

## **The Declaration of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Iran on the Occasion of May First Workers' International Day (2008)**

The Communist Party of Iran congratulates all the working women and men and freedom-loving people all over the world on the occasion of the First of May the workers' international day of solidarity.

The Iranian working class is preparing for the celebrations of this day under the worst economical circumstances that have been incurred by the Iranian capitalistic class which has the full support of the Islamic regime. The 'Monster of Inflation', as the regime calls it, with an actual rate exceeding 30%, has made it a burdensome thing for the great majority of the working families to provide themselves with the basic and daily life needs. With this high inflation and price rates, the annual 20% salary increase that is defined by the government and the supreme council cannot be the answer to these difficult economic situations.

Last year these same institutions that favor the government and the employers defined a minimum monthly salary of 183 thousands Tomans while according to independent research institutions the rate of poverty was estimated over 800 thousand Tomans in Tehran and over 600 thousand Tomans in the other cities. According to these estimations, large sections of the Iranian working class are cast much under the line of poverty. Let's not forget that this 20% salary increase doesn't include a wide section of those workers who are not covered by the labor law. The workers state that under these circumstances we are not any more able to ensure even a meager life for our families and ourselves and with our current salaries we can not even cover the house rents.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has exacerbated the hard economic situations and on top of it continues both the social suppressions political strangulations. Last year this oppressive regime imprisoned Mahmoud Salehi one of the leaders of the Iranian workers movement just few days before First of May with an aim to take revenge against the labor activists and prevent the celebrations and demonstrations on this day. The sentences of imprisonment and lashing for activists and organizers of the rallies of the First of May in Sanandaj proved it to all that the regime will not hesitate to use the most barbaric medieval methods to oppress and torture the workers.

The regime is still keeping Osanloo, the head of the Wahed company workers syndicate in prison, and continues to prosecute, detain and torture the activists and organizers of the workers strikes of the Haft-Tapeh Sugarcane Company. In the few past weeks the regimes anti-riot guard forces attacked and occupied the Kayan Tire factory and detained hundreds of workers in the production line. These atrocities by the regime illustrate the regime's fear of the growth and progress of the workers movements and shows best the significance and glory of the workers movement.

The Iranian workers movement has never surrendered to the insatiable thirst of the Iranian capitalistic class for profit neither to the oppressive attacks by the Islamic regime. Last year we saw hundreds of significant demonstrations and strikes by the workers in

various production and service sectors. An outstanding example has been the continuous strikes by the Haft-Tapeh Sugarcane workers. During these struggles the workers stood for their rights and benefits against the atrocious attacks by the capitalist and their supporting government. Though the workers demands in these struggles have remained defensive due to class power balance but these same movements in which the workers are picking up more radical ways of fighting, have undermined the walls of suppression and strangulation and not only have provided the possibility for the labor activists and leaders to continuously fight for the creation of the workers class and mass unions, but also has empowered the other freedom-loving movements in the society. The growth of socialist trends among the student movement that promotes the strategy of unity with the workers movement, and the strong socialist inclination in the women's movement are all the result of the activities of the workers movement and its presence on the struggle field.

It is now clear for everyone that the Iranian capitalistic and the Islamic regime are the main reasons behind the economic hardships and people's living under the line of poverty and are known as the main factors of political suppression and strangulation, sex apartheid and the symbol of oppression, crime and notoriety. Under these circumstances it is the working class that is going to awaken the spirit of struggle in the masses against this situation and herald the flag of collective emancipation from the vicious claws of the capitalistic system.

The working class can not perform its history-making role just by relying on its historical legitimacy, its revolutionary potentials and objective self-confidence. The working class must put an end to the lack of self-organization and unity among itself and, as the first step towards this, create its class and mass organizations if it wants to perform its role. The Iranian working class needs these organizations not only to perform its historical role but also to save itself from the hard economic situations, to defend its human dignity and historical credit and not suffer anymore. It's these realities of the class struggle that has still kept the effort for organizing worker class unions on the top of the priority list by the labor activists and forerunners.

In the latest years, the Iranian working class has made the struggle for the right of strike and independent commemoration of the First of May, which is forbidden by law, a real part of the workers' struggle against the capitalists and their regime by sacrificing many of its activists and forerunners.

Now the workers continuous strikes and struggles for achieving their demands and the involvement of a new generation of labor activists and forerunners that is organized in different unions and who has put the workers self-organization on its agenda, has made it possible to form worker unions in the heart of this economic hardship and political strangulation.

The worker activists and forerunners can move towards creating workers' class unions by relying on their own experiences and by benefiting from the Wahed Company workers' experience for creating their own syndicate, by planned work and by focusing their forces on big and key production and service centers. By taking practical steps at work and

production centers towards creating worker unions, the natural struggle by different inclinations inside the working movement can find its actual place and this natural metabolism will not lead to the erosion and waste of energy on the battlefield.

Now at the threshold of First of May and while the worker activists and forerunners are planning for more organized and splendid commemoration of this day, we should once again emphasize on the main demands by the working class that can bring in a democratic and revolutionary labor law and ensure the freedom of Mansour Osanloo and other jailed workers and at the same time we should draw the attention of the working masses to the importance and necessity of centralizing their strength and struggles on creating workers class and mass unions. Only victory in the struggle for creating workers class unions can guarantee the advance of the struggle in the other fields.

Workers that are self-organized can implement and execute the international verdict of the working class that demands the recognition of the First of May as the workers international day, as an official holiday and workers total freedom in commemorating this day in any way they want.

**Long Live the First of May  
Long Live Freedom, Equality and Working Government**

**The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Iran  
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