



# ALTERNATIVE WORKERS NEWS IRAN

A Monthly NEWSPAPER of the SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES  
WITH IRANIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT - ABROAD



**Long live international solidarity**

**of the international working class!**

**Happy 1st May, the day of struggle and solidarity!**

**MAY**  
**International Workers' Day**

***Joint statement of independent organizations***  
**May 1<sup>st</sup> is the day of expression of solidarity**  
**and independent identity of workers**

International Workers' Day is a day symbolizing solidarity and raising the flag of the independent struggle of the working class against the capitalist system. Ever since the capitalist system established the basis of the prosperity of the market and its domination with the whip of wage slavery and made 16 hours of work a day in exchange for a piece of bread to relieve hunger and resume work and exploitation as its law, it was clear that the workers have no choice, but to fight against this oppression and exploitation in order to get rid of the situation that the capitalist system imposes on them.

The workers found out from their living conditions that the more the value creation of their labor force increases, the more they are exploited by the capitalists, and their bodies and souls are more

completely used for production that does not belong to them, and every day and Every hour they create wealth that has nothing- no product, but poverty for the workers. The struggle to reduce the daily working hours is one of the great and constant arenas of the workers' battle with the capitalists and the capitalist state. 138 years ago, the workers of Chicago were the first to stand up unitedly and organized against these inhumane and exploitative relations and organized a great struggle to reduce the working hours of the workers and establish an 8-hour work day. At that time, the protesting workers of America fought bravely without fearing the tower and rampart of capitalism and its armed police. This epic making, despite the killing and severe repression, started a new process in the class struggle between the workers and capitalism, and it's loud echo and message reverberated not only in the United States, but quickly throughout the world ...

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## Heading towards strengthening the unity and organization of the working classes!

On the first of May, the International Workers' Solidarity Day, the day of the workers' struggle against the system of human exploitation approaches, while the current world lacks stability in terms of the interests of workers, wages, and the vast majority of people in various countries. This vast majority are crushed under the heavy wheels of capital, investment, and exploitation. The ruling capitalists of the world and their governments have been systematically implementing policies of aggression and rollback against the gains of over a century of workers' struggles for social justice and public welfare, especially in the past forty years. The capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic in Iran intends to impose a harder year on Iranian workers and toilers by setting a minimum wage for the new year (Year 2024). The increase in workers' wages does not correspond proportionally to the current inflation in society and shrinks the workers' table day by day. Meanwhile, the workers' struggle for determining wages commensurate with their cost of living and inflation continues point by point. In Iran, in the current class struggle, on one hand, there is a reduction and commodification of social services, healthcare, education, housing, the prevalence of temporary contracts, destabilization of labor relations, expansion of layoffs instead of reducing working hours, increasing the retirement age, and ultimately reducing workers' wages without considering the increase in living expenses. These are manifestations of the anti-worker policies of the capitalist system. On the other hand, the conflicting interests of various capitalist sectors and imperialist poles have turned the world into a scene of regional and global competitions and direct or proxy wars. The main victims of these destructive wars are workers, wage earners, and their families in all corners of the world. Currently, the devastating flames of the massacre and genocide of oppressed people in Palestine by the Zionist apartheid regime in Israel and the deadly war in Ukraine and Russia, with the help of global actors, are ongoing before our eyes. For our class, the defense of peace and ending tensions has manifested in the genuine demand of workers on the eve of May Day with the slogan "No to war."

Despite widespread social protests against capitalist policies and especially against war and genocide, this alarming and regrettable situation has not yet been

able to be reversed. Because the working class in its broad sense has not been able to constitute itself as a social class and as the only class alternative to capitalism, in the face of the brazen oppression, to have an effective political presence at the national and international levels. This can be observed in the widespread weakness of workers' class organizations in all countries.

May Day approaches while workers and oppressed masses in Iran are in an unequal war for independence, bread, work, housing, freedom! and the right to a decent human life against an inhuman rule. They are dealing with conditions where their wages below the poverty line, alongside rampant inflation, diminish their purchasing power moment by moment, and the accelerating increase in unemployment adds to this destructive trend, crushing their lives under the heavy wheels of the capitalist system. In the context of these suffocating conditions, the entirety of the capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic is incapable of responding to the most basic demands of oppressed workers in Iran and, fearing a new uprising of the hungry, resorts to prisons, torture, and massacre, with various pretexts such as re-establishing the "righteous path", with fines and social restrictions for those who have not fallen under mandatory cover, seeking to spread more fear and horror in society and prolong its ignominious existence. In such circumstances, the ruling class intensifies the suppression of workers' organizations with full force. Worker activists and social activists are pressured and tortured in prisons for vain reasons. The children of oppressed people are arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and killed for participating in mass protests that have shaken the pillars of the ruling class. The entire ruling class, hand in hand, intensifies oppression and discrimination against women, national and religious minorities, and also Afghan migrant workers day by day. The experiences of the past two decades in Iran have shown that various social upheavals for fundamental changes in economic, social, Political and cultural change requires organized social force from the working classes to overthrow the tyrannical oppression of capitalism and assert their political will and right to determine their own destiny. Successive social upheavals, including the revolutionary uprisings of December 2017, November 2019, and ...

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**1<sup>st</sup> Workers of the world unite!  
INTERNATIONAL  
Workers**

**زنده باد DAY! اول ماه مه!**

کمیته سراسری برگزاری اول ماه مه - خارج از کشور



**long live May Day!**

**Iranian Workers' demands:**

Expelled workers must return to work!

Elimination of Contract companies!

**Imprisoned workers and political prisoners must be released!**

*Unconditional freedom for organizing, protesting and striking!*

Immediate and unconditional stop of war! ☆ Equal pay for equal work!

Secured nationwide public livelihood, free health and education! ☆ Immediate stop to torture and execution!

**Freedom of speech without limit and exception!**

Equal job opportunity without discrimination to gender, nationality and belief!

Recognizing the rights of migrant workers and refugees! ☆ Reducing the retirement age!

Cancellation of temporary contracts, sufficient unemployment insurance!

**Commensurate Wages with the cost of living!**

**Comprehensive and general social security!**

**Forward towards the creation of  
class organizations in Iran!**

## The extension of convergence and coalition of workers is a condition for ending wage suppression

The release of the news on "the possibility of reconsideration of workers' wages in the Supreme Labor Council" on Monday, April 15, by Ilna News Agency, is a reminder of the trend that this News Agency and the entire Labor House (Khaneye e-Kargar) initiated after the imposition of wage suppression last year. They manoeuvred on the necessity of holding a meeting for the restoration of wages until the middle of the year, and they brought up all the elements and ins and outs of this necessity in the media from the perspective of "legal", "economic", and "labor" time and time again with the aim of reaching the limit. They have distorted the possibility of any idea, action and practice for independent organization of workers' dissatisfaction outside the yellow and black quasi-security and government-affiliated institutions and keep the workers hoping for the restoration of wages as much as possible. In this way, they dragged the discussion of wage restoration until October 2023 and even forged a collective agreement "until the end of November, the discussion of wage restoration will be examined in an expert manner during meetings with the representatives of the parties and finally at the end of October meeting "Wage restoration should be established officially." They lied, and when the hopes and expectations of wage restoration were completely crushed within a few months, Sault Mortazavi officially denied any discussion of wage restoration and held a meeting for this purpose in the Supreme Labor Council.

The same game has been resumed this year by ILNA News Agency in coordination with Kargar's House (bunkhouse) with misleading headlines "possibility of re-examination of workers' wages" with the aim of deceiving the workers again. At the same time, we see that the so-called "justice seeker" trend, which has a closer relationship with the IRGC, Basij and the security forces, is manoeuvring on the impeachment of Sault Mortazavi, and ILNA, in this regard, is referring to Mortazavi's presence in the social committee of the parliament to respond to the "discontent of the labor community with the 35% increase in salaries and wages.

### **A few things are clear for independent labor activists:**

**First:** With seventy thousand Toman (Iranian currency) per one US dollar, and the burning of an important part of the total expected increase in the minimum wage for this year, setting a minimum wage four times below the poverty line in a situation, where the Islamic regime pocketed the income from the sale of a barrel of oil at the price of \$US92. It is not the restoration of wages that he wants, but and ifs and meetings and expressions of dissatisfaction and "possibility" of making news and as if "answering" Sault Mortazavi in the social committee

of the parliament, but the lack of immediate restoration of wages .

The workers want immediate change and quick adaptation and immediate implementation of wage increases in line with the current inflation rate, plus expected inflation and the subsistence basket rate.

**Secondly:** "The dissatisfaction of the worker representatives" (the term used by the Ilna News Agency in line with the official line of the worker's House for the representatives of the Islamic Labor Council in the Supreme Worker Council) if it had any value for Sault Mortazavi and the majority of his allies in the Supreme Worker Council and these so-called self-proclaimed "representatives" of workers themselves, if they were honest, they would not have imposed such naked and violent wage suppression on workers and wage earners. Therefore, reducing the dissatisfaction of the mass of wage earners from this year's brutal suppression of wages and the destruction of livelihood and the right to life of millions of people to "the dissatisfaction of labor representatives" which is not considered very small in the field of defending workers' rights, and manoeuvring on the axis of the impeachment of Sault Mortazavi is a deliberate fallacy. Even If they remove Mortazavi, they will replace him with another viper worse than him, who will carry out the same policy of suppressing wages even worse if necessary.

**Thirdly:** The main issue that Ilna News Agency, Khaney-e -Kargar (House of Workers), self-proclaimed representatives of workers, the fascist-security tendency known as justice-seeker consciously and deliberately hide behind cheap propaganda manoeuvres is the lack of organized power of the country's workers camp to defend the level of subsistence and minimum wage which in the conditions of rapid fall in the value of the country's currency, it can provide the bare minimum for their daily life. It is the formation of this organized power through the creation of independent worker organizations during the ongoing struggles and the expansion of workers' convergence and unity that can provide the conditions for ending the misery of wage repression. The rest is the game of gangs and the reactionary factions of the Islamic regime, which does not and never has been beneficial for the workers.

***THE WORKERS UNITED, WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!***

**REPUBLISHED BY THE RETIRED SOLIDARITY GROUP**

## “Neghin” Coal Mine Workers Strike and Gathering!

"We live here with dry bread... But this is the end..." This is the voice of one of the workers of the "Neghin" coal mine in Tabas (South Khorasan province). The workers who are tired of not paying their arrears and after writing letters for a long time protesting their poor living conditions and the lack of response to their demands, stopped working and gathered on Thursday, April 10, 2024. Mine workers, whose work is one of the hardest jobs available, not only receive low wages in all mines, but the contracting of most workers and the lack of safety at work are the most serious problems that these workers are facing.



### Exposing capitalist AGENTS in the rank and file of workers is part of the class struggle

His Excellency! *Ali Reza Mir Ghafari*, you who support the austerity for the workers by ignoring the hard living conditions and the income and expenses of the workers, is neither a representative of the workers nor a friend of the workers, but is one of the deceivers who is an agent of the enemy in the ranks of workers. Before the arbitral decision on minimum wage by the Supreme Labor Council, The independent labor organizations published a joint statement based on official statistical data showing that the expenses of a worker's household with 10 million Tomans (approximately \$US200.00) per month or 15 million Toman (approximately \$US300.00) per month, or 30 million Toman (approximately \$US600.00) per month is not provided. Although it may act as housing in a limited time and heal the difficult living conditions; it cannot definitively cure the pain and suffering of the workers. Based on this, the organizations announced that the minimum wage for 2024 should not be less than 45 million Toman (approximately \$US900.00) per month. It should be noted that the figure of \$US900.00 per month was not raised out of speculation or "exaggeration". This figure is equivalent to the average cost of an urban household of 4 people in the country now. Therefore, Mr. Mir Ghaffari or anyone else who wants to, in the name of representing the workers, put forward a salary of 15 million Toman (approximately \$US300.00) per month, which is one third of the average cost of living and less than half of the poverty line, as the minimum wage in the next year, is Not a friend of the workers. The gestures of opposition to the low standard of living and the launching of a campaign to raise wages up to 15 million Toman (approximately \$US300.00) per month, by accepting the reduction of essential items in the cost of living, are not acceptable at all from the perspective of knowledgeable workers. Those who do not want to defend the interests of the working class in a clear and fundamental way, their actions become against the interests of workers and toilers. It is more unfortunate that some labor and pension organizations, without knowing the negative impact of the political defense of the so-called labor representatives in the Supreme Labor Council, issue a statement with a big headline saying: "The approval of the minimum wage of 2024 without signing The representatives of the workers have been

approved! The issuers of such statements want to pretend that the members of the Supreme Labor Council, who are appointed as labor representatives in this Council, are really the representatives of the workers in their opinion. And they must be supported. We see how this obvious compromise seeks to buy credit for those who have received their permission to participate in the Supreme Labor Council from the same government, the same Minister of Labor or similar, and the same employers. The representatives of the Supreme Labor Council are henchmen of this anti-labor apparatus. In our opinion, these compromise, right-wing and liberal policies in the labor movement are repugnant and should be exposed. The bearers of these views are allies of capitalism and employers and have no place in the ranks of workers and retirees. People like Alireza MirGhaffari who hold the position of labor representatives are appointed by the government and the employer, and not signing the resolution of the Supreme Council does not give them any credibility. Because their proposal of 15 million Toman (approximately \$US300.00) per month, if it had been approved, would barely cover a third of the average cost of an average family of four, according to statistical data. It is interesting to note that the same Mr. Mirghafari said in an interview with journalists: "Certainly, the capitalist system is not supposed to rule over Iran"! It must be said that with the economic and political system which runs Iran and representatives like MirGhaffari, who claims to represent the workers' interests proves the backwardness of the system. The views of MirGhaffari are not out of his awareness of the condition of workers but are due to his class stand demagoguery and confirmation An exploitative system prevails. The psychological right, who try to create illusions among the workers, towards the ruling system and the Supreme Labor Council, undoubtedly strengthen the shaky foundations of capitalist rule, and they will not have a place in the rank and file of the workers, and they must be exposed. go around March 2024 Haft -Tappeh Sugarcane Workers' Syndicate, Pensioners' union Group, Coordination committee to assist in establishing labor organizations for retired workers of Khuzestan

## Including the determination of workers' wages in the bill sent by the government to the parliament is a clear violation of the labor law

Fatemeh Azizkhani: an expert in the field of labor at the Parliament Research Center March of last year (2023) was the time when the government announced the amount of wages proposed by the workers with all the issues and challenges it had. The Minister of Labor announced that we are planning to send the wage in the form of a bill to the parliament, which is a clear violation of the labor law by the government.

The parliament's entry into the issue of determining wages, with this process, does nothing, but reduce the bargaining power of the worker for the labor community.

Source: Eku Neghar - Retired'Union Group

## Greetings to all colleagues and drivers with honour who are trying to get their rights

6 days left to the big nationwide strike of truckies and drivers all over Iran: To raise fares up to 35%. We all stood united from all the provinces of Iran! 31 provinces of Iran will turn off cars on the first of May (May Day). The workers united, will never be defeated!

## Strike and gathering of workers of Bafgh Central Iron and Steel Company

The workers of the largest economic holding in Yazd Province, Central Iron and Steel Company of Bafgh, once again went on strike and shut down the complex. This strike started yesterday and has entered its second day today.

Following the protest rally of Bafgh Central Iron and Steel Company workers regarding the non-fulfilment of their demands, the entrance roads to Chagharat Mine were blocked with dump trucks.

The most important demand of the iron ore company personnel is that the iron ore not be listed on the stock market until all the obligations of the pension fund towards the city and the personnel are fulfilled, including: -the transfer of preferred shares to the personnel,

-the transfer of 15% of the iron ore company shares to the city ,

-the prevention of layoffs in the company ,

-the construction of a factory The nearby mines, etc., which are mentioned in the minutes of the 16-item meeting of 2013 and the minutes of the meeting of 23 December, 2021 .

And asking the manager of the company to explain why instead of investing 50 thousand billion Toman(\$US1.00 Billion)) in the company, today the company owes 16 thousand Billion Tomans(\$US320.00 Million.) 18 April, 2024

## Life in lieu of bread!

Today, Thursday, 18 April 2024, following a fire in the workers' rest room of a construction project near the East Terminal of Tehran, 6 workers were burned and died in the flames.

All 6 dead workers were Afghan immigrants, who were exploited as slaves in projects related to the real estate bourgeoisie and they did not have any human rights at all.

In cases like this, without the need for any expert investigation, the workers are declared guilty, and a

rial of compensation is not paid to the families of the dead workers; because protesting this injustice can lead to deportation of families from Iran. In fact, in these cases, along with the Afghan worker, a chain of people dependent on the migrant worker's meagre wages are cut off from existence. Even talking about the slave-like behaviour of Afghan migrant workers can cause shivers in the bodies of the delusional racists, who consider themselves the owners of all of Iran.



**1 MAY**  
INTERNATIONAL  
**HAPPY**  
LABOUR DAY

Short News

**Bafgh (the Yazd-Province):** The strike and gathering of the iron workers in central Iran in regards to selling the shares in the exchange market and complicating the situation by 2 percent and corrupt management.

**the discovery of the body of 3 workers of the railway in flood «karvand»**



The bodies of the 3 workers that have been missing were discovered 5 kilometres away from where they were killed, the 4th body still has not been found, and the rescuers as well as locals are searching for it. These 3 workers were of the engineering branch of the railway company by the names of «Ehsan Nazari», «Mohamad Reza Reihani» and «Mansoor Daliri».



Text: We, the workers of Ahwaz National Steel Group, have been fired for the crime of demanding our rights.

Sit down strike by the sacked workers of the «National Group of the Industrial Steel of Iran.» in front of the factory, in protest to their oppressed sacking, the workers have announced that if they are not be reinstated, they will return to the central building of National Bank in protest.

**the gathering of the education and social security retirees of Ahwaz**



“imprisoned teacher must be freed”  
“only in the streets we can achieve our rights”  
“the inflation is in dollars, our wages are in Rials”  
“we don’t want a bribing prosecutor”

**The gathering in protest by the railway personnel in Arak in regards to their livelihood condition**



The personnel of the railway in Arak in protest to their low wages, bonuses, livelihood, and working conditions have gathered in the railway square and are demanding that the management answers their demands.



**Isfahan:** The gathering in protest by the service personnel in district 5 in Isfahan. Monday 15th April.

**the teachers of Marivan and Sarvabad in the protest gathering of the retirees!**



Today the retired teachers of Marivan and Sarvabad gathered in a glorious way in Tehran in front of the program and budget organisation. The guild association of the teachers will continue to demand the retiree’s rights.

**Nationwide truckers' strike in Iran over increased fares From 20 April, 2024 at the invitation of trukies' union organizations nationwide!**

We are all united in raising the fares by 35%.  
We are all standing united in all of the provinces of Iran.  
31 provinces in 21st of April turned off all their engines.  
We are all united!



**Only on the floor of the street we can achieve our right**

These are not slogans, these are small part of our daily life for "not having" what we need that gets more desperate day by day and the managements by the stroke of their add to our pain and suffering. the ineptness of high management in the social security organisation and the despotism of the Labour Minister, plus other influential in higher groups have created a complicated situation for the retirees



We don't have facilities!  
 We don't have roads!  
 We don't have hospitals!  
 We don't have recreational centres!

**the retirees of the city of shoosh, 21st April, 2024 in front of the social security**

**Kermanshah** 14 April, 2024

The gathering in protest by the retirees of the social security.

In line with the retirees of the country in front of social security.

"Be aware Intelligence, we are retirees, not the mob"

**Isfahan**

The protest gathering of the steel works retirees in front of the retirees so steel coffers in Neshat Street "Retirees shout your right, shout for your wage"



The demands of Steel's retirees are the implementation of article 1 of the implementation of article 1 of the directors on 07 October, 2023

Sunday 14th April - The presence of men and women of steel works in Neshat Street

The implementation of the first clause 7th October without any delay!

Sunday 14th April - [the glories gathered by the teachers of Iran in Tehran in front of the budget organisation!](#)

Sunday 14th April the call for gathering will continue tomorrow.

**The operators's protest of the south The Falate ghareh Company in Lavan**

Fr. 19th April 2024 - Demands:

- Removal of the inept managers, and penetrators,
- removal of the wages selling,
- correction of minimum wage,
- Full implementation of Article 10
- removal of the limit in retirees age,
- payment of back pay of Article 10 ,
- non- separation of jobs in operational locations,
- return of the extra taxes ,
- refund of excess taxes,
- Modification of tax collection in operational areas.

About us:

"The Committee in Solidarity with the Iranian workers Movement -Abroad" of solidarity groups and individuals outside of Iran that support Iranian Workers'. Struggle for:

- (1) Democratic rights and economic. Justice;
- (2) Exposing anti- labour policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- (3) Building bridges between the Iranian and international workers' movement.

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