

Model resolution

Iran: No to war and sanctions! For regime change from below!

The war drums against Iran are beating ever louder. The new embargo on Iranian oil, to come into force on July 1, is only the latest in a long list of measures imposed by US and EU imperialism. It bans all new oil contracts with Iran, and cuts off all existing deals. Also, all of the Iranian central bank's European assets are to be frozen.

Sanctions are only the first step in wars being waged against 'unfriendly' regimes. A military attack against Iran is very much on the agenda. Should the regime in Tehran really decide to close the Strait of Hormuz, this could happen sooner rather than later. The military provocations of US-led imperialism – assassinations, sabotage and preparatory military manoeuvres in the region – have also dramatically upped the tension in the country and are being used by the theocracy to increase repression.

This conference/union/branch notes:

- The 'nuclear danger' is used by imperialism as an excuse to deal with an increasingly unstable situation in the Middle East. Imperialism has recently lost a number of friendly regimes in the region (like Egypt) and needs to reassert control in this oil-rich area. War is also a useful distraction from economic misery and the current crisis of capitalism.
- Former International Atomic Energy Agency analyst Robert Kelly has debunked the latest report purporting to show that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Of the three pieces of 'evidence' that are not out of date, two are entirely unverifiable, and one an obvious forgery (see: <http://hopoi.org/?p=1841>). But the regime draws sustenance from these rumours: the threats against Iran help the theocracy to stay in power, neutralise the opposition and unite the people behind a regime under attack from imperialism.
- The new sanctions will make it even more difficult for Iran, Opec's second largest producer, to be paid in foreign currency for its oil exports (which were worth more than \$100 billion in 2011). Previous rounds of EU and US sanctions targeting Iran's financial system have already caused a shortage of foreign currency. A shortage of foreign currency means that Iran cannot import food at a time when food prices have already risen to astronomical levels. The Iranian rial has tumbled to a new low.
- But the sanctions are unlikely to dramatically weaken the regime. The rich and powerful are able to protect themselves to a large degree from the effects. In fact, leaders of sanctioned regimes are almost always strengthened (and enriched) by sanctions.
- Sanctions will mean even more misery for ordinary Iranians: many workers will not receive their wages in time (if at all) and even the BBC has warned that social security payments and the remaining food subsidies could be the first to be cut by a theocracy under financial pressure. This will only increase the hardship and miserable conditions that our brothers and sisters in Iran have had to endure for many years.
- As the examples of Iraq and Afghanistan prove beyond doubt, democracy can only come from below, from the people themselves. But a people driven to their knees by brutal sanctions are hardly in the position to overthrow dictatorship.

This conference/union/branch resolves:

- To support demonstrations and actions against sanctions and military actions against Iran and to support the mass movements in Iran working to bring around regime change from below.
- To encourage members and contacts to send solidarity messages, photos, videos and recording to Hands Off the People of Iran as part of the 'My voice against war on Iran' campaign (<http://hopoi.org/?p=1857>)
- To support Hands Off the People of Iran by donating or affiliating to the campaign (local organisation £25, small national/regional organisation £50, large national/regional organisation £100)