broadest and most complete form of political freedoms, and with fulfillment the democratic, social and welfare demands the socialistic changes will begin.

**Long live Socialism!**

the workers by labelling them as "terrorists"! However, none of workers by labelling them as these brutal measures and malicious charges could frighten Hepco workers and stop their struggles.

On 5 February, Hepco workers went on strike again and marched in Arak city's streets. Apart from opposing privatisation, the workers called for payment of arrears and demanded to be involved in the factory's management. They ironically chanted "long live oppressors, death to workers" in order to expose anti-worker policies of the government and employers.



### Tehran Public Transport Company

Tehran bus drivers and their union has actively endeavoured for the freedom of Reza Shahabi, one of the union's leaders. The union has also organised the drivers for their demands. The government was to deliver houses to the drivers, but this promise remained unfulfilled after five years. The houses are incomplete and workers don't have the houses. The bus drivers have rallied several times in front of Tehran city council. The regime continues pressures and repression against the union activists. Reza Shahabi was tortured. Ebrahim Madadi and Davud Razavi were tried and sentenced to harsh punishments. In spite of all the pressures, the bus drivers' union has not retreated from their militant line.

### High-voltage Lines Workers

High-voltage lines workers have engaged in numerous rallies and protests over the past years,

wealth of society is justified and supported by many people around the world. The fight for "work, bread and freedom" should be continued, so that the street protests can connect with the waves of strikes of workers, teachers, nurses and other working people. Only through this union can the tyrannical regime be overthrown.

Organization Fadaian (aghaliyat) is with them with all our strength. We defend and support your demands and claims!

The days of the Islamic Republic are numbered, and you, the working masses, can take your destiny in your own hands by setting up the Council Republic.

With hope for the victory of the working people!

**Down with the Islamic regime in Iran!**

**Long live the Council Republic!**

**Executive Committee of the organization**

**Fadaian (aghaliyat)**

**Dec. 31, 2017**



and this year they continued their campaign. More than one hundred workers, on behalf of several thousand workers across Iran, came to Tehran and rallied in front of the Ministry of Energy on 5 February. Neither empty promises of MPs and ministers nor threats and the exile of activists and organisers of the nationwide protests could deceive the workers whose main demand is to have permanent work contracts.



### Kian Tire Factory

Kian Tire Company workers participated in a protest rally on 7 February in front of the Ministry of Industries and Mines. Kian Tire Company is to close down and workers have not been paid for months. The regime sent the anti-riot police to suppress the workers. The workers chanted "don't fear, we are all together". This slogan was important because not only emphasised their unity but also connected their struggles with the nationwide street protests of the working people that shook the country for one week in early January.

Strikes happened in tens of other factories and enterprises in February; Workers in rural telecommunication, wagon building, petrochemical industries, Perlite Company, PVC factory, Rangin Nakh textile factory, Chuka pulp and paper company, Tehran underground, Arak Machine Making, and retired workers of Ahvaz steel factor engaged in strikes and protest rallies.

*(Kaar-No.76; Feb.10, 2018)*

## Characteristic features of the Current moment regarding the political situation in Iran

Social and political protests in recent weeks, months, and changes which occurred among the political alignments of Iranian society, caused a new step in emerging a different balance of political and class forces: those against the dominant, and those who guard it.

The general dissatisfaction with the status quo is not a new phenomenon in Iran. The discontent and protest, for many years have been there and in their various forms risen up. But despite all the struggles of the working class, teachers and scattered mass movements here and there, what made political progress of the revolutionary movement of the masses of workers and toilers be slow and delayed, had to do with the sort of the political balance that the dominated counter-revolution of Iran tried to give it shape through winning the support of the petty bourgeoisie, especially the petty bourgeoisie range of the modern strata.

Due to the aforementioned balance, the struggles of the working class and the working people did not go beyond certain limits over the past few years.

Nevertheless, over the past few months, two important things have been the reasons of the beginning of breaking this balance and changing it to the benefit of the revolutionary class.

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First, as the consequence of the growth and promotion of social awareness, solidarity and the working class organizing in the queues of them, the struggle of this class has reached a new stage of quantitative and qualitative growth.

Sequentially in the mid of 2011 decade, being Preceded the struggle of the workers their triumphs marched further beyond a factory, towards series of common struggle of workers from one productive and services sector to other parts that the outstanding patterns of them were, including joint and harmonious struggles of workers in the petrochemical factories, labor coalmines, and overall electricity and telecommunications workers. However, since a few the working class have interred into is a new stage that its political character is clearly highlighted by the struggle of "Hepco" and "Azar" workers. The workers of these factories continued not only for a long time striking on the purpose to settle their demands, but they also turned the streets of Arak into a class battle field as well. Along with radical slogans and speeches, they directly targeted high-level government officials while condemning them for corruption within the state apparatus, lashed out at domestic and foreign policies of the regime while expressing their disgust with the current ruling capitalist order. Such a struggle causes ashift in the balance between classes and political forces. Meanwhile, coupled with the growing radicalization of workers, the retirees' movement has converted into one of active movements among opposition. During recent months, the last movement has held a series of rallies, rounds, and demonstrations with politically radical slogans against the regime and its officials.



Other active movements have occurred in a number of cities against unemployment and environmental pollution. These Movements had political characteristics and Anti-regime trend within which the slogans against Regime were apparently being chanted.

Another important factor, which played a role to lead the changes in the balance of political power were that the modern layers of the petty bourgeoisie turning away from Islamic Republic.



They [these above groupings] were once part of a force affiliated with the so-called reformist faction, who have now separated from this faction. This separation left an end to the fascination of parts of the modern petty bourgeoisie toward "reforms" during past elections. Their rejection of reformists" means separating from the whole of the state [rulers].\_Reformists, regarding their role in maintaining the political balance in the favor of the regime, were virtually and literally bulwark against the revolutionary movement and at the same time considered an obstacle in the way of overthrowing the regime. At the present time, even if the foresaid social layers are not supporters in favor of overthrowing and revolution, the neutrality position of them toward revolutionary movement of the working class.

All what noted above, as a whole all reflects the future changes, which in its turn, in the balance of political power has happened and acted

in the favor of the revolution and overthrow the Islamic Republic and against the interests of the Iranian regime and ruling class. Iranian society is sooner than ever at a stage that has been subjected to a revolutionary crisis.

It is no surprise that the ruling class is facing bankruptcy and revealing its inadequacies for all to see. Despite all the ostensible promises of Hassan Rouhani's, the economic crisis of stagnation persists and no prospects would be imagined for the improvement and reduction of incremental poverty, unemployment and financial pressures and multiple hard livelihood on the yoke of the working masses.

In the current Budget bill, the Cabinet has once attempted to impose the burden of its bankruptcy on the shoulders of the masses. They have eliminated subsidies for bread, removed cash subsidies for millions of people, and raised prices including gas and other energy sources, the increase in indirect

taxation and adding up the variety of duties and taxes.

The consequences of Neo-Liberal economic programs and policies up to date have led to more than ten million unemployed period. The vast majority of the society is below poverty levels, increasing addiction, prostitution, begging, street children, hunger for tens of millions of people. The crime rate has also risen, thereby causing more than 200,000 peoples imprisonments, increased daily executions, and increased overall widespread corruption in all official organs of the State. The Islamic Republic is not able to solve any of the problems of society.

The same is true concerning the political and democratic demands of the Iranian people. It is not essentially in the nature of the government to recognize these demands. So hereupon, the antagonism between the masses of the Iranian people with the autocratic

regime is escalating either. The intensification of these contradictions means intensifying the struggle.

The Islamic Republic does not own any other tool to deal with this conflict, except for intensifying crackdown. However, when this crisis would break out, all the real evidences in the fields including socio - economic and political phenomena ascertain its occurrence as though, thereafter, even all the armed forces of Iranian regime, would be too inefficient to confront the social combat of the people; especially the most militant, most radical and uncompromising class of history.

The working class of Iran is equipped and ready for a revolutionary movement. The coming revolutionary movement of Iran's workers will spark the emergence of a new society, and will alter the middle east for the better of all people instead of just the wealthy.

*(Kaar-No.756; Jan. 26, 2018)*



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