



Editors: Maryam Namazie and Fariborz Pooya

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'The basis of socialism is the human being... Socialism is the movement to restore human being's conscious will.'

Mansoor Hekmat

1951-2002

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On the anniversary of the USA's attack on Iraq

March against the State Terrorism of the West and against Islamic Terrorism

On March 18, 2003 the USA and its allies attacked Iraq despite the widespread objection of libertarian humanity. The world witnessed the launch of the most horrendous state terrorism in the name of the "fight against terrorism"; and the slaughter of the Iraqi people by the most horrific weapons in the name of the "fight against weapons of mass destruction." Apparently, democracy was to be presented to the people of Iraq by bombs and rocket, but instead they unleashed the most violent ethnic and Islamic terrorisms and today Iraq is on the brink of a civil war.

The USA's war in Iraq resulted

in the fall of Saddam and the Baathist dictatorship, however with the fall of Saddam, Iraqi society has also fallen into the abyss of barbarism and led to the emergence of and provided space for terrorist and anti-social groups.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran warned against the present-day situation in Iraq. We announced that the USA and NATO's state terrorism would provide for the growth of Islamic terrorism and turn not only Iraq and the region but the whole of the world into the terrorists' playing fields.

Even before the attack on Afghanistan we said that the arrest or even killing of Bin Laden would not have the slightest effect on Islamic terrorism. Today, in Iraq, the region and around the world, innocent people are the victims of Islamic terrorism. The USA's "pre-emptive strike" policy has only helped the growth of terrorism on a global scale. The attack on Iraq did not contain terrorism and its dangers - on the contrary, it intensified it. This war, however, beyond the propaganda about weapons of mass destruction and terrorism had another

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We need to stand up to it!



Danish TV's interview with Maryam Namazie on the Manifesto against Islamism

Martin Breum: *Welcome Maryam Namazie. We are in the middle of this cartoon crisis and then your manifesto calls for hard resistance against Islamism, why is that?*

Maryam Namazie: The reality is that Islamism is one of the

great dangers in the world today and the reaction we have been witnessing around the cartoons is just the tip of the iceberg. The people of the Middle East have been faced with this reactionary movement for over two decades now. It decapitates people, it still stones women to death in

the 21st century, and it imposes sexual apartheid wherever it has power and is ruling. The cartoon crisis is just another wake-up call really for the people of Europe about the situation and the need to stand up firmly to this movement.

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On the anniversary of USA's attack on Iraq, from page 1

objective. The main objective of this war was to maintain the USA's hegemony on the world by the use of its superior military strength. The confrontation of US-led state terrorism and Islamic terrorism is one aspect of the broader conflict between the international bourgeoisie in the post-Cold War era and in particular in the world after September 11. The destruction of Iraqi society is an explicit example of today's capitalist barbarity. The withdrawal of all occupying forces and the disarmament of all ethnocentric and religious groups that attack the people and each other – either as supporters or opponents of the occupying forces – are the pre-conditions to the liberation of Iraq from the existing tragic situation.

The US government is now contemplating attacking Iran's nuclear facilities. The realisation of the US or Israeli threats against Iran's nuclear facilities will not only have destructive ecological and human impacts and repeat such catastrophes as Chernobyl and Union Carbide on larger scales but will also strengthen the Islamic regime in Iran, empower Islamic terrorism in the region and in the world and weaken the struggle of the working class and people of Iran against the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the third anniversary of the military attack on Iraq, civilized humanity must stand up against the USA and NATO's bullying, militarism and terrorism and against Islamic terrorism and its apologists. Ending terrorism cannot be the task of

terrorists; it is the task of the people and working class that are not beneficiaries in the war of the terrorists.

The Iranian people are engaged in a significant fight against the Islamic Republic, a pillar of Islamic terrorism in the region and the world. The threat of a US military attack – let alone an actual attack – will not weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran but the struggle of the people of Iran against it. Anyone opposed to terrorism must oppose the USA, NATO and the Israeli's military attack on Iran and demand the political and diplomatic isolation of the Islamic Republic and the expulsion of the Islamic Republic from international institutions and establishments. We must stand up to the war of the

terrorists and defend the people's fight for overthrowing Islamic reaction and for equality and freedom. The overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the progressive movement of the people of Iran will defeat the political Islamic movement in its most important centre and will drastically weaken this movement. The defeat of Islamic terrorism by the people, in turn, will leave state terrorism and militarism of the US and NATO with no pretexts. On the anniversary of the military attack on Iraq, the working class and the progressive people of Iran and of the world must stand united against state terrorism of the West and Islamic terrorism and for freedom and equality.

**Worker-communist
Party of Iran
March 11, 2006**

MANIFESTO: Together facing the new totalitarianism

After having overcome fascism, Nazism, and Stalinism, the world now faces a new totalitarian global threat: Islamism.

We, writers, journalists, intellectuals, call for resistance to religious totalitarianism and for the promotion of freedom, equal opportunity and secular values for all.

The recent events, which occurred after the publication of drawings of Muhammed in European newspapers, have revealed the necessity of the struggle for these universal values. This struggle will not be won by arms, but in the ideological field. It is not a clash of

civilisations nor an antagonism of West and East that we are witnessing, but a global struggle that confronts democrats and theocrats.

Like all totalitarianisms, Islamism is nurtured by fears and frustrations. The hate preachers bet on these feelings in order to form battalions destined to impose a liberticidal and unegalitarian world. But we clearly and firmly state: nothing, not even despair, justifies the choice of obscurantism, totalitarianism and hatred. Islamism is a reactionary ideology which kills equality, freedom and secularism wherever it is present. Its success can only lead to a world of domination: man's

domination of woman, the Islamists' domination of all the others. To counter this, we must assure universal rights to oppressed or discriminated people.

We reject « cultural relativism », which consists in accepting that men and women of Muslim culture should be deprived of the right to equality, freedom and secular values in the name of respect for cultures and traditions. We refuse to renounce our critical spirit out of fear of being accused of "Islamophobia", an unfortunate concept which confuses criticism of Islam as a religion with stigmatisation of its believers.

We plead for the universality of freedom of expression, so that a critical spirit may be exercised on all continents, against all abuses and all dogmas.

We appeal to democrats and free spirits of all countries that our century should be one of Enlightenment, not of obscurantism.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Chahla Chafiq
Caroline Fourest
Bernard-Henri Lévy
Irshad Manji
Mehdi Mozaffari
Maryam Namazie
Taslima Nasreen
Salman Rushdie
Antoine Sfeir
Philippe Val
Ibn Warraq

We need to stand up to it, from page 1

Martin Breum: *But your manifesto talks of preachers of hate, forming battalions and it goes on to tell us how they want to impose themselves on the entire world. Is that really a fair description of all Islamist movements?*

Maryam Namazie: I think we have to recognise the fact that the political Islam movement is a reactionary right-wing movement; it is vying for political power. There is also another pole of terrorism in the world today, which is US state terrorism – an example of which can be seen by looking at the situation in Iraq. These two poles are vying for a larger share of power. With regards to the political Islamic pole - its track record is very clear. If anybody knows what it has done in Iran for example, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, there is no question that it is trying to impose the will of god, the rule of god on earth itself and that anywhere it has been able to do this it is very clear that it has meant nothing but destruction and death and

misery for millions of people.

Martin Breum: *You personally have reprinted some of the cartoons from the Danish newspaper on your website. This strategy of confrontation, how can it be constructive?*

Maryam Namazie: Well it's not a strategy of confrontation in that sense. It's very constructive. What is important to realise is the fact that this movement is dangerous for civilised humanity and we should not be appeasing it, we should not be excusing it, we should not be justifying it, we should not be supporting it and encouraging it in any way, shape or form, which a lot of western governments are doing. We need to stand up to it and confront it because that's how, throughout history, reactionary movements that were dangerous to humanity had to be confronted in order to be pushed back.

What we are saying is that this movement does not need

any form of provocation. What provocation, for example, did Maryam Ayoobi, who was stoned to death by the Islamic Republic of Iran give the Islamic regime of Iran to do that? What provocation did Atefeh Rajabi, a 16 year old girl who was hung in a city square for 'acts incompatible with chastity' give?

So this movement does need any sort of provocation and I think that's very clear because its track record is very clear. What we are saying is that we are faced with such an immense danger. We need to stand up against it firmly. We need to push it back for civilised humanity - not just for the people of Europe but for the people of the Middle East who have incidentally been fighting it for years. We need to take particular note of the fight that is going on against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a pillar of political Islam in the world by the people there...

Martin Breum: *I just want*

to ask you one last question. The manifesto is also very hard on those who do not stand up as firmly as you do? Why is that necessary?

Maryam Namazie: Well because I think that when you see a lot of left and progressive groups apologising for the political Islamic movement and trying to silence any form of criticism of Islam and the political Islamic movement as "racism" or "Islamophobic" – which is not the case - we need to say that they have a duty, that everybody has a duty to stand up to this movement. Civilized humanity demands it and deserves it. The people in the Middle East, just like people in Europe, deserve to live according to universal standards, to the highest standards that have been fought for in the 21st century. They deserve it everywhere.

Transcribed by Arash Sorx.

46 Tehran bus drivers sacked as protests continue

Bus workers protesting the laying off of hundreds of their colleagues for taking part in a strike on 28th January were handed a list of 46 confirmed dismissals. The list includes five members of the union's executive who are still in prison.

The state-owned company (Sherkat e Vahed) said the orders came from the regime's intelligence

authorities. Earlier, workers had been told that a 'disciplinary committee' has been set up which is working its way through a long list of workers to be expelled for their participation in the strike. Around 1,000 detained bus workers, recently released following worldwide protests, have been locked out of their workplaces. They have been without pay for the past six weeks.

Six members of the bus workers' union executive (the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs United Bus Company) and two labour activists who had expressed support for the bus strike are still being held in the high security Evin Prison without being formally charged and without access to a lawyer.

The campaign for the release

of the remaining detainees, reinstatement of the sacked workers, recognition of the union, introduction of collective bargaining and the rest of the bus workers' demands continues. Letters of protest may be sent to President of the Islamic Republic, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, at dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir. Please copy to us for our info and further distribution. To

On the Manifesto against Islamism

Javanan's interview with Maryam Namazie on the Manifesto against Islamism

Javanan: *You are one of the signatories to the Manifesto against Islamism; were you involved in drafting it?*

Maryam Namazie: I wasn't involved in drafting the manifesto. I had initially refused to sign the manifesto because it mentioned the 'excesses of communism' as an example of past totalitarianisms and put it on par with Nazism and fascism. I was then told that it was a mistranslation – since the original was written in French – and that it was in fact 'Stalinism'. I then decided to sign on to it. Of course I would have written the manifesto differently had I been involved in its drafting but I believed it to be too important to pass up on.

Javanan: *How widely has this manifesto been published?*

Maryam Namazie: The manifesto has been widely received and publicised in the media. It has been published in newspapers across Europe. In France it has been published in Charlie Hebdo, Agence France Presse, L'Express, RTL, Proche-orient info, RMC, France Info, France 2.fr, Europe 1, RFI, TOC. In Denmark it has been published in Jyllands-Posten, the paper where the Mohammad caricatures

were first published (there is also an interview with me on the issue), Politiken, Berlingske Tidende, and Kristeligt Dagblad, In Switzerland, Radio Suisse Romande, Le Temps; in Belgium BELGIQUE RTL, De Morgen, The Brussels Journal; in Germany, DIE WELT; in Italy, Sky news, Libero; in Canada, Radio Canada and the Toronto Star. The Middle East Times, Al Jazeera, BBC and some Iranian sites like rowzane have also published it.

I have also been interviewed by several Danish papers, including the Jyllands-Posten, and most recently by Danish TV. Many of them reprinted the entire Manifesto but of course not in the UK, which is a strong centre of political Islam in Europe.

The response by the public too has been overwhelming. Many feel such a manifesto is extremely timely whilst of course there is the usual hate mail from Islamists.

Javanan: *You are the only one to give a party affiliation – usually writers don't do that. Is this a break with this sort of tradition?*

Maryam Namazie: I was asked to write my own introduction as were others. I was the only one who gave a party affiliation (though I

signed on to it personally and not on behalf of the party) – because I cannot introduce myself without mentioning the Worker-communist Party of Iran – given that the party and movement and of course Mansoor Hekmat have been so instrumental in giving me the tools and analysis to confront political Islam and also because I really believe that it is worker-communism that has and can respond to the vile political Islamic movement and much more.

Furthermore, it is part of our political culture in this movement to be radical and popular at the same time. The email I received from a Dane after he watched the interview and read some of my blogs says it all: 'People like you will one day be a principal cause of freedom and justice for all people in the world no matter their gender, sexual preference, religious or political conviction.' I believe he is referring to worker-communism.

Javanan: *Some of the text is really very good and it has an overall positive effect but in my opinion some parts of it uses Cold War expressions; what do you think?*

Maryam Namazie: I think much of the content is brilliant and is what we have been

saying for many years – on universal values and rights, on cultural relativism, on Islamophobia, on freedom of expression, and the need for an age of enlightenment. What I found interesting about this Manifesto is that our stance is evident throughout and reveals our influence and impact. But as I said before, if I had written it I would definitely do some things differently. The role of western governments in creating and supporting totalitarian states is absent. Whilst I agree that Stalin's regime was totalitarian, mentioning his rule and not the many western backed totalitarian regimes conjures up images of the Cold War and gives an incomplete picture. What about the US backed Shah's regime or many of the US backed totalitarian governments in Latin America? Also, the West's role in encouraging political Islam vis-à-vis the Eastern bloc and their current power struggle is absent. Nonetheless, though, I felt it important to sign on to this manifesto as I mentioned before.

The above was from an interview in Persian in the weekly publication of the Young Communists' Organisation.

To defend the Tehran bus workers, contact International Labour Solidarity Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran. Co-ordinator: Shahla Daneshfar (shahla_daneshfar@yahoo.com) Public Relations: Bahram Soroush (b.soroush@ukonline.co.uk) www.kargaran.org