

# Ceasefire by Hezbollah of Lebanon & Downfall of Assad Dictatorship in Syria

# کارگر

Kargar Vol.3, No. 4 December2024/1403



1. In less than two weeks, the ceasefire of Hezbollah with Israel (November 27, 2024) leads to the downfall of Assad dictatorship in Syria. The ceasefire was achieved by the military response of Israel in Lebanon in September to put an end to the volleys of aerial explosives launched by Hezbollah against Israel. Hezbollah was weakened as a result of Israel incursion into Lebanon and taking out its central leader and large number of leading cadre.

Hezbollah started its war in support of Hamas pogrom of October 7, 2023, the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, a day after on October 8. Rulers in Tehran and their “Axis of Resis-

## In this issue:

Ceasefire by Hezbollah of Lebanon & Downfall of Assad Dictatorship in Syria

Iran Crisis: Kargar Party Proposal for Solution to the Crisis in Iran

Hijab and Chastity Bill/Law: Violation of the Rights of Women, Family and Society

tance” celebrated this Jew-Killing actions.

The overthrow of the Assad rule in Syria that quickly followed the ceasefire by Hezbollah ends over five decades of Assad family’s bloody rule that came to power in 1970.

The rise in worldwide anti-Semitism that has manifested itself since the October 7 war against Israel, painting the actions of Israel against existential threat posed by Hamas and Hezbollah as “genocide” and imposition of “starvation”, also recently demonstrated by arrest warrants for Israeli leaders by ICC, an anti-Semitic court in Europe, suffer setback by Hezbollah ceasefire in Lebanon and downfall of Assad dictatorship in Syria.

The impact of events as a result of Israel ability to deliver blows to the war against it from Gaza to Lebanon, resulted in the termination of Assad’s rule in Syria by the military action of opposition groups led by Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). As a result the position of Syrian people has strengthened. Millions of Syrians were driven to war refugees status, they were decimated by tens of thousands killed, urban civilizations turned into rubble by Assad-Soleimani-Putin civil war, a war that was conducted by use of

chemical weapons by the Assad dictatorship, after long and hard suffering Syrians now find an opportunity to mend their lives and country together. Kurdish minority in Syria, now finds the opportunity to expand its sovereignty.

2. The war of Islamic Republic against the existence of Israel declared since its establishment in the aftermath of the 1979 revolution has suffered existential blows: In quick succession, Hamas-Hezbollah war against the right of Israel to exist ran into stiff resistance by Israel, which led the Assad dictatorship to be overwhelmed by its opposition. Key components of “Axis of Resistance” under the command of Islamic Republic (IR) of Iran suffer major defeats. The impacts of these defeats, changes the Middle East for the better.

3. The changes brought about by the overthrow of Assad’s dictatorship demonstrate a fundamental change in the Mid-East politics brought about by the exercise of Israel military action in its defence. A political change that goes as far back as the creation of Israel in 1948 and shakes imperial definitions and interests in the Middle East region.

The above change brings under question and scrutiny the imperial-imposed politics over the Middle East region. An imperial imposed politics upon the world that at its heart rejects the creation of Israel resulting from the Holocaust; and pins the Palestinian suffering, the denial of its right to statehood, on Israel. Along this line the opportunity is provided to the network of semi-colonies of Middle East to blame their woes on the existence of Israel.

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شماره بعدی کارگر نیز در فصل پائیز منتشر خواهد شد

The Palestinian suffering is foremost the responsibility of imperial conduct—Britain and France after WW I and the U.S. since its supremacy after WW II. Israel has been forced to defend itself due to the imperial policy and its semi-colonial regimes in the region. The imperialist policy put in place and defined for the region in conjunction with a network of semi-colonies—by the consolidation of existing states as in Iran, and addition of new states created in the aftermath of WW I—is for all of them, both imperial and semi-colonial, to hold Israel as responsible for Palestinian denial of the right to its state. To define the latter as the fundamental definition of world imperial politics serenaded by its universities and academicians to define Israel as a colonial entity vis-à-vis Palestinians.

The legacy of imperial policy since the creation of Israel in 1948 is observed by its allies across the Middle East. For example, the Shah's tyranny was established by the CIA coup in August of 1953 to control Iran for over a quarter of a century and to sell oil to Israel but not to recognize it until it resolves the Palestinian question! Similar to the present demand by Saudi crown in alliance with Washington that holds back recognition of Israel for the very same reason. All are abiding by the tenets of the imperial policy defined for the Mid-East region by the various imperial powers in Western Europe and the United States since the establishment of Israel.

4. With Hezbollah's retreat from its war launched against Israel from Lebanon, coupled with the downfall of the Assad's dictatorship in Syria, the Israel's right to exist finds the opportunity to step forward like no other time since its creation in 1948.

The ceasefire of Hezbollah in Lebanon will be temporary and conditional until Lebanon recognizes the right of Israel to exist as the foundation for Lebanon's sovereignty. The ruling classes of Lebanon are too tied to Washington-Paris's interest to speak the truth about Lebanon's sovereignty based on the principle of recognition of the right of Israel to exist. The task of recognizing the principles of Lebanon's sovereignty falls on independent and united action by the urban and rural popular classes of that country.

The same goes for Syria in the process of defining its new regime based on existing institutions of Assad's rule after its demise. Recognition of the right of Israel's right to exist is the foundation of Syria's integrity and sovereignty. A historical fact that none of the ruling factions of the country have shown the inclination to adopt to open the road for Syria's sovereignty, most importantly kurdish independence.

Iran's ruling classes who share deep-rooted pro-imperial bias nurtured for over a century from the time of Qajars to the brutal Pahlavi I and II, to the time of IR have no inclination to recognition of the right of Israel to exist. They do not want to open any possibilities for the right of Aghvam (nationalities) suppressed harshly since the inception of Pahlavi by the British in 1920 and again consolidated through the CIA-led 1953 coup, and denied by the IR in the aftermath of revolution of 1979. Thus, they have no hesitation in coming to the aid of the Assad's dictatorship following the revolution of 2011 in Syria to suppress the popular society; they call Syria the "frontline" of resistance to "Zionism".

The victory in the civil war in Syria that took nearly a decade for Tehran, led by the late Qassem Suleimani to achieve and brag about, did not pass the test of history despite its victories. Shia militarism pouring into Iraq, and Syria and fortified in Lebanon to defeat the 2011 Arab Spring in Syria faces bleak prospects with the retreat of Hezbollah of Lebanon from the war against Israel and the downfall of Assad's dictatorship in Syria.

The same principle applies to the rulers of Turkey who officially recognize Israel and in spirit support their fraternal brothers in Hamas. Turkey's support for the opposition military actions to overthrow Assad's regime requires the recognition of the right of Israel to exist as a foundation to Turkey's democracy and sovereignty as well as Syria's sovereignty and democracy.

Opposition to Israel's fundamental right to exist by Middle Eastern regimes is a menace to working people across the region. To recognize the right of Israel to exist, along with the right of minorities in each of the Mid-East semi-colonial countries requires independent alliance and action of the workers and farmers in each country.

Like Iran, Turkey eyes constricting Kurdish national liberation that has risen anew in the aftermath of deposition of Saddam Hussein by the Washington war of occupation of Iraq in the early 21st century, by the establishment of a Kurdish government in Iraq followed by expansion of sovereignty by enclaves' Kurdish autonomy in Syria during the civil war in Syria up to present.

No wonder imperial and Mid-East powers, indirectly or directly, support Hamas. The downfall of the Assad's regime in Syria places imperial policy in jeopardy.

In Gaza, Hamas holding to about 100 hostages have lost much of its military organization. Most Palestinians see Hamas as the culprit of Jew Killing war that has backfired on it. With Hezbollah of Lebanon conceding to end its military assault, and the overthrow of the Assad's dictatorship, Hamas one way or another, must release the hostages and its days in Gaza are numbered if a similar ceasefire to Lebanon is enacted in Gaza.

5. On a wider scale, the history of filling the void of the Washington wars of the 21st century in Afghanistan and Iraq with Tehran-backed Shia militias has run its course resulting in misfortune for the IR. Over a decade of Shia militias dictating the fate of Iraq, opposing the Sunni, and rejecting Kurdish sovereignty as indicated by Tehran's armed actions against its sovereignty (Sept. 25, 2017) and launching its successful military action during the Syrian civil war since 2011 now is faced with the overthrow of Assad dictatorship; its bridge to distorting Lebanon sovereignty with its proxy(s).

Iran's war prospects have suffered like its key allies, Hezbollah of Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, and the overthrow of Assad dictatorship. After two volleys of direct aerial assault against Israel, the last of which (Oct. 1, 2024) was by launching 300 missiles, the biggest war of ballistic missiles in history, it has stopped from further action so far: Israel's limited response to the aerial ballistic missile assault was able to take out considerable air defences and a pro-

duction site of ballistic missiles in Iran.

6. Iran faces exacerbation of economic crisis under Shia-Bazaar leadership after investing tens of billions of dollars in propping up the Assad dictatorship by direct military intervention of its militias—the spread of poverty, increasing unemployment, year-by-year 40% increase in prices and imperial economic sanctions has put nearly half the population into destitution. Tehran Press recently reported a 200 percent increase in military spending.

Nurses, retirees, mineworkers, oil workers and others have raised their opposition to the injustice of not being able to have fair employment and a living wage to support their families and have life security, at their job and home. The current President of IR “promises” to raise the shift salary of nurses for an entire day of work from 25,000 toman (a third of a dollar at current rates) to 75,000 toman, nearly a dollar. Wages for working populations of Iran cannot support a humane life for the families; they are not living wages.

In contrast, the economy under imperial sanctions is rosy for the Shia-Bazaar ruling classes. Urban construction, land seizure, and profits from trade are taking place in Tehran and other big cities. Real estate and automobile prices have multiplied. Oil income is being used for accumulating wealth by the rich and government elite through trade and corruption at the expense of ongoing halt to renovation and vitalizing of industry and agriculture of the country based on the alliance of workers and farmers. Governing bodies, executive, legislative, and judicial officially represent a fraction of the population and are all selected/appointed from

the top. Workers’ organizations and independent socialists who found a breathing spell after the revolution of 1979 suppressed.

The social forces that can turn around the economic slide of the country, namely the independent alliance of workers and farmers and their organizations are restricted. The urban and rural popular classes are blocked from playing their independent role to put an end to poverty, unemployment, and rising prices, to overcome imperial sanctions, and to move the society forward on the tracks to achieve Independence and Freedom.

7. The Islamic Republic is intensifying its military nuclear and missile program. Faced with a downturn in the fortunes of the “Axis of Resistance”, opposed by its own broad populations, its support reduced to government supporters, IR is intensifying its military nuclear and ballistic missiles program. It sees that as the only basis for augmenting its plan for regional domination for its negotiations with Washington and other imperial powers. Its military nuclear program has nothing in common with the needs of society for the generation of nuclear energy/electricity. That is why its small nuclear industry is established deep in the mountains. That is why IR speaks from both sides of its mouth, and maintains its military nuclear program is for peaceful purposes while at the same time declaring variably that it is a few weeks or even one day away from building nuclear bombs.

Only an independent alliance of workers and farmers can put an end to the government’s war against the right of Israel to exist and to end IR military nuclear and missile programs.

8. Lifting the ban on independent Workers Organizations and Socialists can bring Iran out of its crisis brought about by following imperial dictums since the establishment of IR. In Iran, the preparations for the Shia wars of Napoleon took place in the heat of the war of national defense against Iraq Washington-backed war of 1980-88 by suppression of independent socialist, banning their press and publication (Kargar and Fanus) in 1982 and incarceration of its leaders in the winter of 1983. The joint plan of Shia-Bazaar, imperialism, and remnants of monarchy in suppression of independent workers' organizations and socialists is not supported by the public.

9. Government conduct of intrusion and violence, and exercise of capital punishment against the people is rejected by society. The entire campaign of intrusion and violence directed against women, youth, religious minorities, Aghvam (nationalities) by the Shia-Bazaar government has been rejected by the public as indicated by Life-Woman-Liberty in 2023 and its aftermath.

10. Iran needs a Workers' and Farmers' Government to address the immediate needs of society and the long-standing historic capitalist tasks. Over 4 decades of history since the revolution of 1979 has made it clear that no section of Shia and Bazaar government are capable of heeding the demands of the people and society.

The urban and rural popular classes can awaken to their revolution of four decades back, when they had a chance to set up a government independent from capitalism, a government of the peoples, a workers' and farmers' government, and failed to do so due to the leadership

of Khomeini and its fundamental Shia-Bazaar supporters (including the support it received from the main powers of the imperial world led by Washington).

The solution to the economic woes of the country, cultural problems created by the domination of Shia over the state, the urgent need to end intrusion and violence against women, youth, religious minorities, Aghvam, and end to capital punishment, along with expansion of independent workers and farmers organization, safeguarding of freedom of speech and assembly, extension of artistic and intellectual freedoms, establishment of a national democracy based on the independent alliance of workers and farmers, to allow for the achievement of Independence and Freedom by the establishment of a government independent of Shia and Bazaar. A workers' and farmers' government created and supported by the independent action of tens of millions.



# Iran Crisis



## Kargar Party Proposals for Resolving the Crisis

Iran is gripped with its greatest crisis since the advent of Islamic Republic in the aftermath of revolution of 1979. A revolution that toppled the Pahlavi autocracy and removed the strategic base of Washington in the Middle East.

In 1979, Mellat/Iran stood forth by revolutionary means. It stood as equal to the imperial through the exercise of the right to self-determination when it threw aside the autocratic monarchy and removed Washington military outpost.

The revolution of 1979 pronounced an opposition, what had been known for a century: the opposition of the imperial to Mellat, in the latter's heart the working class. This opposition

defines Iran's politics.

Over four decades later, when from the inferno of revolutionary upheaval of 1979, one of the biggest of the 20th century, the cold cauldron remains, the main contenders of the stage, namely Washington and Iran continue to confront. Washington is the central power and authority in the Middle East, and the world for that matter. Iran is a former strategic country and alley of Washington in the Middle East.

During these decades Iran has transformed to an inferno of militarism, ever trying to expand its influence in the region. IR, the Shia-Bazaar government, militarism is a war against the right of Israel—the haven of Jews worldwide—

to exist. The vile dreams of the former Pahlavi regime for dominance over the region, which in its time enjoyed the support of Washington and regarded Israel as a minor partner, are now expressed in the language of Shia supremacy over the region in opposition to Washington. We leave aside for now the fundamental setback suffered in IR strategy by the ceasefire of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the downfall of Assad's dictatorship in Syria during the final months of 2024.

Tehran war against Israel is the opposite of the quest for Iran's Independence and Freedom. This reactionary war removes the favorable position of Mellat for achieving its historical aspirations. Instead of strength, liberation, humility, and brotherhood, it is replaced by trash screeching sounds, false values, and anti-Semitism, and reactionary goals of eliminating Israel's right to exist—a truth increasingly recognized and rejected by society.

Iran's efforts to dominate the region and its barrage of wars are not mere deviations or temporary ignorance; they are not something that will disappear after exhaustion. Rather, they are systemic efforts rooted in the semi-colonial national resources, even before the establishment of the Islamic Republic. These are products nurtured and grown under the Pahlavi dictatorship, which in the hands of the Islamic Republic has taken up the slogan "America is the Great Satan." The extent of Tehran's power was defined under the Pahlavi-Washington dictatorship, and the Islamic Republic operates within this framework, making similar behavior to be expected from it.

Washington's centralized authority over the Middle East is the largest military footprint in

the region. Its diplomacy faces ruin. Its interests in the region are not about defending Israel's right to exist, and its policy, as seen during the Biden administration, clashes with that.

To protect its interests in the region, Washington adopted a "ceasefire" stance against Israel's defense of its existence confronted by the Hamas's October 7 war. Meanwhile, ending the war against Israel's existence—the release of Hamas's hostages and halting the war aimed at Israel's destruction—is the responsibility of Tehran and its "Axis of Resistance."

The military foothold of Iran's militia in the Middle East, due to the blows suffered by the war of October 7 by Hamas and Hezbollah from October 8, and the overthrow of Assad's dictatorship in Syria, is facing a deep crisis. Iran's war has placed Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria under an unbearable burden. For all the countries involved and impacted by Iran's policies, bearing this burden is difficult, and all are suffering from an economic crisis that has gripped the lives of millions. A reality that is becoming clearer with Hezbollah's ceasefire and the fall of Assad's dictatorship.

**Quit Iran's War Against the Right of Israel to Exist.** To quit the wars of regional domination and its component economic crisis, the only solution, the only step for society to stand on, is the independent alliance of workers and farmers to lead the entire cast of the urban and rural popular classes.

Iran's unrelenting thirst for democracy and development, to achieve independence and freedom, calls upon the independent alliance of workers and farmers to lead society. It invites the nation in its entirety—workers and farmers,



women and ethnic groups, all religious minorities, youth, students, artists and intellectuals, small business owners, and professionals—to take the initiative to address the economic and social crisis. An initiative that can only be fruitful by achieving political independence and replacing the Shia-Bazaar government by heralding Independence and Freedom by a government based on the independent alliance of workers and farmers.

**Favorable World Circumstances.** Iran's aspiration for achieving independence and freedom is faced with favorable global conditions. These are global circumstances that, despite being marred by numerous wars, such as Putin's war against Ukraine's independence, Iran's war against the existence of Israel (and before that, Washington's 21st-century wars in the region and the increasing imposition of economic sanctions), remain conducive to establishing peace for the realization of the right of nations to self-determination.

The favorable balance of forces on an international level comes down to this: Do the working people have the conditions and opportunities for independent initiative and organization? Across the world, the opportunities for the working class for such action and organization are on the rise.

The favorable international conditions between the imperial and Mellat, support for progress and advancement on a global level, are what enabled the Mellat to succeed in the 1979 Revolution—favorable conditions for the Mellat to achieve independence and freedom.

With the 1979 Revolution, Washington's position in facing Iran and across the region was

weakened. Favorable global conditions, despite decades of war in the region and the destructive actions of the Shia-Bazaar government's militarism, persist—the prospects for fundamental peace and progress outweigh the burdens of militarism and regional wars of domination.

**The Disabler.** What has kept Iran from benefiting from the favorable international conditions is the Islamic Republic—a Shia-Bazaar government that is a molten furnace of militarism. The IR government was established after the revolution, at a time when the correct choice for society—a national independence government, one based on the triumphant and independently organized force of Mellat as a result of the revolution's victory—was available. Due to the calamity of the liberal bourgeoisie, nurtured in the lap of the monarchy-imperialism, who moved without hesitation in support of Khomeini's government formula, the objective opportunities were dismissed. Instead, the plan of Ayatollah Khomeini's government and his legitimacy were utilized by the Shia-Bazaar to establish the Islamic Republic. The results were catastrophic. The record and the facts speak for themselves.

Iran has arrayed a network of likeminded militias across the Middle East region. Upon this quest it declares Oct 7 war on Israel right to exist as Fasl-ol-Fossul, a new era. It has led all its regional supporters upon destruction of Israel agenda. Achieving this goal involved a barrage of explosive projectiles from all sides, sometimes hundreds per day, more than 16,000 in the past year, from Lebanon.

IR policy seeks to deny the existence of Israel by military, referendum, law and all available means. It seeks accommodation with Washing-

ton on these terms.

### **Iran Militarism finds Regional Opportunity.**

Iran does not come to its military position in the region on its own. It is helped by what the imperial has afforded. When it lists its war against Israel as a grand chapter, it is upon successive Washington Wars of 21st Century that it enlists. Most importantly, Washington wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that prove as an enabler for regional expansion of Shia militias from 2011 onward. Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022 serves to persuade Tehran war against Israel right to exist on Oct 7, 2023.

US wars of the 21st century was initiated on the assumption of strengthening by the US rulers as the result of the collapse of USSR. Not the reality of suffering of surmounting defeat. Washington military occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq is a conduct with a subjective finance capital mindset.

**The Continuing Legacy of Defeat.** Nearly two decades of Washington wars of 21 century in occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq that meant to remedy and regain lost regional standing through military conquest both came to a naught and defeat.

Contrary to expectations, the collapse of the former USSR proved to be a mother of all defeats. Washington stood suddenly without its key benefactor. The Soviet Union undoubtedly formed a key pillar of the imperial order after World War II, armed with the second-largest nuclear-equipped military and all the jazz that accompanied it as the second global power.

Russia Military a Force for Major Catastrophe. Russia, an oil-exporting country with an econ-

omy comparable to that of Italy, became the owner of the second-largest nuclear-equipped military on land, sea, air, and space. Parts of this military have been employed by Putin in the military invasion of Ukraine since 2020, bringing death and destruction upon it. The number of casualties in Russia and Ukraine is estimated at up to one million. The entry of the Russian military into neighboring countries is a tool for destabilization and can act as a catalyst for a major catastrophe in the international capitalist system, as demonstrated by its war against Ukraine independence. The destruction of the global framework established after World War II is the consequences of this war.

Tehran Militarism Runs into Obstacle. The war against Israel on October 7, 2023, faces fierce resistance from Israel. A year of pursuing Jew-killing wars in Gaza and then Lebanon brings massive devastation to Hamas and Hezbollah military forces.

In continuation of the above-mentioned war policy, the release of hostages and the cessation of war by the Iranian front in Gaza and Lebanon are rejected by the Tehran led "Axis of Resistance". The posture of pursuit of the Jew-killing war persists. Ultimately, there comes a point that Hezbollah can no longer continue the war and resorts to a ceasefire, which quickly leads to the downfall of Assad's dictatorship in Syria.

The Islamic Republic, the Shia-Bazaar government, remains isolated with its war policy in opposition to the urban and rural popular classes, whom it has driven into an economic disaster through its war and economic policies.

Tehran Faces Stark Choices. Tehran faces harsh and difficult choices in dealing with obstacles

to its military objectives—the impossibility of a military victory over Israel has exposed Tehran's hand. By imposing the Islamic Republic's dominance and an illegitimate war on the country, Tehran has lost its legitimacy.

There is no dividend in subverting the will of the urban and rural popular classes for peace and rapid improvement in life conditions.

Hamas and Lebanon Hezbollah have suffered and have lost standing. While the war against Israel right to exist has proved costly with the raining down of aerial explosives aimed at Israel.

Tehran's Military Nuclear Program. Adopting a nuclear military program to make nuclear bombs accessible has proven to be against national sovereignty. Similarly, the production of ballistic missile systems, which currently carry conventional explosives targeting Israel, reflects the same. Israel, in the lexicon of the Islamic Republic's rulers, is described by the late Rafsanjani as a country that could be wiped out with one bomb.

**Rejection of Shia Militarism and Political Supremacy.** Shia militarism as the practice of Islamic Republic (IR) is on eclipse. The government setup where Shia takes precedence over politics; over everything that there is: the entire society. Notwithstanding that Mellat cannot be made into something that it is not. Mellat is bound to stand up based on its generational experience and place its supremacy over politics.

Militarism has spurred its own negation. Through its militarism IR has travelled full circle to the foundation of negation of Shia

supremacy over politics. This has taken place by the decades of experience of the broad population, the popular urban and rural classes. Mounting economic hardships, spread of poverty, unemployment, rising prices, the struggle to maintain life, the hurdles placed on starting families.

The majority of Iran crisis is gripped by the government itself: It has brought upon the war to destroy Israel; it has mapped war through regional allies. Imposed economic suffering upon.

Things have panned out the opposite of the intended. Iran economy is full of bells and whistles and happy for the ruling stakeholders. The country is faced with the spread of poverty, unemployment, and rising prices making life difficult for tens of millions.

Who is deciding in Iran people ask themselves; is anybody in charge. The crisis has engulfed society with governmental authority crouching with its security forces. The crisis invites the elemental initiative on the part of most people, in the city neighborhoods and as far as the rural and far out places. Life held together is by cooperation among the people. With the IR rule crouching with all its military and security forces, the people are watching, led to their own initiative and being reminded of their own independent role.

**The Resolution of Iran's Crisis is Only Possible Through the Implementation of the following National Demands:**

Ceasing the war aimed at the destruction of Israel, the global refuge of Jews. Equating the independence and freedom of Iran with the right

of existence for the Jewish state—Israel.

Abandoning the government's military nuclear program, ensuring a fully transparent uranium enrichment industry. Clearly define the uranium enrichment program for the purpose of establishing a network of reactors with the latest technology to meet electricity and water desalination needs. Completely halting hidden and underground nuclear technology programs and facilities.

Eliminating all justifications for economic sanctions imposed by Washington and its international partners on Iran. Empowering Mellat instead of making it easy for the imperialists.

Inviting Washington to establish the latest nuclear reactor technologies in Iran to supply electricity and desalinate seawater. Given favorable international relations, it will be difficult for Washington to defy this national demand: committing to solving the issues of electricity production and meeting the needs of Iran's oil and gas fields—a country that was pushed into decline under the Pahlavi dictatorship led by Washington. At the same time, imperialist opposition to Mellat's demands, rooted in the global divide between imperialism and oppressed nations, opens the path for a solution based on the country's scientific, engineering, and industrial communities, under the leadership of a workers' and farmers' alliance to meet energy needs and address other fields.

Abandoning the production of ballistic missiles, explosive projectiles, military aerospace, and space programs. Removing all these barrier dangerous military toys in the hands of a reckless state—on the path to the independence and freedom of the country.

Ending misogyny and ethnic discrimination. Inviting the unity of women and Aghvams, ethnic groups, under the banner of independence and freedom for the country. Reviving the historical tradition of cooperation and eliminating oppression against the Jewish community. Re-establishing the unity of nations and solidarity with the Jewish state—Israel—and illuminating the country with the presence of ethnic groups, restoring independence and freedom.

Dismantling all Shia militias of the government inside and outside the country. Merging the Revolutionary Guards and the Army into a unified defensive military organization composed only of light and defensive weaponry, that relies on nationwide independent workers', farmers', and ethnic organizations. Eliminating militarism from national policy.

Ending the involvement of security forces in all societal matters, halting the presence of security apparatuses in the face of popular gatherings such as the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, universities, labor centers, and ethnic communities, including Baluchis, Kurds, Arabs, Turks, Gilakis, Turkmen, etc. Ending intrusion and violence against women, ethnic groups, religious minorities, youth, and workers.

Ceasing the obstruction of independent organization by workers, employees, retirees, students, farmers, and ethnic groups; inviting collective participation for national and countrywide strength to achieve self-determination, independence, and freedom.

Abolishing the death penalty. Ending punishments such as amputations or mutilation of accused individuals. Halting "cruel and unusual

punishments" as Kargar demanded from the Assembly of Experts that drafted the current capitalist constitution.

Let a hundred flowers blossom—for the freedom of art and thought in the country. For the rights of the nation. For freedom of thought and expression.

Cease government obstruction of Kargar publications and parties; lifting the ban on publications like Fanus; ending the prohibition on independent socialist policies, advocating and promoting the urgent need for an independent national government, and forming a workers' and farmers' government.

All of the above national demands can be declared as independent national policy through the convening of a nationwide congress of workers and employees from the country's industries. Without the independent organization of workers, the country will only host chaos. With the independent organization of workers, the independent organization of the nation will be restored. The path to eliminating poverty, unemployment, and inflation in the country's economy will be opened for the first time.

Political independence from the Shia-Bazaar government. Establishing democracy based on the independent unity of workers and farmers. To establish an independent national government, independent from the Shia-Bazaar system, a government relying on the alliance of workers and farmers—a workers' and farmers' government.

# The Hijab and Chastity Bill/Law:



## A Violation of the Rights of Women, Family, and Society

The issue of violating customary rights, particularly regarding women and girls in the Islamic Republic (I.R.), is not new. It was through this gateway that Mellat's opportunities for independence and freedom, achieved in the wake of the 1979 revolution became the target of violation by the leadership of the Shia-bazaar regime installed by Ayatollah Khomeini. The Shia-bazaar ruling cadre began to infringe upon accepted women rights within state military bureaucracies. Native capitalist and bazaar elements quickly recognized the necessity of supporting this assault on the rights of women and society. They understood that such violations would pave the way for their own dominance and facilitate the prevention of independent organizations in the country.

Through the above policy, the small Shia-bazaar minority could declare itself Mobser, the monitor, of tens of millions, to achieve its aim;

to preserve and stabilize the capitalist system inherited from the monarchy's tyranny. Towards this goal, the new rulers cling to every religious or secular justification to restrict the rights of women and the public.

At the time of the revolution's victory, those within the Shia-bazaar ruling class, terrified by the upheaval in the capitalist system, wasted no time in imposing the strictest hijab regulations—independent action by Mellat had to be suppressed at any cost.

Has imperialism been born just yesterday to be unaware of the dividing line between Orf and Sharia, tradition and religion in Iran (and the rest of the Middle East). Were the colonial masters not the first teachers to exploit this dividing line against Mellat, to plant division within its ranks as far back as Qajar and the 1st Pahlavi? If the imperial apparatus previously



plundered Iran by controlling its oil resources, now weakened by the people's revolution, in desperate need to keep its system standing seeks derailment of Mellat's rights through division, by violating women's rights, as it fully understands and practices this need clearly—it does not matter whether which faction of Orf and Sharia is targeted; the goal is always to create division among women and Mellat. As long as Mellat and its independent and unified presence are absent, nothing of substance threatens the interests of imperialism. The competition of a semi-colonial state with imperial powers—while suppressing the independence and unity of Mellat, as has been the case in Iran over the past four decades, is a dead-end—leads nowhere and solves none of the fundamental country's problems.

Amidst the unleashed energy of workers and toiling people after the revolution's victory in their pursuit of independence and freedom, how could new frameworks be created to prevent their independent organization? Mandatory hijab provided the prime leverage to the new ruling authorities, a leverage that continues to this day.

The liberal bourgeoisie, which held the government leadership, became the leading representative of the Hijab. The head of the provisional government demanded the repentance of all women, including thousands of educated women who adhered to customary attire. Imperial propaganda quickly recognized the utility of this move in preventing the independent and united organization of women and the nation. Hundreds of institutions, street patrols, and Shia prosecutors were established to enforce women's repentance and punish and penalize the female gender—inflicting countless injuries

upon Mellat in this regard.

The sun of imperial dominance, which approached its sunset with Mellat's revolution in Bahman 1357 (February 1979), found its first chance for a resurgence through the violation of women's rights. It realized that by attacking women's rights, it could pressure all deprived groups and classes and prevent their independent organization. This phenomenon came to be entirely known as the Islamic Republic. The imperial academia rushed in support by “study” of this phenomena.

This issue was not merely an analytical question facing the new ruling authority: Women were the first group in society who, in the post-revolution conditions, turned to independent action and showed the proper road forward.

After the overthrow of the monarchy, on the first anniversary of March 8, International Women's Day, more than one hundred thousand young girls and women in Tehran held a peaceful march to prevent the infringement upon their way of life. If women are to march to protect their rights, then anyone else might also demand their own rights. This cannot be allowed. It would become exactly what the Pahlavi autocracy, as expressed by the former Shah, sought to prevent: “The establishment of a democracy where even five-year-olds hold demonstrations?!” Mellat's revolution against the brutal tyranny of the Pahlavi regime, witnessed even five-year-olds who rose up against its brutal oppression.

The darkroom of monarchical tyranny sent the wives and sisters of the SAVAK regime's leaders around the world as representatives of Iranian women. Inside the country, a vast num-

ber of veiled women were barred from participating in society, education, art, and sports. The women who participated in the March 8 demonstrations after the revolution were unaware of International Women's Day until that day, but they were well aware of the need to protect their own rights. The women's march on March 8 was the only independent initiative of Mellat after the revolution's victory that demonstrated the correct path to national unity. After that, years passed before the independent initiative of Mellat appeared again in the march against terror bombings orchestrated by the liberal bourgeoisie/the first president during the turmoil of the Iraq war against Iran. Decades would pass before Iran witnessed the major independent action of Mellat again during the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement in the 21st century, which shifted country's political landscape in favor of Mellat; as it might have done following the March 8 demonstrations after the revolution if Mellat's mandate had been accepted.

### **Women's Rights in the Capitalist System.**

Respect for women's rights and the degree of their freedoms determine the level of freedom in society as a whole. The suppression of women's rights enables the suppression of society's rights. This is well understood by the leaders of the capitalist system in Iran and across the world. Reza Khan Mirpanj, who was installed by the British and later declared himself a king aligned with Nazi Germany, implemented the forced unveiling of women in the 1930s as a means to stifle society by violating women's rights. It couched that measure as awakening; much like its opposite was declared as awakening after the revolution of 1979.

It was sufficient for these facts from the time of Reza Khan to be reminded to Ayatollah Khomeini and his entourage, as the rights of women and society was declared contrary to the ideals of humanity/Shia/religion. However, there was no need for such a reminder, as the Shia-Bazaar leadership sought every possible way to suppress independent strivings of society and regarded itself as Allameh, the expert, in this endeavor, as it does to this day.

Through the violation of women's rights, the infringement upon customary rights and the rights of society concerning youth, religious minorities, ethnic groups, workers, farmers, artists, and intellectuals also became normalized by the Islamic Republic government. The independent socialist tendency, Kargar, was banned (1982) and its leaders incarcerated in the winter of 1983.

**Chastity and Hijab Bill.** The law passed by the Shia-Bazaar-selected parliament, the "legislative" authority in the Islamic Republic, known as the Hijab Bill, reflects the desires of a small minority in the name of the country and the law—with one major difference. Now, more than four decades after the revolution and the conduct of intrusion and violence against women, the isolation of the Shia-Bazaar regime in society is evident. *Boogh az sar-e goshad zاده mishavad* (trumpet is blown from its wide end). As the head of the Shia-selected parliament, which approved this bill, stated, the bill no longer mentions the morality patrol. Without mentioning intrusion and violence patrols against girls and women, the violation of their rights will continue systematically. The current selected president is at a loss over the implementation of this law and is asking for extra time in the game against Mellat.

In the general provisions of this bill, there is mention of the family and its protection. Belief in Shia practices, according to the interpretations of its proponents, is one thing, but the imposition of specific Shia views, or any other belief, on others by the agents of the Shia-Bazaar government, or any other capitalist state, is another matter entirely. Regarding the imposition of Shia beliefs on others, perhaps no more than 5% of families in the Islamic Republic live in accordance with this bill—roughly the percentage of votes received by the current members of parliament. Few families perceive the presence of females in society every day as contradictory to chastity, considering them to be tracked at all time deserving of punishments at home, in schools, universities, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Such families who act as autopilot Islamic Revolutionary prosecutors, subjecting the female members of society daily to Shia discipline. They believe in erecting a wall as tall and long as the Great Wall of China between men and women in society.

**Confiscation of property and financial penalties for living according to Orf.** The Shia-Bazaar ruling class controls all the country's wealth. They have absolute ownership of movable and stationary assets of society. Hundreds of extensive organizations labeled as "Shia" or "Islamic" have been created to allocate the country's financial resources to themselves, and they have written "laws" for this purpose in successive Shia-Bazaar-selected parliaments. Over the more than four decades since their government was established, they have siphoned hundreds of billions of dollars out of the country. Government corruption is their lifeline. The situation has become so extreme that the daily rhetoric of "fighting corruption" has become a regular feature of claims made

by officials of the Islamic Republic. Nevertheless, the ruling class, in its attempt to solve the economic crisis and eliminating "imbalances" seeks to empty the pockets of the working people; in this case under the pretext of hijab and chastity laws, and extends its hand with "legal" authorization. Each time they apprehend a girl or woman, they impose financial penalties, confiscate personal property or vehicles, or dismiss individuals from their jobs—placing the majority of families under severe pressure.

The insatiable appetite of the ruling regime, which relies on the entire wealth of the country, has reached a point of pain. It must further extract from Mellat to feed its bottomless pit that knows no satisfaction. The root cause of upholding imbalance, inequality, and injustice is the Shia-Bazaar government.

Women need equal rights in society: freedom of expression and assembly, the right to decide their own attire without threats from men, fathers, brothers, husbands, or the government; and an end to the intrusion and violence by Shia-Bazaar agents against them. Women, whether in monogamous or polygamous marriages, must be given priority in employment and enjoy the unconditional right to divorce. Without economic independence—which necessitates women being employed—eliminating oppression and deprivation against women is not achievable. Therefore, providing access to all levels of education and the learning of skills and professions is the government's duty toward women.

Women must receive equal pay to men. During pregnancy and childbirth, paid leave must be guaranteed for women, as well as the right to child custody. Women's right to travel, both

domestically and internationally, without the permission of male family members must be ensured. Women have the right to creativity in music, art, singing, dancing, and sports. If there is to be a legal bill concerning women, it must include the repeal of all laws in the country that condition or deny their rights. The government must unconditionally defend the rights of women—half the population of Iran and the world—and pave the way for the unity of women at both the national and global levels.

Protection of people is the task of government: protection of women against intrusion and violence at home, work and public is a task of government.

Explicit violation of women's right by government is promoting violence against girls and women among families. The task of government is to protect female members of society against violence directed against them by fathers, brothers, husbands, and others in family and society.

Kargar Party, based on over a century of women's progress worldwide in achieving their rights—rights that have long been trampled upon since the time of ancient history—declares the above proposals as the first and most central decisions of a government independent of the Shia-Bazaar, namely, a government of workers and farmers. It places the country's independence and freedom, which cannot be achieved without their unity, at the service of women.

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