



# Briefing 204

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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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## May Day is the hope of the world!



This year's international workers' day is arriving at a time when there are signs of a global financial and

economic crisis. The World Bank warns governments about the threat of food riots. And the prospect of crisis and catastrophe makes a bleak world - already reeling from the shock of the New World Order and the global war of terrorists - even bleaker.

The hope of changing these conditions lies in the struggle of a class that makes up the majority of the world's population. This inverted world has been founded upon the wage slavery of this class, and for the preservation of this slavery. May Day,

the day of international solidarity and struggle of the working class, is at the same time the day of unity of repressed humanity to change this inverted world. We call on the people of the world to stand up on May Day to capitalism and the catastrophes it causes, to starvation and war, terrorism, ignorance and domination of religion, to deprivation and inequality and in support of freedom, equality and human identity.

In Iran the working class faces the same conditions as May Day approaches. The difference is that in Iran the Islamic regime of the bourgeoisie is facing a deep economic, political and cultural crisis and there is an ongoing powerful anti-regime and revolutionary movement. The slogans "We Don't Want Islamic Regime" and "You've Been Wasting our Time since 1979" which the youths in Tehran chanted recently, clearly depict the essence of the political situation in Iran. The working class is the backbone of this revolutionary movement. This is not only because of the numerous strikes and protests by workers, which are getting even more radical each day, as in the case of Kian Tyre workers, which ended up in barricades and direct clashes with the security forces, but also because the slogans and demands of the working class such as "Freedom, Equality, Human Identity," "Socialism or Barbarism," "End Sexual Apartheid," "Abolish the Death Penalty," "Woman's Liberation is Society's Liberation," and "Human Life is Our Certain Right", are echoed in mass demonstrations of teachers, women and youths on different occasions. Public executions, the attacks on millions of women for not observing Islamic veiling, punishing gays by throwing them down from heights, stoning to

death, amputating hands and feet as a form of punishment, brutal attacks on leftist student activists, jailing workers', teachers' and women's rights activists, flogging worker leaders for celebrating May Day - these are all a reflection of the Islamic Republic's efforts to stop this unstoppable movement. May Day in Iran is in the frontline of this massive social confrontation, and it terrifies the Islamic regime more than anything else. The government's "Workers' House" has not even dared to organise the state-sponsored rally for this May Day in Tehran because in the past years they lost control of these masquerades, and the puppetry turned into workers' march chanting socialist slogans.

This year's May Day should be celebrated stronger and in greater numbers than ever before. Great masses of workers and all those yearning for freedom should be mobilised for May Day. In recent years, the workers' movement in Iran has been supported internationally more than ever before, acknowledged as a political force that can change society. These are strong foundations upon which to build a powerful May Day. This May Day in Iran should attract massive sections with the call for "Freedom, Equality, Human Identity" and should be made the hope of the working people of the world.

WPI calls upon all workers, students, women and youths to mobilise for a magnificent and powerful May Day.

Long Live May Day! Long Live Socialism!

Worker-communist Party of Iran (WPI)  
April 17, 2008

To see pictures of May Day events, [click here](#).

## **The season past** *Siyaves Azeri*

The season past can be identified with the growth of both the Worker-communist Party of Iran and the revolutionary movement of the people in Iran for overthrowing the Islamic regime. The WPI showed that it is truly "a party for all seasons."

The most remarkable event of the last period was the Sixth Congress that took place during May 26 and 27, 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden. The resolutions that were adopted by the Congress clearly reflected and identified the growing power

of leftwing tendencies within social movements and particularly the rise of the socialist criticism of the existing social order. A total of four resolutions were passed in the Sixth Congress, namely, the resolution about the growth of socialist tendencies in mass resistance movements and the rise of worker-communism; the resolution about the threat of war and the necessity of the revolutionary overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the resolution about the decline of the New World Order and the possibilities for a new Left offensive internationally; and the resolution about the workers' movement in Iran. By adopting these resolutions, the Sixth Congress confirmed the position of the WPI as the pioneer and leader of the socialist criticism and struggle within Iran.

The consequent social mobilisation in Iran since then, the rise and the hegemony of socialism within workers', students' and women's movements, massive demonstrations on different occasions and anniversaries such as May Day, March 8, and Students' Day under the banners of 'Freedom and Equality,' 'Socialism or Barbarism,' and 'No to Sexual Apartheid' can be enumerated among numerous events and facts that validated the legitimacy of these adopted policies and direction in practice.

Internationally, the campaigns against political Islam, for women's rights, against stonings and executions, for secularism, refugees and asylum seekers and children's rights have received massive support from secularists, humanists and the general public and should be named as another huge step towards mobilisation against the reactionary pole of political Islam on an international scale and in line with the resolutions of the Sixth Congress.

An important resolution adopted at the Second Conference of the WPI-Organisation Abroad held during April 5 and 6, 2008 in Germany was on the international activities of the WPI towards isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran. This resolution emphasised that the activities of the Party in the coming period shapes the struggle of the Third Camp against the two international reactionary poles of state militarism that is led by the USA and Islamic terrorism and political Islam that is led by the Islamic regime in Iran. The resolution also underlines the importance of representing the people of the world against these reactionary poles. The conditions for the

overthrow of the Islamic regime in Iran are reaching the state of maturity and the people of the world are immediate beneficiaries of the revolutionary overthrow of this reactionary regime. It was also added that the international isolation of the Islamic regime in Iran would accelerate this revolutionary process. The Islamic Republic in Iran should be internationally isolated as was the case with the regime of racial apartheid in South Africa. The conference also emphasised the importance of the intensification of the international struggle against political Islam and in defence of secularism. The role of the WPI in strengthening the struggle against political Islam was also stressed.

The campaign for the release of worker activists Mahmoud Salehi and Mansoor Osanlou who were imprisoned by the Islamic regime in Iran is also among the important international activities of the WPI. Several demonstrations and protest actions took place in different countries in cooperation with various worker and leftwing organisations. Party activists also contacted numerous worker and human rights organisations and encouraged them to support this international campaign by participating in actions, sending protest letters, and building pressure demanding the release of worker leaders and all political prisoners in Iran. Mahmoud Salehi was released on April 6, 2008. Mansoor Osanlou, however, is still in prison. The campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of Osanlou and all political prisoners continues with full force. The international campaign day that was called by ITF and supported by the WPI and various worker and progressive organisations is among the exemplary steps that have been taken throughout this campaign.

The international campaign for the release of detained leftist students who were arrested by the police and intelligence service of the Islamic Republic of Iran before, on, and after Students' Day is also among the important activities of the WPI. The Islamic regime was forced to release many of the students, although on huge amounts of bail, due to growing international pressure. However, some of the student leaders and activists are still in prison and the released ones are still facing the threat of sham trials and re-imprisonment. This campaign will continue until all students are released and all cases and bails are dropped.

The WPI also actively supported the campaign that has been launched by thousands of workers from different production units in Iran in demand of increasing the minimum wage to 1.000.0000 Tomans (roughly 1.000 \$ US). The Union of Unemployed Workers of Iran, Workers from Asalouye Refineries, Shahou Textile in Sananadaj, Kesht-o Sanat of Mahabad, Petrochemistry and Polyethylene Complex of Kermanshah, Babakan Textile, Tehran Municipal Transportation and many teachers from various cities are among many others that have simultaneously supported this campaign.

The international campaign in defence of the struggles of the workers of Haft-tape Sugar Factory and Shahpour paper Factory, and the campaign in defence of Kian Tyre workers in Tehran should also be named among many other international activities and campaigns of the WPI.

The campaign for the expulsion of the Islamic Republic regime in Iran from the International Labour Organisation is also among the most important campaigns that the WPI has launched recently. To this end, and as a step within this campaign, the WPI has called for a demonstration in Geneva during the 97th annual conference of the ILO while the delegation of the Islamic regime of Iran is going to be there. The call for this demonstration is also available in this issue of the WPI Briefing.

*Siyaves Azeri is the new head of the WPI's International Relations Committee. To ask him any questions or comments, please email [siyavesazeri@hotmail.com](mailto:siyavesazeri@hotmail.com) and he will respond in the WPI Briefing.*

## **On Fitna, the Movie**

***Fariborz Pooya interview with Maryam Namazie and Bahram Soroush on Secular TV***

***Fariborz Pooya: Fitna, a 17-minute movie by Dutch politician Geert Wilders, shows passages from the Koran with graphic footage of terrorist***



*attacks on the West, executions of people in Iran and Afghanistan and ends with statistics showing the increasing number of so-called Muslim immigrants to Holland. Fitna, which was first released on LiveLeak internet site as there were no TV stations willing to broadcast it, was viewed 5 million times soon after it went live. It was pulled off LiveLeak due to threats but is now available on a number of internet sites. Wilders is under police protection because his life has been threatened. Islamic states and the UN General Secretary have all condemned the movie as anti-Islamic. Heads of European states have also condemned the movie. There is an ongoing debate on the impact of this movie. We will explore the issues with Maryam Namazie and Bahram Soroush. Maryam Namazie, what is your initial reaction to Fitna?*

**Maryam Namazie:** Well, there is a lot that can be said about it but my initial reaction when I first watched is was that I found it really annoying! I thought how dare he. The political Islamic movement has wreaked havoc for decades, long before September 11, long before the Madrid or London bombings. In Iran, we have lost an entire generation to this movement and we have struggled and fought against this movement. How dare he equate all of us as one and the same with the political Islamic movement? It made me quite angry actually.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *What do you mean, when you say equating us with the political Islamic movement? Wilders shows images of terrorist atrocities such as 9/11 and the Madrid bombings as well as the execution of youth in Iran and he refers to the rising number of immigrants to Holland. Which part of this are you referring and objecting to?*

**Maryam Namazie:** Firstly, the attacks on the west pale in comparison to the attacks on the people of the Middle East and North Africa yet he only cares to focus on these. He also blames the rising political Islamic movement in Europe to so-called Muslim immigration and shows a rise in numbers coming to the Netherlands. What he fails to see is that a lot of these people who are fleeing to Europe are actually fleeing from political Islam and want nothing to do with this movement. Yet he like many on the Right view masses of people as one and the same with their oppressors. To say that this 'teeming hordes' of so-called Muslim immigrants - many of them atheists, socialists,

freedom fighters, secularists, and of course also those who consider themselves Muslims - are one and the same with the very movement that has been slaughtering them and that they have been at the forefront of opposing is nothing short of outrageous.

**Bahram Soroush:** I would agree. I wish it was an anti-Islamic film; a criticism of Islam and of the political Islamic movement. It is not. It is an anti-immigrant film. Obviously, Geert Wilders as a right-wing politician has got his own agenda, which is to blame most of the problems in Dutch society on immigrants and to label them with the mark of Islam. Whereas in fact most of those people are themselves victims who have escaped from the hell that Islamists have created in countries like Iran and Afghanistan and sought refuge in Holland and other European countries. He presents them as accomplices of this political Islamic movement which is a fascistic movement.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *So what you are saying is that he is not criticizing Islam and the political Islamic movement but is using images of atrocities committed by the political Islamic movement, which are factual.*

**Maryam Namazie:** Of course there is some truth in his movie in the same way that there is some truth in Bush's assertions about Saddam Hussein's violations of rights, though the US government fully supported Saddam prior to that for many years. It's not enough to tell some parts of the truth about certain things. Also, why you tell the truth, what's behind that truth and that you tell all of it to begin with is what matters. There is quite a lot of deception in his film.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *He doesn't criticise any Islamic states; he might show Ahmadinejad, but he doesn't attack Islamic states. Instead he is looking at so called Muslims in the Netherlands. Is that what you are saying?*

**Maryam Namazie:** Yes, he does come from a perspective that has no problem with religion and even religion in power. He just doesn't want - from his perspective - Islam to take over a 'Christian Europe' and he is equating that with so-called Muslim immigration.

Let me be clear that I do think that we need to focus on Islam and the political Islamic movement because it is a religion in power today. It does

have state power, is vying for power, and is massacring people left, right and centre. So we do need to focus on Islam and criticise it but from a perspective that addresses the real issues at hand as that's when you can get to some sort of solution to addressing and challenging the political Islamic movement and Islam in power. This is not Wilder's intention or concern.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *Islamic states, European governments, and the UN Secretary General, have condemned this movie as anti-Islamic. The Dutch government has been apologetic. There seems to be a move to prevent criticism of Islam.*

**Bahram Soroush:** There are a few points here. First of all, the film is not anti-Islamic in that sense. It is anti-Muslim, against ordinary people. It is an attempt to label and put everyone together with the oppressive governments that they have escaped from.

Secondly, what if it was anti-Islamic? Since when is it wrong to be anti-Islamic and anti-religious? People have been criticising and opposing religious oppression and ignorance for years. They have been fighting the Established Church and religious forces, whether in power or as movements. Especially in our day and age, as Maryam pointed out, the political Islamic movement is a menace which is wreaking havoc throughout the world, and is specifically targeting people in countries under Islamic rule. So it is obvious that there should be a reaction against that. That's why a lot of people are taking a stance against religion and Islam. That should not be forbidden; that should not be banned; that's the right of everyone. What is the point of freedom of expression if you can't exercise it exactly when it is needed? And it is needed more than ever now that obscurantism and ignorance are on the rise. Then you have to have a relentless, a sharp criticism of a religion which is spearheading this attack on the rights of people.

And about the European governments that you mentioned, they have their own agenda as well. Their defence of freedom of expression is in inverse proportion to the volume of business and trade that they have with those governments. So we have to forget about these pretensions about human rights and freedom of expression. If they were at all concerned, they would be objecting to what is going on in Iran, in Saudi Arabia, in Afghanistan. People knew what the Taliban was

doing for years but it wasn't shown on TV at all. For example, the scene in Wilders' film of the execution of a woman in the stadium in Afghanistan is an old tape, but that was only shown in preparation for the attack on Afghanistan after September 11. For many years people had been fighting against these religious reactionaries, these executioners, but none of that was talked about because it was not politically expedient. You know that in Saudi Arabia every Friday they behead people. Is it shown? No. The Saudi government is invited to Britain and given the red carpet treatment. But tomorrow, if they have a political difference with them, they will talk about some of those atrocities. So their politics are reactionary and inhuman anyway; it has to do with business and profits.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *What are the aims of the political Islamic movement and Islamic states in their attack on this film and are they using this film to advance their policies?*

**Maryam Namazie:** They have become quite savvy compared to two three decades ago and have learnt to advance in ways that are more palatable to a western audience. For example, use of the term Islamophobia and deeming any criticism of Islam as racism and by using victim status. And we've seen how well that has been working for them in the sense that you even have the UN Human Rights Council agreeing that freedom of expression needs to be limited if someone 'abuses' religion. I mean the whole point of human rights is rights for people not for beliefs or religions. But they have managed to change definitions and values, which fits in quite well with the US' New World Order. This strives to make it more difficult for people to be able to speak out against Islam and the political Islamic movement because it is deemed racist or an attack on the rights of 'minorities', whereas in fact there is no connection between the two. As Bahram said it is crucial that we criticise Islam; they take advantage of films like this and the Danish caricatures to exert pressure for limits on free expression and speech.

I have heard that there are Dutch people who have gone on the internet to apologise for Wilder's film. Why should they? I won't apologise for the Islamic Republic of Iran; I don't feel any affinity with it; why would anyone feel an affinity for fascistic anti-immigrant policies? Firstly, why apologise?

But secondly, wake up and see the bigger picture. The fact is that freedom of expression is under attack. As Bahram said, freedom of expression only matters when you say things that are not permissible, that go against the grain; that's how things have changed throughout history - by criticism and particularly criticism of religion. Religion has always been a bulwark and barrier against progress and advancement and if we are not allowed to criticise it, where does that leave us? Being the banner of the political Islamic movement, being at the forefront of the attack against all that civilised humanity and the working class has fought for over centuries - from secularism to universal rights to freedom of expression - makes it important to criticise - irrespective of whether we dislike Wilder's film or not. We have to say that people have a right to criticise religion and Islam and more importantly a duty to do so.

So don't apologise, but instead organise and stand up to anti-immigrant legislation and parties, defend universal and citizenship rights for everybody but also stand up and challenge political Islam. Don't let the Islamists walk over universal values and rights in Europe or the Middle East and elsewhere. And stand in solidarity with the people of the Middle East and North Africa who have been doing so for a long time vis-à-vis this movement. That's what we need to do rather than apologising for Wilder's film.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *Can you not see that the Islamic movement is using this film as an excuse to advance its policies.*

**Maryam Namazie:** They are using it and we will use it. Civilised humanity will use it to advance its progressive stance, its defence of universal rights, its defence of secularism, its defence of asylum seekers and immigrants and its uncompromising opposition to political Islam and US militarism - both of which are part and parcel of the same new world order - feeding off of each other. Okay this film is out there. Let's use it as one more excuse to stand up to those who are trying to take advantage of the situation. We can also take advantage of the situation and bring a human stance to it - one that the world desperately needs.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *The UN Human Council led by the government of Pakistan has adopted a non binding resolution against the defamation of*

*religion and in particular Islam. How do you link this with things happening around this issue? There is a concerted effort to undermine secularism and universal rights. How do you see this resolution?*

**Bahram Soroush:** First of all, it's interesting that they call it 'defamation of religion'. It is unheard of. Usually you hear of defamation of people, of character assassination, etc. But defamation of religion? What does that mean? Does it mean criticising religion, saying that it is superstition, ignorance? What's wrong with that? People have been doing that for years. This resolution was pushed by a number of Islamic states as an attempt, once again, to limit freedom of expression, which would have been unthinkable to someone even from the 19th century; unthinkable that in the 21st century you would be reading such nonsense as 'we want to limit freedom of expression because you are insulting our religion; you are hurting our religious feelings'! Religion is like any other belief system; you either believe in it or you don't. And those who believe in it have the right to defend it, and those who don't, have the right to criticise it. This resolution is in fact a case in point how incompatible religion is with human rights, civil liberties and human progress.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *What does this signify in terms of protecting state's power vis-à-vis citizens?*

**Maryam Namazie:** It strengthens the political Islamic movement but also states in Europe and west that are attempting to limit free expression, such as the UK government's attempts to bring the incitement to religious hatred laws. All of this feeds into it. Any restriction on freedom of expression is the beginning of a lot more restrictions in society. We need to defend it dearly. In this day and age I think criticising Islam, criticising political Islam is one of the most important things you can do to uphold freedom of expression and universal values.

**Fariborz Pooya:** *Fitna, as mentioned here, doesn't fundamentally criticise Islam; it doesn't criticise the political Islamic movement and Islamic states that is destroying the lives of millions every day. And effectively its anti-immigrant tone distorts the whole picture. The reality is that millions of people are fighting against the political Islamic movement and that's the movement that needs to be supported. Freedom of expression and the right to criticise*

*Islam and religion and is a fundamental right that needs to be upheld. To see the April 4, 2008 interview as well as commentaries by ex-Muslims and others on Iranian Secular Society TV, [click here](#).*



## **For Du'a Maryam Namazie**

I have struggled hard to find the words to commemorate sweet 17 year old Du'a.

And still I cannot find any words to do her justice.

Maybe there are no words to commemorate a teenager stoned to death in the Iraqi Kurdish hillside village of Basshiqa for being in love with the 'wrong' 19-year-old boy.

A mobile phone clip shows her being dragged from the sheikh's house to the marketplace in a headlock, wailing and screaming as police watch on. There, her beautiful body is faced with a hail of stones and she is repeatedly kicked. Finally her uncle approaches her as she tries to struggle to her feet and smashes a huge piece of concrete over her head.

The mob then dumps her bloodied and battered body in a rubbish pit.

No one tells her parents - who do not want her killed - that she is dead until the next day. Her two brothers then dig her body out so she can be buried in a cemetery.

Later, her mother, Badiia Aswad, is seen at her grave howling and caressing the plain concrete headstone saying: "The last thing you told me was that you were hungry. Come home. Let me cook, and feed you."

But Du'a will not be coming home.

Nor will many other often nameless faceless women and girls killed in the name of some vile honour.

At least 5,000 every year according to the United Nations.

In Britain alone up to 17,000 women are subjected to honour-related kidnapping, sexual assault,

beatings and murder every year - most of them in their very homes and by those closest to them - their fathers, brothers, husbands and extended family members.

Since Du'a's murder, more have been killed and even stoned, including Sara Jaffar Nimat last August - she was just 11 years old.

As I said it is hard to find the words to do Du'a justice.

But justice is all that we have left to offer if we are to truly commemorate her life.

And part of that means holding that which is responsible to account.

Most honour killings take place in countries ruled by Islam or in Islam-ridden communities including in the west. We need to say this.

Of course sex division, discrimination in the production process, a disadvantaged section within the working class are good for profits, which is why we can't seem to get rid of violence against women though many old traditions, customs and practices have disappeared when no longer relevant.

Of course there is patriarchy, misogyny and violence against women in all societies, not just those ruled by Islam. In the United States 10 women are killed every day. In Sweden, according to 1989 data, one woman is killed every 10 days by someone she knows.

But focusing on one form of violence does not mean the denial of other forms of violence against women and only seems to become an issue when the matter being raised is linked to Islam. When it comes to those whose rights are deemed culturally relative a million and one prefects step up to list every single issue in the world that is either just as important or more important.

I mean we are not even allowed to call it honour killings; domestic violence is the preferred terminology so as to avoid causing offence to Islam.

And yes I know all religions are misogynist and discriminatory and obsessed with controlling women, sex and sexuality not just Islam. After all, Du'a's family were Yazidi.

Nonetheless, there is a distinction that must be made with Islam in this day and age because it is the banner of a political movement; because it has state power; because it is vying for political power; because Islam is part and parcel of the state machinery and the law in many countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

When Du'a is killed in broad daylight, the police stand by and watch. Those responsible are not arrested. Even if anyone ever is - which is rare - Article 111 of the Iraqi penal code will allow for reduced sentences in cases where "dishonour" is established as a motive.

Not only that but the state and the law, the police, the judiciary, the imams and the sheikhs are all in agreement that such killings are necessary, and even honourable, in order to maintain the social order and control the women who bring chaos in society by transgressing Islamic norms and rules.

Stoning is actually legal in countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sudan. This year, over half a dozen women in Iran were sentenced to stoning, with three known official stonings since 2006; two women await stoning in Sudan, and a couple have just this past week been stoned in Pakistan.

You cannot do justice to the victims of honour killings if you do not point the finger at Islamic states and the political Islamic movement, which is the biggest mass murderer of women in this day and age.

As Sayyid Hazim al-Araqi, Moqtada al-Sadr's representative in Baghdad says: if you crack down on honour killings, you will only encourage adultery.

And as a top cleric in the Islamic regime of Iran said recently, women who do not respect Islamic rules are the 'source of all that is bad in society.'

This doesn't take blame away from US-led militarism, which is directly responsible for the encouragement and growth of the political Islamic movement, including in today's Iraq. It doesn't ignore other forms of violence against women.

But in the 21st century, honour killings are as much the symbol of the Islamic movement as veiling and sexual apartheid are. Despite the attention and outrage, they are on the rise because this movement is on the rise. And we can only

really begin to stop honour killings if we stop this movement in its tracks.

In her last moments, Du'a struggled to stand even when surrounded by a mob who were out to kill her. She refused to do what was expected of her in life and in death.

She is both the personification of the vile and subhuman status of women under Islamic rule but also the refusal and resistance of millions of men and women against 21 century barbarity. To commemorate Du'a we must stand up to the political Islamic movement with the resisting people of the Middle East and elsewhere to say enough is enough!

*The above was Maryam Namazie's speech commemorating Du'a at an April 12, 2008 conference in London organised by the Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq. To see a video of the speech, [click here](#).*

*To see Maryam Namazie's response to questions on whether men are to blame for women's rights violations, the extent of Islam's role, whether criticism of Islam is anti-Muslim, and her opinion on various interpretations of Islam, [click here](#).*

## **The Islamic Republic of Iran should be expelled from the ILO**

The 97th annual International Labour Conference of the ILO starts on May 28, 2008 in Geneva. Similar to previous years, a delegation representing the Islamic Republic of Iran is supposed to participate in this conference. Those who attack and oppress workers should not be allowed into the ILO. The Islamic Republic regime should be expelled from the ILO for oppressing workers and depriving them from their most basic rights.

The way that the Islamic regime in Iran treats workers is a disgrace to humanity. The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously and systematically responded to worker's protests and their demands for improving workers' living conditions with violence and brutality. The ruling regime in Iran does not have even least of respect for the workers' right that are recognized on the basis of international conventions. On several occasions, workers' protests have been attacked and even been violently suppressed. Worker leaders have been detained, imprisoned, and

tortured. Worker activists have been flogged. May Day organisers have been trailed and imprisoned. Huge bails are set for the release of arrested worker activists in order to prevent them from further activities. In a number of cases, the Islamic regime has even used kidnapping and assassination as methods of suppressing the workers. The wages of hundreds of thousands of workers have not been paid for several months and these workers have been forced to live in absolute poverty.

In the past couple of years the worker organisations of the world have responded the Islamic regime in Iran with widespread protests and actions in solidarity with the workers in Iran. Still, stronger actions are required in response to suppressing the workers in Iran. Some worker organisations have maintained that they would submit their official complaints against the Islamic Republic of Iran to the ILO. This is a step forward, but it is not sufficient. The Islamic Republic of Iran should be expelled from the ILO. We, together with the workers in Iran, call upon worker organisations of the world to demand expulsion of the Islamic republic of Iran from the ILO.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran organises a demonstration to protest the presence of the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the ILO while the delegation of the Islamic regime is in Geneva. The WPI calls upon all the libertarians of the world to participate in this demonstration in Geneva. The WPI also calls on worker organisations to support this action. The date of the demonstration will be announced subsequently.

Worker-communist Party of Iran-Organisation  
Abroad  
April 24, 2008

## **Iran: workers defy ban to celebrate May Day; 10 arrested**

Workers in a number of cities in Iran held, or attempted to hold, May Day rallies despite a heavy clampdown by the government. Rallies were held in the western cities of Sanandaj, Kermanshah and Saqez. However, the planned rally in the industrial zone of Asalooye was broken up when the security forces moved in to arrest the organisers and remove placards. Those

arrested include Javanmir Moradi and Taha Azadi, from the leadership of the newly formed Free Union of Iranian Workers.

Ahead of May Day, the authorities turned down numerous applications for permits to hold rallies, and on 23 April arrested Sheis Amani, the head of the National Union of Dismissed and Unemployed Workers. Amani is still in detention.

Over 100 workers attended a rally in Sanandaj called by the Free Union of Iranian Workers. The event had to be held in the outskirts of the city as the authorities had refused to grant permits for rallies in downtown Sanandaj. A resolution, outlining workers' major demands, including release of jailed workers, was passed amid continuous claps by the crowd. However, after the ceremony, the security forces arrested seven workers, who have been named as:

Salah Zamani  
Shiva Kheir Abadi  
Abdollah Najjar  
Ghaaleb Hosseini  
Ali Hosseini  
Bahaoddin Sadooghi  
Susan Raazani

Details of the events and the situation of those arrested will follow in our next update.

*For more information, contact International Labour Solidarity Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran (ILSC-WPI) at [www.kargaran.org](http://www.kargaran.org).*

## **Statement of the 2nd Conference of the WPI-organisation abroad**

The Islamic Republic of Iran must be isolated and expelled from International organisations!

The 2nd conference of the WPI's Organisation Abroad which was held in April 2008 pledged to step up the international campaign to politically, diplomatically and culturally isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran and expel the regime from international organisations and bodies.

The active participation of progressive people, and labour, secularist, student and women's rights organisations is crucial in the campaign's success.

The political Islamic movement is a dilemma for the world. Fighting this reactionary movement, therefore, is an international obligation and task of people across the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the moral and political pillar of this movement. Prior to the Islamic regime taking power in Iran, this movement did not enjoy any significant power in Iran or the Middle East. With its taking power in Iran, this reactionary political movement has grown significantly. The Islamic regime of Iran is the source and material, moral and political backbone of the political Islamic movement in Islam-ridden societies. With western government political support, and its justification as a result of cultural relativism, the political Islamic movement has grown in the west as well. This movement has now become a dilemma for the world at large. This movement must be defeated and its influence removed from people's lives.

Overthrowing the Islamic regime of Iran by the people of Iran is a requirement to defeat this movement and liberate people everywhere from its destructive consequences. Overthrowing the most authoritative force of the political Islamic movement would be significant blow to the forces of this movement internationally.

The people of Iran are at the forefront of the battle against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Iran there is a considerable and extensive struggle to bring an end to the rule of political Islam. Therefore, the support for the struggle of the people of Iran is an internationalist duty. The people of the world share an interest in ending the Islamic regime in Iran.

There are some occasions in history that a country becomes the juncture of the battle of reaction and liberation. Iran today is in such a position. Religion and political oppression have on the one hand turned Iran into a huge prison for the majority of the population and on the other an extensive and massive resistance is underway by women, workers, students, and the youth to be free from political and religion oppression and for a better world.

Moreover, the battle of two camps of international terrorism, on the one hand led by the USA and Islamic terrorism led by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other, has cast a dark shadow of war over the world. The people of Iran however have

chosen a third path. With the overthrow of the Islamic regime in Iran and their own liberation, they will defeat the bullying policy of the U.S. Therefore the fight of the people of Iran deserves the warmest of support.

People of the world!

The Islamic regime of Iran is the sponsor of terrorism and the main pillar of insecurity internationally. To achieve security for the world, one must support the struggle of the people of Iran to bring an end to this regime. Overthrow of the Islamic regime will break the back of Islamic terrorism. Anyone who desires an end of religion in people's lives must participate in the fight to bring this regime down in Iran. With the overthrow of the Islamic regime, religion will receive a massive blow and would be forced to the margins of society. This too, is the duty of all secularists. Anyone who fights for the equality of men and women in this world has an interest in the overthrow of the misogynist Islamic regime in Iran. Iran is a prison for women. With the overthrow of the Islamic regime, sexual apartheid would receive a massive setback and would herald liberation of women in Middle East and the Islam-ridden societies. The treatment that workers receive under the rule of the Islamic regime is the shame of the world. Any attempt to improve life, working condition or labour organisation in Iran has been met with imprisonment, torture and lashings. Workers of the world therefore must stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers in Iran to bring down the Islamic regime in Iran. Students and the youth, too, have been heroic in their fight against the regime; one must support them too. Anti-war activists who want to face the US military and its allies must strengthen the third camp, and face both camps of reaction in the world today and join the people of Iran.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran calls on the people of the world to actively take part in the isolation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its expulsion from all international organisations and bodies.

Worker-communist Party of Iran - Organisation  
Abroad  
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