

## **Mayday Greetings: Happy May Day, International Workers Day Message**

**"The white dawn has broken down again,  
And it is the first of May"...**

Once again, we are on the eve of International Workers' Day. This year, Iranian workers commemorate their day under circumstances where the anti-worker regime of the Islamic Republic, as in previous years, is preventing workers from freely celebrating Workers' Day by imposing brutal crackdowns and not allowing them to celebrate their international day freely. The reason for this is clear:

International Workers' Day is the day to demonstrate the tireless struggle of the working class against the capitalists. On this day, workers and their allies demonstrate their unity through organizing meetings and labor gatherings. It is precisely because of the potential to break this unity that the ruling dictatorship has spared no effort to prevent the celebration of Workers' Day by Iran's militant workers and their allies.

With reverence for International Workers' Day and greetings to the militant workers of Iran, who have always fought against the regime of the Islamic Republic (defender of domestic and foreign capitalists) since its inception to realize their rightful demands against this regime, we point out a few important points regarding the current situation of workers and their struggles in Iran:

It is rightly said that "The salvation of the working class lies in unity and organization." Indeed, only workers organized in their own trade unions and political organizations can effectively fight against the oppression and injustices of the capitalists. However, the ruling bourgeoisie in Iran, which has learned from the counter-revolutionary experiences of the global bourgeoisie, has done everything in its power to prevent workers from forming unions and organizing, and to strip them of any class-based organizations.

In the long years of the Islamic Republic's rule, Iranian workers have taken various actions to establish independent labor associations. However, their efforts have always been met with imprisonment, torture, and terror. During

the anti-imperialist and anti-monarchical 1979 revolution, in a revolutionary situation, workers throughout Iran formed organizations known as "councils." However, these councils were short-lived due to the gradual rise of the dictatorial regime of the Islamic Republic. In its first counter-revolutionary actions, the ruling dictatorship crushed these councils. With the suppression of the revolutionary masses and their revolution, the Islamic Republic replaced the workers' organizations with fabricated pseudogenization and called them "Islamic Councils." These councils are, in fact, anti-worker Islamic organizations in the workplace that are tasked with suppressing any kind of workers' struggle in the workplace and are themselves one of the obstacles to the establishment of independent workers' organizations in Iran.

The Islamic Republic regime, is a manifestation of the dictatorship of the capitalist class in Iran, has not only resorted to the most violent methods of repression to prevent workers from organizing during its shameful rule, but has also not shied away from violently suppressing peaceful workers' strikes to win their trampled economic rights, even in conditions where workers sometimes have several months of unpaid wages owed to them by capitalists.

However, the result of the dictatorship's suppression of the workers' trade union struggle has been to transform this economic struggle into a political struggle in the form of a struggle against the regime itself. This means that workers, aware of the Islamic Republic's support for the capitalists, have targeted the ruling dictatorship in their rallies or marches and have made their opposition to the Islamic Republic and its anti-worker policies clear in their slogans and banners. This form of political struggle by workers is, in most cases, met with military repression by the regime's armed agents, and the regime's security forces subject workers to violent treatment.

In the absence of class-based organizations belonging to the workers, the class unity of the Iranian workers is inevitably displayed in the course of their strikes and struggles. However, despite all the workers' struggles that are taking place widely across Iran, Iranian fighting workers are largely empty handed due to the dispersion of their ranks in the face of the capitalists and their supporting regime (the Islamic Republic).

The lack of independent workers' organizations and the absence of a powerful organization of professional revolutionaries who defend the interests of the working class has given the Islamic Republic regime a free hand in pursuing anti-worker policies, including setting the minimum wage, which is ostensibly determined each year based on the prevailing inflation rate.

If we look at the despicable efforts of this regime in determining the minimum wage for this year, we will see that in a situation where, according to assessments by the Islamic Republic's own institutions and reports from state news agencies, "the poverty line for a four-person household is around 25 million tomans," the minimum wage for workers has been set at "8 million and 208 thousand tomans." This means that this year, under the leadership of Ebrahim Raisi's government, the living conditions of the majority of workers have fallen even further below the poverty line compared to previous years. It should be noted that the minimum wage only applies to workers who are covered under the labor law, and workers who are not covered by the labor law according to the Islamic Republic, especially female workers, will be forced to sell their labor power for much less than the minimum wage.

Even if we consider other income such as child allowance and food coupons for workers covered by the labor law, the income of a married worker with two children covered by the labor law in the next year will be 11 million and 107 thousand tomans, which is still far below the poverty line of about 25 million tomans for a four-person family. According to a member of the Supreme Labor Council, the government will take a 10% tax on wages above 10 million tomans. Thus, 10% of this minimum wage of 11 million tomans for a working family is also deducted and returned to the government. It's worth emphasizing that even this meager wage is not fully provided to a significant portion of workers by the Iranian bourgeoisie, who often seize part of it for their own interests. In such a situation, it is no wonder that it is said that Iranian workers are not even able to reproduce their consumed labor power with the wages they receive, and that is why most workers resort to back-breaking overtime or second jobs.

In this way, the parasitic capitalists, relying on the huge reserve labor force of unemployed workers, push these workers to an early death. Given the very dire conditions that our workers are facing, an increase in wages and their timely payment stands at the forefront of the demands of the Iranian working class. Most labor struggles are aimed at achieving this goal. However, achieving these demands is not a simple matter, partly due to the fragmentation of the workers' ranks and the lack of independent labor organizations, but more importantly, due to the absence of a political organization for workers. In the current balance of power between unorganized workers and their allies, it is not an easy task to achieve balance with capitalists and their supportive government if there is no organization.

Workers, we who are severely oppressed in the face of the ruthless repressions of the Islamic Republic, this sword-wielding guardian of the prevailing capitalist order in Iran, have no choice but to intensify the struggles against the capitalists and the oppressive ruling order. Struggle, struggle, and again struggle is the only means that allows them to not only defend their working life and honour but also to prepare themselves for the great struggles with ever-increasing experience and awareness, the ultimate goal of which is the liberation of workers from the shackles of exploitation.

Years of workers' struggles worldwide have shown that the emancipation of workers is only achievable by their own hands. To this end, conscious workers and communist intellectuals have a duty to assist the working class in creating its own independent front. In this path, not only the struggle for better working conditions and a higher standard of living but also the struggle to overthrow the Islamic Republic regime and advance the cause of revolution to achieve socialism is a great task that lies before our workers. In a situation where the revolution against the existing unjust situation is the only way to liberation, and this revolution cannot succeed without the leadership of the working class, it is the duty of conscious workers and working-class intellectuals to take steps in this direction.

The struggle in Iranian society, which has been dominated by imperialists and governed by their dependent capitalist systems, is accompanied by the

inherent dictatorial actions of the government, which requires its own refined approaches. Therefore, conscious workers, alongside revolutionary intellectuals, have the duty to confront the anti-revolutionary oppression of the Islamic Republic regime by creating covert organizations. These organizations must necessarily be political-military formations within the context of Iran, and by exercising revolutionary force, they should pave the way for the broadest possible organization of the working class.

Let us celebrate International Workers' Day by redoubling our efforts to fulfil our role and contribute to the liberation of the working class from oppression and exploitation through intensifying our struggles.

**Long live May Day, International Workers' Day!**  
**Victory to the struggles of workers worldwide against the capitalist system!**  
**Down with the anti-worker regime of the Islamic Republic!**  
**Long live the revolution! Long live socialism!**

**The Iranian People's Fedaae Guerrillas**  
**April 12, 2024, equivalent to Farvardin 24, 1403.**