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No war, no sanctions! No to the theocratic regime!

Solidarity with the masses in Iran - not Moussavi!

Iranian society is convulsed by a political crisis on a scale not seen for over a decade. Masses of Iranian people have taken to the streets – first, to protest against the results of the rigged elections. But the protests are going much deeper now, as the actions of the students and the Khodro car workers are showing (see their statement below).

Iranian society remains on a knife-edge. Supporters of Hands Off the People of Iran (Hopi) are in daily contact with Iran and are pushing for maximum solidarity from the workers' movement here with the progressive forces in that country. We are fighting to ensure that the upsurge against theocratic rule is not derailed by demagogues and sell-out merchants from within the regime itself.

The main danger of that comes from Moussavi, the 'reformist' darling of the Western media. While he correctly denounced the elections as a "charade", what about the highly dubious results of the nine previous presidential elections in Iran's Islamic Republic? In the 2009 election, he did not bat an eyelid when the Council of Guardians disqualified over 400 candidates. He did not think the process was a "charade" when the supreme religious leader intervened time and time again to defend Ahmadinejad.

Even now, although he is furious about losing the elections, he has not called on the Iranian people to mobilise – he fears losing control of the masses. Instead, he has called on the 'Religious centres of Guidance' (elite shia Ayatollahs) to denounce the result. He is no fan of radical democracy and mass movements. And neither are the heads of imperialist governments like the US and UK, of course. They want to see a safe, orderly transition in Iran to a compliant, pro-western regime.

And, like Mohammad Khatami, Moussavi is well aware that the survival of the 'Islamic order' is in his interests. That is why, even when he is clearly a victim of the supreme leader's lunacy, he cannot afford to see mass protest broaden, deepen and start to demand more fundamental change. This split within the ranks of the regime itself has allowed the smouldering anger below to find expression on the streets.

We should not confuse the ordinary Iranians confronting the militias with establishment politicians like Moussavi – the interests of the two are distinct and, at the end of the day, in total opposition to each other.

Hopi stands against any interference by western imperialist governments in Iran – whether this takes the form of military attack, sanctions or a sponsored 'colour revolution' a la Moussavi. We say that the Iranian people themselves – the students', women's and working class movements – must fight for their own independent interests. A war would be a disaster for the working people of that country; but the barbaric rule of the theocracy is also intolerable and should be fought from below.

Iranian students report a June 14 wave of attacks on students in the Tehran, Babol and Isfahan universities with many badly beaten and at least one dead. Unless the protest movement becomes stronger and clearer in its aims, there is a real danger that the trend around Ahmadinejad will use the pretext of the disruption to launch a wave of repression across society as a whole.

We must do all in our power to stop this and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Iran.

A Statement by Iran Khodro Car Workers – December 6 2009

Fellow workers and friends,

During the last few days tens of workers, students and grieving mothers [a reference to mothers of young people killed following protest gatherings on December 4] have been arrested and sent to jail. Many of our colleagues and fellow workers are in prison. Tens of students, who are our children and our allies, are incarcerated. Mothers have been held. The government is closing its eyes to reality and arresting anyone they want. The country is under the grip of security forces and people do not even have the right to gather in a public park.

- In which country is it illegal to demand payment of unpaid wages?
- In which country is it forbidden to go to a park or

to climb mountains? [The regime has banned students from climbing in case they organise political meetings under the guise of mountain climbing]
- What is the crime of our grieving mothers?
- In which country is it illegal to form workers' organisations?

Fellow workers, how dare they be so shameless? We must protest! The situation created by the government is unbearable. Freedom is a basic right of all human beings.

Long live freedom!

Group of Iran Khodro Workers
Translated and distributed by Hopi

Our campaign demands:

- **No to imperialist war! For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of US/UK troops from Iraq and all the Gulf region!**
- **No to any imperialist intervention. The immediate and unconditional end to sanctions on Iran!**
- **No to the theocratic regime!**
- **Opposition to Israeli expansionism and aggression!**
- **Support to all working class and progressive struggles in Iran against poverty and repression!**
- **Support for socialism, democracy and workers' control in Iran!**
- **For a nuclear-free Middle East as a step towards a nuclear-free world!**



If you oppose the war plans of the imperialists - but support the struggle for an Iran free of the oppressive clerical regime - join us! Individuals: £10 or £5 unwaged (organisations see website).

Name _____

Organisation/union _____

Mobile phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please return to address above

Supporters include:

- **Diane Abbott** Labour MP
- **John McDonnell** Labour MP
- **Peter Tatchell** OutRage
- **Caroline Lucas** Green Party MEP
- **Tommy Sheridan** Solidarity
- **Ken Loach** filmmaker
- **John Pilger** journalist
- **Naomi Klein** writer and activist
- **Dr Hilary Rose** scientist
- **Haifa Zangana** writer
- Cllr **Rania Khan** Respect
- Cllr **Lufta Begum** Respect
- Iranian Workers Bulletin
- Workers Left Unity - Iran
- Communist Party of Great Britain
- Green Party
- Organization of Revolutionary Workers of Iran (Rahe Kargar)
- Communist Students