

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Toufan International

The International Bulletin of the Party of Labour of Iran

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Report on the Second Congress of the Party of Labour of Iran (Excerpt)

After the Founding Congress of the Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan), the Second Congress of PLI was held in a European city. This Congress was held in a restricted atmosphere after the terrorist events of September 11. The number of the participating delegates could not go above a certain limit, and the planning and holding of the Congress had less "freedom". In fact, the Congress was held in a condition of secrecy and had a natural cover.

The Party of Labour of Iran does not believe in using the videos of the Congress and its speakers to show its "numerical strength" to the foreign powers in order to get

assistance, and our organisational training does not allow that our Comrades develop confidence in the class enemy.

Our Congress was a fighting congress not a publicity congress as are the social democrats, the British Labour Party, and the US elections. Our Congress was held at a time when the imperialists were bargaining on which party, organisation, group, and individuals should be put on the list of terrorists. The imperialists have not disclosed this list, and it is unclear whether they have put the genuine communists and Marxist-Leninists on the list. It is unclear whether they have

intention of persecuting the genuine revolutionary forces and deprive them of even bourgeois rights. The scissors are in the hands of the imperialists. They are the ones who made Osama bin Laden a "combatant" and a "freedom fighter" in the past and a terrorist and dangerous murderer at the present. They are the ones who declared the terrorist organization of "Ucka" a "liberation army" overnight and put it on the list of the terrorist organisations when its usefulness to them was expired. With the presence of all delegates from different countries, Comrade stood up for a moment of silence for the : Continued on page 2

In Remembrance of 1979 Iranian Revolution

The Regime of the Islamic Republic: 23 Years of Crimes, 23 Years of Betrayal, 23 Years of Theocratic Rule!

Workers, labourers, intellectuals, youths, and women of Iran,

The 23rd anniversary of the glorious Iranian revolution is coming in a situation that the political-economical policies of the regime of the Islamic Republic led by Khamenei, Khatami, Rafsanjani, the Judicial Branch, the Islamic Parliament, the "Assembly of Expert", etc have resulted in despotism, poverty, misery, economic bankruptcy, scandals, concentration of wealth in the

The Iranian Teachers Have Joined the Battle, Support Their Struggle!

Thousands of Iranian teachers have staged a protest movement during the past two weeks. Their demands include higher wages, an annual pay raise, better health insurance, housing subsidies, freedom of speech, and the establishment of an independent teacher association. On 15th of January, more than ten thousand teachers protested in Tehran, marching in many streets of the Capital. They chanted slogans such as:

- Tuesday, Tuesday, unity, unity!
- If our demands are not met, we will come back with students!
- Incapable Minister, resign, resign!
- The government controlled television, off, off!
- The teachers may die, but they will not tolerate degradation!

Congress

memory of all fallen comrades and revolutionaries who made supreme sacrifices for the emancipation of human kind from the class oppression and for the establishment of socialist and humane societies. Comrades obligated themselves to work even harder for the emancipation of the working class. The delegates were presented with the reports of the Central Committee on the work of the organisation in the past two years and on the present world political situation. The report gave analysis on the political situation in Iran, on the development in the region, and on the imperialist policies of the World Bank and WTO and IMF in regard to Iran. The report evaluated the recent policies of the regime of the Islamic Republic, the failure of the reforms from above, the infighting of the different factions of the Islamic regime, the splits and alliances that have taken place, and the class splits that will take place in the future.

The Congress looked at the situation of the working class of Iran, the uprisings, especially by the youth, and the resistance put up by the Iranian women. The Congress mapped out the organisation's line for the work in these fronts in the future.

The Congress reviewed the activities of the Bureau of the External Relations and the relations it has established either with the Iranian oppositions or with our Fraternal Parties and Organisations. The Congress pointed out the positive effects of the International Bulletin of the Party of Labour of Iran, Toufan International.

The Party's views on the development in Iran and in the Persian Gulf region have become a reliable source for our Fraternal Parties and Organisations. In this regard, the regular mailing of the Party's Central Organ has been effective and our Internet home page has played a positive role.

The Central Committee reported on the activities of the organisation in Iran and raised the difficulties it has been facing in the past two years. During the discussions, the participants raised concrete proposals to overcome these difficulties.

The organisational policy of ours is the examined policy of "organisational scattering and centralised leadership". The members of the Party must form scattered units and the units must have relations only through the leadership. This organisational form

police attacks and minimises the danger.

The Central Committee reported that some of the former comrades have investigated the Party's views on different questions and have decided to join us again. We hope that other former comrades overcome their doubts and join us too. Our Party has upheld the banner of the Marxist-Leninists and continues the glorious path of the Communist movement in Iran. Our organisation praises the great October Revolution of the Bolsheviks and is proud of thirty years of the construction of socialism in the Soviet Union. Our organisation defends the former Union of the Socialist Republic of Lenin and Stalin. Our organisation is disgusted by the revisionism of Khrushchev- Breznev-Gorbachev-Yeltsin who were allies of imperialism. Our Party exposes the lackeys of revisionism in Iran, the Tudeh Party, and the Fadaian Majority, who betrayed the Iranian people and handed in the Iranian revolutionaries to the butchers of the Islamic Republic.

The Party of Labour of Iran has upheld the banner of the struggle against Economism-Trotskyism of the "worker-communist party of Iran". In our assessment, this organisation is the enemy of workers, of communists, and of the international communist movement, and it is composed of new nihilists.

Our organisation calls upon all those who have love for communism, those fighters who do not think the struggle for the liberation of the working class and for socialism is easy, to join us. Our doors are open to these comrades.

The Congress discussed the significance of financially contributing and assisting the organisation. Our Comrades know that the organisation relies only on its forces and will not beg any class enemy in any country for financial assistance. To meet its expenses, the organisation does not theorise any justification to beg from the enemy. The Party relies mainly on the sacrifices of its members and supporters. We greatly appreciate the assistance the comrades have given to the organisation. Once again, we call upon all comrades, friends, and freedom lovers to make financial contribution to the organisation.

The greeting messages from our fraternal Parties and Organisations were delivered at the Congress and were received with warm applause.

The Congress approved the report of the Central

scattered units and the units must have relations only through the leadership. This organisational form restricts the speed of the work and of the inner-party democracy, but, under the extreme police suppression, it safeguards the body of the organisation from the

The Congress approved the report of the Central Committee. It formed several committees to take up different tasks, to look into successes and difficulties, and to come up with concrete proposals.

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Congress

The Organisation will publish the documents of the Congress in the near future.

The vast participation of the delegates in the discussions and in the preparation of the documents is evidence that the comrades feel they are working towards a common goal. This participation of Comrades advances the level of their consciousness, trains them for leadership positions, and adds to their experience.

The Congress approved the reports given by different committees and elected the new Central Committee. At the end, the comrades rose up to sing the Internationale

Arise ye prisoners of starvation. Arise ye wretched of the earth.

For justice thunders condemnation. A better world's in birth.

No more tradition's chain shall bind us. Arise ye slaves no more in thrall.

The earth shall rise on new foundations. We have been naught, we shall be all.

Tis the final conflict.

Let each stand in his place.

The Internationale shall be the human race.

Remembrance

hands of a very few, and in deepening of the class distinctions.

At the present, 80% of the Iran's population is suffering from poverty, and 1/3 of the population lives under extreme poverty.

At the present, drug addiction, drug trafficking, prostitution, suicide, crime, and bribery which all have roots in economic poverty created by the regime of the Islamic Republic, are wide spread and are suffocating our nation.

The regime of the Islamic Republic, which is the product of 50 years of despotism and cultural poverty of the puppet regimes of the Pahlavis (The Shah and his father), is continuing to commit crimes against our freedom loving people. The Islamic regime, as in the past two decades, continues to respond to the just demands of the masses with suppression and bullets.

youths and women, etc have rapidly intensified in the past year. These are all indications that our society is boiling within, and that our people are moving in the direction of fulfillment of the demands of the 1979 Revolution: political freedom, freedom of expression and pen and opinion, the right to form independent trade unions and political organisations, the right to have a humane life, and the establishment of a just society. The need to overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic is felt by our masses. The Islamic Regime is trembling, and another revolution in on the way.

The combatant people of Iran,

After 23 years of crimes, treachery, and theocratic rule the regime of the Islamic Republic is finding itself surrounded by the mass movement. The Islamic regime is also implicated with terror and is isolated internationally. Iran, on the 23rd anniversary of its revolution, is in danger of military attacks by the U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism. The ill-fated policies of the Iranian government and the uproarious statements made by Rafsanjani threatening Israel with an atomic bomb, all add water to the imperialists' mills. The vultures are flying in the Iranian skies and, with the pretext of swallowing the corpse of the Islamic Republic, are trying to divert the struggle of our people and to prevent the revolution from materialising. We must be vigilant not to let the tragedy of the 1979 Revolution repeat itself.

Worker, toilers, revolutionary intellectuals, youths and militant women,

The history of the international revolutionary movement in the past one hundred years shows that the oppressed people can gain their real freedom only when they are united for an independent struggle led by the Marxist-Leninist party of the working class. It is only the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Iran based on the soviets of the workers and toilers that can break the political-economical-cultural-social chains, that can build a free Iran, and that can abolish the exploitation of man by man.

The Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan)

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past two decades, continues to respond to the just demands of the masses with suppression and bullets. Executions, imprisonment, the banning of the press, the arbitrary arrest and harassment of writers and journalists have continued in the President Khatami's era.

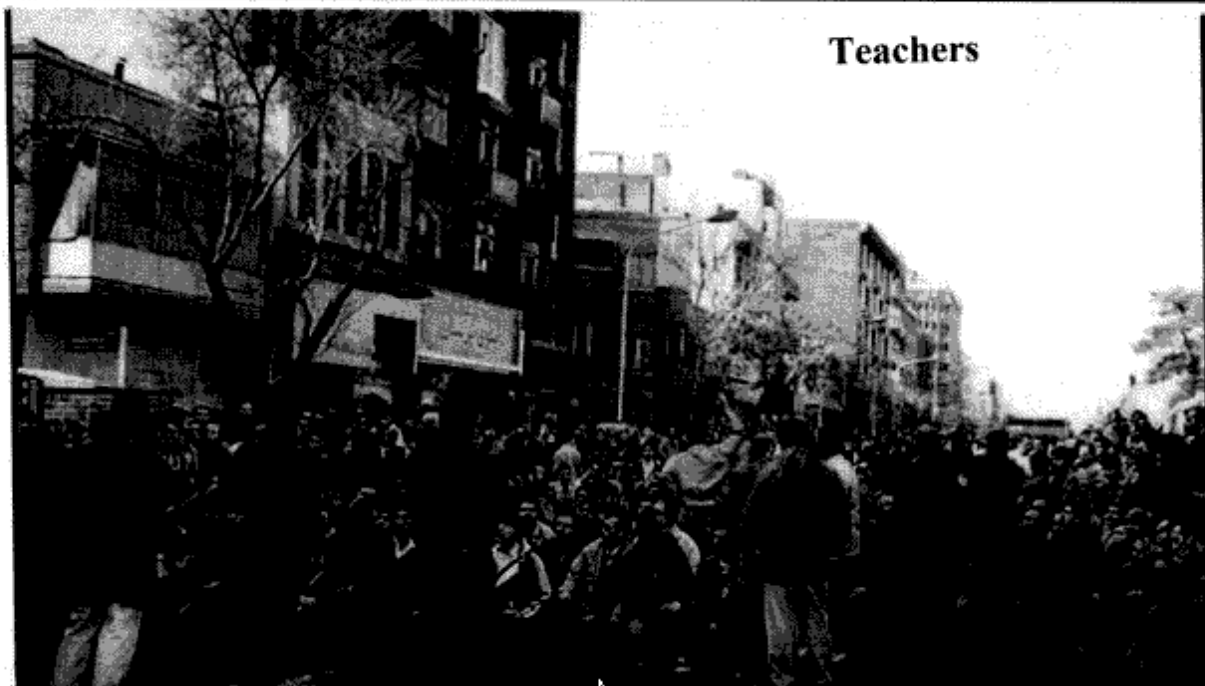
On the other hand, the struggle of the factory workers, the united protests of the teachers, the street battles by

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Teachers

On 18th of January, thousands of Tehran's teachers demonstrated again, chanting more slogans:

- We live below the poverty level, the Parliament has no clue!
- Teachers are tired, enough discrimination!
- Teachers fight, the media are silent!

On Tuesday 22nd of January, more than 15000 teachers and students gathered in front of the Parliament. They were reiterating their demands and warning the government officials. This demonstration was held even though the officials of the Islamic Republic had opposed it, even though the regime's media had spread lies of cancellation of the event, and even though the coverage of their previous demonstrations was totally ignored by the regime's media

The demonstration called for a countrywide general strike of teachers on January 26th. The demonstrators chanted "Our annual wages are equivalent to one month's wages of a member of the Islamic Parliament". The Parliament representatives who wanted to address the gathering were shouted down. The demonstration gained strength of 50 thousands after a few hours. Some reports indicate that over 75% of the schools in Tehran were closed for the day.

forces had blocked the streets in order to prevent the people from joining the marchers. The teachers fought back and chanted " Mercenaries go away!" "Khatami, dialogue of civilisations with clubs!" "Khatami, club is not the response!" Clashes with the armed forces continued for many hours. Hundreds were injured and many were arrested by the thugs of the Islamic Republic.

Similar demonstrations were held in many other cities of the country.

The presence of the female teachers was significant in these demonstrations and constantly increased.

The miserable economic conditions, high unemployment, lack of affordable housing, pressure and political suppression, drug addiction, prostitution, all and all are the by-product of the 23 years of the capitalist rule of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The teachers' demonstrations are a logical response to these problems that are imposed upon them. Our organisation calls upon all progressive mankind to support the just struggle of the Iranian teachers. We call upon our Fraternal Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations to condemn the regime of the Islamic Republic for its crimes during the past 23 years.

were closed for the day.

On Saturday, 26th of January, thousands of teachers demonstrated in many Iranian cities. In Tehran, demonstrations took place in front of the parliament, in front of the Presidential Palace, and in front of the Supreme Leader's residence. The teachers carried banners inviting the public to join them. The armed forces of the Islamic Republic, who were on full alert, called the demonstration illegal and attacked the marchers with tear gas and clubs. The government

crimes during the past 23 years.

The schoolteachers, as the factory workers, are more united against the Islamic regime today than before, and are more determined to carry out a common struggle against the Islamic authorities. The teachers, as the factory workers, have come to the conclusion that their struggle must target both factions of the Islamic Republic, The Reformists as well as the Conservatives. This can clearly be seen from their slogans such as

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Imperialism

of the international law and the Geneva Convention. The U.S. forces claim that the war captives, who had gone through security and body search, had taken grenades to the prison and had tried to organise themselves and to revolt, and that the U.S. troops had to kill all of them to put down their uprising. The U.S. government opposed any international organisation to investigate the incident.

The U.S. forces used the same method in Ghandehar, Jalal Abad, and in Kabul. The U.S. forces have been ordered not to take any captives but finish Taliban forces on spot. Thousands of the Taliban's military forces were Arabs from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Algeria, Somalia, Kosovo, and Chechnya who were trained in the CIA camps in the past two decades and sent to Afghanistan to fight the Soviets. These Arabs, together with the Pakistanis, formed the main forces of Taliban's army. Their captures cause a lot of problems for the U.S. Only when the captives are dead, the U.S. could breath comfortably! The American government claims that these elements cannot be sent to their countries because they are terrorists and will remain terrorists, and that they will always be a danger to the U.S. interests. The U.S. led coalition in Afghanistan, together with the Northern Alliance, which is not a better force than Taliban, have created a blood bath in that land.

This method was also used by the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran as soon as it took power. The Shah's officials and army generals were executed without any public trial, without the presence of the representative of the people, and without any defense lawyers. This was not protested by any international organisation. Then, the Islamic Republic, with the help of Tudeh Party and the Fadaian (Majority) slaughtered thousands of communists, revolutionaries, and progressive opponents.

Israeli Zionism. The imperialists have never respected the international norms and will continue to violate them.

Today, the situation is such that even the so called pro civil and bourgeois rights activists, who were "heroes" of the defense of the human rights and opponents of the totalitarian communists, have shut their mouth and have crept into their shell. They are exposing their deceitful nature by their quietness at the time when action is needed. Dropping cluster bombs, atomic bombs, uranium-enriched bombs, and biological and chemical bombs is a crime against humanity even if they are dropped on Taliban regime. He who does not protest this crime now, cannot protest it when these weapons are dropped on the people of Iran, Iraq, Korea, Indonesia, Somalia, etc. He who stays quiet on this crime, or approves it under the pretext of "refutation of the pacifist notion of a war" lacks any revolutionary principle.

Teachers



of communists, revolutionaries, and progressive opponents.

The war captives cannot be killed. This is an internationally recognised principle. This is a principle that cannot be violated. The implementation of this principle has nothing to do with whether the captive is reactionary or progressive, whether we agree with his opinions or not, or whether he has fought for a just cause or not. The murder of a war captive is a crime. A pro Taliban captive cannot be tortured even if he himself had been a torturer. We communists will not degrade ourselves to the level of Taliban, of the regime of the Islamic Republic, of the U.S. imperialism, and of

"The Islamic authorities, shame, shame!" and from the gathering centers of their demonstrations.

The regime of the Islamic Republic is weary of the continuation and spread of the teachers' protests. This over a million strong force, together with tens of millions of students, who have already been in clashes with the regime, could unleash a gigantic protest movement to overthrow the theocratic regime in Iran, and to play a significant role in building a just society.

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Imperialism and Respect for the International Norms!

On the imperialist's bargaining tables, there are no talks of how many more thousands of the people of Afghanistan will be killed by the U.S. bombardments. There are no talks about whether they are ordinary Afghans or they are Taliban. There are no talks about whether the lives of millions of peasants of Afghanistan who have to return to cultivate their lands after the war would be in danger by the use of inhumane, illegal, and internationally boycotted cluster bombs.

The talks are only to justify that in every war there would be casualties and that in the war against terrorism and for the "salvation of humanity" from evil, the public must willingly accept the fact that there will be some casualties. The talks and bargaining are only on the extent of the casualties.

When we listen to the media of the "democratic" imperialist countries, the propaganda and brain washing are so extensive that we hardly find any statement that the masses of Afghanistan are also human beings and that it is unacceptable to drop cluster bombs on them. In the imperialist media, what is important is that the U.S. reaches its imperialist goals as quickly as possible.

The imperialists justify the bombardment of Afghanistan by claiming that their intentions is to finish the job of eliminating the "evil" as soon as possible. They try to pretend that the destruction of Afghanistan is a humane action and that it is for the reduction of casualties and the salvation of Afghans. Imagine that the American warplanes use the same method to "track down" the armed forces, Hezbollah, and the "Revolutionary Guard" in Iran. Can we Iranians support and celebrate this despite our disgust for these forces

Iran.

The imperialists' propaganda policy is clear to us. They expose the documents they have hidden for many years on the Taliban's crimes and its reactionary role in the region. The imperialists say that, in Afghanistan under Taliban, education was forbidden, that teachers were murdered for educating kids, that the women did not have right to go to street without their male guardians, that women had no right to work, that Taliban raped women and children, that the sport fields had turned into the fields for execution, that Taliban preferred to execute than to imprison, etc.

The imperialists denied for many years that these because the regime of Taliban was their allies. It is clear that the imperialists have no concerns for the human rights and the rights of women in Afghanistan. For them, human rights is a political tool for gaining short and long-term interests. When they needed the regime of Taliban, they justified these crimes under the pretext of "realisation of and respect for" different cultures. For the imperialist, cultural and civil and human rights are relative. For them, the violation of the human rights and the degradation of women in Afghanistan did not stem from the dark reaction and backwardness of Taliban, but they were part of the Islamic culture that had to be accepted.

The crimes that imperialists had justified under "cultural relativism" in the past two decades are terrorism and barbarism that must be uprooted. Indeed, the imperialists' deceit nauseates every decent human being.

The policy of the world imperialism headed by the U.S.

Revolutionary Guard in Iran. Can we Iranians support and celebrate this despite our disgust for these forces and for the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic? No, we cannot! The monarchists and their uncrowned leader, the Shah's son, wish the U.S. bombardment of

being.

The policy of the world imperialism headed by the U.S. is clear. Every enemy must be beheaded. In Mazar e Sharif, the war captives were shot to death in violation

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Toufan International is published quarterly and includes selected articles from Toufan, the Central Organ of the Party of Labour of Iran.

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