

Communiqué from four of those workers who were arrested and sentenced in connection to First May celebration in Saqez

Workers and Freedom loving people of Iran and world

We the undersigned, four of arrested workers in connection to the First May celebration in Saqez (a city in Iranian Kurdistan), would like to inform you and bring to your kind notice the following facts regarding the sentences of 7 of workers activists that were communicated to their lawyers in 9 and 10 of Nov. 2005 by the Section one of the Islamic Court in Saqez:

1- Mahmood Salahehi:

Sentenced to five years prison and three years forced exile to city of Qorveh (a city in Kurdistan)

2- Jalal Husaini:

Sentenced to three year prison

3- Mohammad Abdipour

Sentences to two years

4- Mohsen Hakimi

Sentenced to two years

5- Borhan Divargar

Sentenced to to years

6- Hadi Tanomand:

Acquitted from charges

7- Esmail Khodkam

Acquitted from charges

According to the communicated judgement, the verdicts are based on the article 610 of Islamic punishment act. The article 610 states: “whenever two or more persons create a gathering and collusion for the anti security activities, or being a party to its preparation and commission, they should be sentence to two to five years prisons if it is proven that they are not combatant”.

The communicated judgement further states that the verdicts are grounded and based on:

- 1- A complete and comprehensive investigation from the secret department in Saqez
- 2- Explicit confession of accusers

We believe that none of the above mentioned two points could be a solid ground for issuing these sentences because:

1- The mere statement of “A complete and comprehensive investigation from the secret department in Saqez” without producing the actual result of this investigations in the court or communicating it to the accused, can not be consider as a solid base for the judgement

2- The “explicit confession of accusers” in whole of the written judgement points to the fact that there was no gathering at all. Because the accusers have pointed out from the very first day that when they realised that the municipality has not given the permission for the First May celebration, they simply went to the place where the people were gathered to inform them the gathering has no permission therefore they have to disperse. The very fact that basically there was no gathering at all proved the “explicit confession of accusers” and nullifies and leaves no ground for the legality or illegality of the argument about that particular gathering.

Apart from these, nowhere in the world, workers have to get permission to celebrate the First May. The First May is the international workers day and have become a historical tradition in the workers movement, that workers throughout the world celebrate this day in respect to their fallen comrades. Why commemoration of the mourning month of Moharam (a mourning month in Shiite religion where people mourn the death of prophet’s Mohammad son) doesn’t need the permission whereas the First May celebration requires the permission? In our view, if the mourning ceremonies are a historical tradition and therefore requires no permission then by the same token it should be free to celebrate the First of May also.

In our view, looking at the above-mentioned facts one can easily see that the issued judgement is not according to the common laws in international labour movement or even not in accordance to the Iranian code of conduct, therefore it has no judicial bases and is totally farced. Hence it is an unjust ruling against us, strongly condemn it and we consider that it is our basic right to protest against it. Therefore based on our right to protest and also based on the demands and recourses from different sections of society to protest against the issued judgement, we would like to suggest creation of a socio - political committee under the name “Committee in defence of arrested workers on First May in Saqez”. The committee should be comprised of representatives from workers, students, teachers, women, lawyers, writers and other sections of society and it task is to organises protests against the unjust ruling and annulations of that judgement.