

Tear Down the Prison Walls!

— Statement by the Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran)

The present genocidal campaign against political prisoners in Iran is clear evidence of the bleak situation of a moribund regime which is trying tooth and nail to turn back the wheel of history, and so perhaps to prolong its vile life a while longer — as if handing out death sentences to group after group of political prisoners could “overturn” history’s sentence on the regime. Such hopes are in vain; the sentence will be carried out by the cocked weapon of revolution.

Oppression and terror, prison, torture and execution, are always the resort of the upholders of oppressive and exploitative systems, especially against conscious revolutionaries. Such methods are an integral part of the practice of bourgeois states of every colour and cloth (from Islamic cloaks to monarchist crowns or the uniforms of democratic Islam...). But the campaign to wipe out Iran’s political prisoners does not just reflect the general necessity of the reactionary classes to preserve their rule against the majority of the people; it also reveals the deteriorating situation and intensifying crisis of the regime. The ominous rumblings of revolution are already audible and grow clearer with each passing moment, thus giving rise to the frenzied, mad reaction of these Islamic animals.

This campaign, taking place only a short time after the ceasefire in the Gulf war, itself clearly reveals the recent difficulties which have seized the regime by the throat. Nothing can hide the rottenness of this regime. The weapons of nationalism and religious superstition have lost their ability to lull the masses. The suffering masses, victims of the

reactionary war, are gradually lifting their heads and seeing before them the path of revolt and the possibility of taking it. The Islamic regime once more finds itself faced with a spectre which it arrogantly thought it had drowned in blood seven years ago and done away with forever. The regime finds that its temporary victories over the camp of revolution are slipping away. How well the great leader of the international proletariat, Lenin, put it: “there are enemies which you can defeat in many battles and silence for a while, but it is *impossible* to destroy them. None of the victories of the enemy, however complete, none of the conquests of the counter-revolutionaries, can... destroy the enemies of the landlords and capitalists. Enemies such as the working class and poor peasants cannot be destroyed... and now, after the defeat of the offensive of the counter-revolution, we can see that the masses of people, those who are the most oppressed, those who have been crushed down and kept in ignorance, those who have been terrorised by different means, are once again raising their heads. They rise up to begin the struggle anew.”

Everything is readying for the burial ceremony of the Islamic Republic. This period is one of intense work and acceleration of the preparations for revolution. Masses whose anger and hatred have increased a hundredfold are prepared, more than at any other time, to cast aside their previous mood and, through taking up the lessons of the earlier defeats of the revolution, to grasp the philosophy of revolution and arm themselves with the theory and weapons of revolution.

The present campaign of geno-

cide was not unexpected. Conscious masses and revolutionaries have long been predicting that the regime, facing crisis and dangers which seriously threaten its very existence, would commit savage crimes. During the course of the 1979 revolution, the figure-heads of the Islamic Republic already witnessed this “scenario”; they have made a so-called “summation” of the weak points of the Shah and are thus attempting to avoid a repetition of those events. What folly! The lessons learned by the Islamic rulers from the experience of the reactionary classes cannot cure their historical short-sightedness. They are standing on the edge of an erupting volcano and, by firing into the depths of the volcano, they think they can prevent its imminent eruption. Such is the ridiculous nature of these reactionary rulers.

The genocidal campaign against the political prisoners is an announcement of the ideological and political bankruptcy of the regime. It is an announcement that the years of mad effort to spiritually and physically torture revolutionaries in their dark dungeons did not succeed in chaining these conscious revolutionaries, and that this huge army of resisting communists and revolutionaries could not be forced to repent by the logic of the torture chamber. The sound of the shooting coming from behind the prison walls is the cry of an impotent, weak regime confessing its political and ideological defeat. The regime, in its ideological-political campaign throughout Iran, itself a prison, as well as in its torture chambers, has indeed been defeated. Now the weakness of the regime has reached such proportions that the elimina-

tion of all political prisoners has been identified as a necessity in order to "remove" the danger. Any sort of opposition — even the most "polite" — threatens the weak foundations of this house of cards.

The genocidal campaign against the political prisoners is the stamp of "endorsement" of the "general amnesty plan" of the Islamic Republic! What they apparently have in mind is to execute all, or at least the majority, of the political prisoners and finally to ostentatiously let out a handful of traitors, stool pigeons and turncoats who have sold out and cooperated even in the interrogation and torture of the political prisoners. Then they will announce that they have "freed all political opponents". The contented silence of the imperialist masters of the Islamic Republic with regard to this genocidal campaign is very revealing. The slaughter of the revolutionaries and the terrorising of the masses are prerequisites for the current plans and schemes of the imperialists to breathe new life into the decaying body of the Iranian regime. *Promises* of reform and of petty privileges pour out of every loudspeaker with the aim of containing the overflow of the masses' mounting rage. But the rage-filled grins on the people's faces show how "successful" the rulers have been in their campaign of deceit. The eyes of the rebellious people are on the wave of genocide against the political prisoners and on the concentration of 100,000 new mercenaries in Kurdish territory. The loud sound of the boots and bullets of these Islamic criminals leaves no room for the faint echo of their hollow and petty promises.

The regime's vicious campaign

must not go unanswered, and it has not. Thousands of relatives of the political prisoners are waging protest by organising gatherings in front of the prisons and by other forms of struggle. The conscious and revolutionary masses must support these struggles and transform them into a scene of fervent overall political battle. The oppressed, in order to defeat the Islamic Republic's present bloody campaign and protect their revolutionary offspring as they would the very pupils of their eyes, must arise and meet the regime's attacks. Just as the value of each revolutionary communist for carrying forward the cause of revolution is known to the regime, it is with the same seriousness that the masses must guard their conscious revolutionaries, as a sacred, inviolable task. But only revolution can dig up the roots of such crimes. The regime is executing group after group of revolutionary comrades and leaders of the workers and peasants. In response, hundreds must arise and fill the trenches of revolution. This is the message of revolutionary communists for the advanced masses who thirst for revolution: in order to genuinely continue along the path of the martyred communist leaders, you must learn their qualities, ability and ideological-political line, with the same skill and daring as they displayed in the scenes of class battle inside the torture chambers, in front of the firing squads and on the gallows, and in this way you can powerfully begin to come to the front lines of the revolution and of the glorious march of the red army of workers and peasants which fights for the realisation of the liberating goals of all the oppressed.

Amol's youth must draw inspiration from communist leaders such as Mansour Ghomashi, from daring fighters such as Omid Ghomashi, Monir Nour Mohammadi, Fereshteh Azali, Rahmatollah Chaman-sara,.... Hundreds of proletarians and peasants — from Mahabad to Sannandaj and Kermashan — must take up the red flag of Naser Ghazizahdeh (Kak Azad), Ghader Anbari, Jamshid Parand, Kazem, Susan, Asghar and Hassan Amiri, Shokrolah Ahmadi,.... The suffering, labouring children of Khuzestan must fill the trenches of Farah Khoramnezhad, Gholam Abbas Darrakhshan, Mohammad Tavakoli, Nader Islami, Behrooz Ghafari, Khalifeh Mardani, Mohammad Farhadi,.... These martyred communist comrades have inflicted deep wounds on the body of the Islamic Republic. These wounds must be made fatal, and this cannot be done by simply turning these heroes into legends. Hundreds and thousands must organise under the banner of their ideas, their goals and their organisation and help to establish the red army, of which they were the vanguard. In this way, we can defeat the campaign of these most evil revolutionary-killing bandits to eliminate the political prisoners.

The People's Reply to Genocide is People's War!

Step Forward as a Communist Fighter, Join the Ranks of the Union of Iranian Communists (Sarbedaran)!

— From *Haghighat* (Truth), organ of the UIC(S), October 1988 □