

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نښاد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Wayne Sontar 02 Dec 2018

Appel Manqué

06.12.2018

RALLY IN SUPPORT OF IRANIAN WORKERS!

Workers in Iran are currently engaged in a fight for their livelihoods – and for their basic human rights as workers.

In doing this they are forced to confront employers and a state apparatus that have treated workers and their organisations cruelly.

In the last few weeks:

- workers, such as those at the Haft Tappeh sugar mill, who have struck for unpaid wages, a return of the mill to public ownership and workers' control to replace the corrupt management, are being sacked, beaten, arrested and tortured by security forces.
- likewise, steelworkers at the massive INSIG steelworks in Ahvaz, protesting unpaid wages, unsafe work conditions and lack of materials for production have been attacked by riot police, arrested, imprisoned and beaten.
- workers at the once prestigious HEPCO engineering plant, striking over wage arrears, mismanagement and a decline in safety standards since privatisation, have been arrested and flogged.
- teachers, on a peaceful national strike for higher wages, educational reforms and the release of teachers already imprisoned for previous industrial action, have met with arrests, summons and threats by security forces in several cities across Iran.

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

- 262 truck drivers, following national strikes in May, July and September, have been arrested by Iranian authorities and charged with “waging war against God” and “threatening national security” – charges that can carry the death penalty. Truck drivers have now commenced their fourth national strike of the year, demanding release of the prisoners – as well as continuing to press for unpaid wages, pay increases and better work conditions.

Since late 2017, when mass protests broke out against austerity and widespread joblessness, especially amongst youth, class contradictions have only deepened and Iran’s working class has grown increasingly militant.

This year workers’ organisations have commemorated the 30th anniversary of “the national catastrophe” – a massacre of thousands of political prisoners carried out by the same theocratic regime that beheaded the popular revolution that overthrew the U.S. puppet regime of Shah Pahlevi in 1979.

The regime at that time slaughtered workers, unionists, socialists and communists, as well as members of other democratic and progressive organisations, to enforce its hold on power.

Now that the criminal U.S. state is targeting Iran for economic destruction and regime change, as part an insane strategy to enforce its global domination, this same Iranian state is responding to domestic economic crisis and U.S. destabilisation by further suppressing the Iranian working class.

The only way the Iranian people – at whose core is the Iranian working class – will be able to withstand imperialist aggression and the threat of subjugation and recolonisation is to have a government and state they can trust and support.

For the Islamic regime that would involve massive concessions to the working class in terms of its fundamental rights – such as the right to strike and to organise and increasingly, to exercise the possibility of workers’ control over their production.

It would mean reversing the trend of placing society’s wealth into private hands with one that reorganises the economy under public ownership and control.

This is not going to happen.

The economic crisis has not come about solely through the actions of the United States and its lackeys – though their actions certainly exacerbate a process that was already underway in Iran, where the neo-liberal policies of the Islamic regime over the last two decades have let a crony capitalism flourish and the people’s assets be ransacked, and allowed unemployment to flourish and millions to be pushed below the poverty line.

The Iranian workers and popular forces are coming to realise this regime, this theocratic, bourgeois state cannot be reformed. The Iranian people must overthrow it if they are to have a chance for a better future; if they are going to have a chance to withstand the attacks of imperialism.

If crippling sanctions and threat of war from without is matched by repression of popular demands for economic, political and social justice from within Iran, then the most reactionary elements, “both inside the theocratic regime and out” will get to determine Iran’s future.

Only the elevation of the struggle of the popular movement into one for a transition from dictatorship to a system based on the economic, political and social demands of the people can prevent this outcome.

Only the progressive, democratic forces can guarantee Iran’s future!

Iranian workers’ solidarity organisations in Sydney rallied in Parramatta Town Square on Saturday 30th November to express their support for workers in Iran and their upsurge of class action. Both Australian and Iranian activists spoke on the present situation in Iran. Hundreds of flyers were handed out to passers-by to inform them of the current state of affairs.

Participants passed a resolution of solidarity with Iranian workers and a steering committee was established to promote awareness and build relations between Australian and Iranian unions and workers organisations.

- for a strong united front in Iran of national and democratic forces to defend peace, democracy and social justice!
- for removal of sanctions and threats of war against Iran by the United States and its allies, including Australia!