

The magnificent gathering of thousands of workers against the contracting system is promising!

On November 10, 2025, more than three thousand contract workers from the twelve refinery units of South Pars held a massive gathering in the streets leading to the central headquarters building of the South Pars Gas Complex, where they raised their demands, including the implementation of workforce regularisation, access to adequate leave days, and the enforcement of job classification standards.



The key demands of the South Pars workers include: a revision of the job classification plan; implementation of a rotational work schedule of two weeks on – two weeks off for administrative and support staff; regulation of the employment status of non-owner drivers of rental vehicles; and, on a broader level, the elimination of contractors and intermediaries.

Continued on page 2

U.S. Imperialism: Hands off Venezuela! Escalating Crisis in the Caribbean!

Since the beginning of August, an effort has been made to relaunch the “maximum pressure campaign” against Venezuela that characterized Donald Trump’s first administration. Unlike the first campaign—when U.S. imperialism sought to economically suffocate Venezuela through sanctions on its oil sector and by supporting an illegal parallel government—the new version places greater emphasis on applying military pressure.

By increasing its military presence in the Caribbean, carrying out extrajudicial killings there, and using threatening rhetoric, U.S. imperialism aims to exert maximum pressure to bring about the political collapse of the Venezuelan government and thus achieve regime change in the country.

Although this turning point has not yet materialized, it has raised doubts about whether there is truly a willingness to risk a catastrophic military attack in the Caribbean.

Although Venezuela is now the geopolitical centre of gravity for the U.S. military presence in the Caribbean, it cannot be denied that the region carries broader geostrategic considerations—such as the encirclement of the Caribbean to exert pressure on governments whose relations with the United States are strained. In addition, it serves the purpose of reclaiming the region as an exclusive sphere of influence for U.S. imperialism and, through this, containing China’s growing

Continued on page 5

The Paradise of Charlatans: The Story of the Rise and Empowerment of a Cult in Iran

The article you are about to read comes from the *Kargah* Telegram channel, a media outlet of Iranian workers. Though brief, it is rich in substance and written in clear, simple words. It offers a sharp critique of the neoliberal views of Mousa Ghaninejad and his associates, and sheds light on mafia-like factions, economic oligarchies, the subcontracting system, so-called “free-market” policies, and the widespread theft, plunder, and profiteering tied to them. We are publishing this article to stand with workers and all those dispossessed, and to expose, more openly than ever, these economic terrorist criminals and the agents of American imperialism. Workers have no choice but united struggle and their own independent organization in order to stand against the united front of plunderers and all the forces defending the capitalists— from major media outlets like *Donya-ye Eqtesad* (World of Economics) and *Tejarat-e Farda* (Business of Tomorrow) to the smallest media affiliates of this predatory camp— and to push them back. The key to workers’ success is unity and organization. To achieve such unity and such organizational structures, we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly so that we may prevail on the battlefield. There is no other path forward and no other route to victory for the camp of labour.

These days, Dr. Mousa Ghaninejad—once portrayed as a serious academic and the very embodiment of “economic science”—now appears on light-hearted online talk shows, where, with a pleasant accent and

Continued on page 4

Imperialism, Zionism, and Their Supporters: Hands off Iran!

workers, contracting system

According to news published by the Committee for Organising Protests of Non-Official Workers (Third-Party Workers), these third-party workers—following their usual practice—expressed solidarity with the labour protests at the South Pars Gas by stopping work and joining the massive march.

We will highlight several important points regarding this demonstration, the demands raised, and the outlook of this movement:

First: The gathering on November 10 was the largest legal assembly of contract workers in South Pars, with more than 3,000 participants. “The workers presented their demands within the framework of the existing capitalist system, set clear boundaries between themselves and both foreign powers and foreign-dependent political currents, and insisted that these demands be pursued.

Until now, the Islamic Republic has used various tricks and pretexts—including “security concerns” and the lack of clear positions by these organisations regarding imperialist powers—to justify detaining and repressing workers. However, in the recent gathering, the organisers, led by Alireza Mirghaffari, acted intelligently by mobilising the workers, taking a clear stance against military aggression and illegal sanctions, and raising specific livelihood and labour-related slogans. This strategy effectively disarmed the regime and prevented it from suppressing the demonstrators.

The regime understood that disrupting such a massive protest could trigger labour revolt and uprising and therefore it refrained from any form of aggression or repression against the protesters.

Second: The workers’ main demands were the elimination of contractors, wage equalisation, and the implementation of the job classification plan with an emphasis on equal pay, along with dismantling the discriminatory employment structure. Among the issues raised was the existence of multiple forms of employment relationships with different and discriminatory wage systems, which leads to disorder and division among workers.

The workers emphasised that rising prices have lowered their purchasing power and created a deeper livelihood gap that must be urgently addressed. They spoke about forming independent associations, centres, and unions based on democratic participation to strengthen their bargaining power. The workers also expressed hope for having genuine labour representatives in Parliament and for achieving fundamental changes in the country’s labour policies.

Third: This successful gathering once again demonstrated that workers’ primary concern is the lack of job security and the contract-based labour system, which they view as a form of modern slavery. Each year, private employers

Can simply choose not to extend a worker’s employment. Even the government of the capitalist Islamic Republic of Iran—despite its constant rhetoric about justice and fairness—uses the same method. As a result, the lives and livelihoods of workers are placed in the hands of private companies and a capitalist state. These violations are not merely injustices against a single individual or human-rights abuses against a group of political prisoners; they amount to human-rights violations against millions of people who are forced to perform exhausting labour under economic coercion and pressure. Yet we face a deafening silence by the bourgeois opposition. The bourgeois and subservient opposition of Iran has turned a blind eye to these crimes against the working class; regarding their conditions and the neoliberal contracting system, not only do they remain silent, but even in their own protests for human rights or support of political prisoners, they refuse to acknowledge the struggles of workers or the imprisoned labour activists. The bourgeois activities—carried out under the misleading slogan of “all together”—has nothing to do with the fate of Iran or the heroic working class of our country. Workers must never trust this deceitful bourgeoisie; instead, they must work toward building and consolidating their own powerful collective force to secure their lawful rights.

Fourth: The workers correctly, and in their own distinct language and expression, spoke of the need to form independent associations and trade unions to negotiate with employers. Independent labour unions do not exist in Iran, and this absence represents both a weakness of the working class and the first hopeful arena of struggle for this class. By nature, a labour union is an organisation in which workers, as a class, unite on the basis of solidarity so that in concrete conditions of class struggle they can create a counterweight to the class and groups that own the means of production and succeed in securing their demands.

On this basis, the working class not only defends itself against the constant attacks of capitalists, but also launches direct offensives against the capitalist class and struggles to achieve public rights and improvements in the most basic working and living conditions—such as wages, working hours, permanent contracts, workplace safety, paid leave, the abolition of temporary contracting arrangements, and the struggle to obtain its universal rights. Labour unions arise from the objective needs of the working class within the class struggle, and they represent the most fundamental level of workers’ organisation, grounded in their own power and understanding.

Labour unions have a much longer history than the party-political struggle of the working class, because gaining everyday economic awareness is far easier than acquiring political awareness across the working class. It has required, and still requires, a long **Continued on page 3**

workers, contracting system

period of time for the working class not only to engage in independent economic struggle, but also to move beyond being the “fifth wheel” of bourgeois politics and to enter the arena as an independent political organisation of workers with its own political and class-based goals.

For this reason, from the very emergence of labour unions, this dialectical distinction between the two arenas of the working-class struggle has been evident, and it has never been possible to stir them in a single pot, thereby erasing their distinctions and the different levels of their activity.

Fifth: As mentioned earlier, in Iran the working class is deprived of the right to have independent labour unions, and therefore, as a priority—more essential than daily bread—it must struggle to have this social right recognised. This right has a broad social foundation and will certainly be supported by the overwhelming majority of the working class. When the working class strengthens the necessary capacities in the arena of labour struggle, workers will then gain access to educational resources, workers’ universities, permanent strike funds, legal support from prominent labour lawyers, media activity, support from intellectuals, academics, and cultural figures, and many other important tools. To achieve the above labour rights in Iran, one must fight courageously. Recently, even among supporters and representatives of the lower social strata within the Islamic Republic—figures such as Yasser Jebrailli, Izadi, Zarehshenas, and others who are critics of neoliberal policies—voices have begun to warn that if officials do not heed the demands of the people, various social classes, and the protesters in a timely manner, and if these demands continue to be ignored, they should expect broader and more widespread episodes of violent social unrest.

Society is composed of various social classes, and one cannot govern it with the divisive doctrine of “insiders and outsiders,” Muslims and non-Muslims. All individuals of the nation are part of the people of Iran, and all of Iran’s wealth belongs to all its working people. It is not acceptable to confiscate and plunder these resources for the benefit of the “insiders. These rhetorical slogans of the early days of the Revolution have now reached a complete dead end, and within parts of the ruling establishment, there is a growing sense that the government must create channels for dialogue with various sectors of society—teachers, women, retirees, workers, etc.— and avoid resorting to violence and killing.

The magnificent mass gathering of thousands on November 10, 2025, which was one of the most important achievements of the workers in recent decades, may—

Workers in Iran must have the fundamental right to form labour unions!

given the current crisis and widespread public dissatisfaction in Iran— put the entire system at risk if the ruling authorities continue to ignore it or persist in their policy of repression. Therefore, under current circumstances, there is a favourable opportunity to place greater emphasis on the demand for establishing independent labour unions.

The condition for the success of this demand is, first and foremost, avoiding the mixing of the responsibilities of the workers’ party—whose task is the struggle for political power—with the duties and capacities of a labour union.

In recent years, deviational and anarcho-syndicalist ideas, promoted by ultra “leftist,” anti-worker, and adventurist “sovietism” policies, have inflicted severe damage on the labour movement and have diverted it from its path of mass and economic struggle.

Blurring the boundaries between the functions of labour unions and those of a workers’ party that fights for political power naturally creates conditions that increase the regime’s pretexts for repressing labour movements, preventing the formation of independent labour unions, and ultimately squandering the valuable opportunity that has emerged.

As the workers of Iran demonstrated on 10th of November, they must fight as one unified body to establish an integrated, unified, and independent labour union that enjoys widespread public legitimacy. This class-based, democratic demand—one that contributes to the democratisation of Iran’s political atmosphere—must be supported, and this movement must be assisted.

Nuclear Test

documented in satellite imagery.

China, too, could resume atmospheric testing.

Sauer explains that from a legal standpoint, the United States, China, and Russia — despite having suspended tests — are still permitted to conduct nuclear testing. He says: “The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was supposed to completely ban all nuclear tests by the end of the 2000s.” But the United States and China never ratified the treaty, and for this reason Russia withdrew its ratification in 2023.

Since the United States and Russia recognize the older and more limited test-ban treaty, they are allowed to conduct only underground tests. China, on the other hand, could theoretically resume atmospheric testing, which would be extremely dangerous for the environment and for human populations.

Brandon William, a former Navy officer, is the Deputy Secretary of State and the head of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-independent agency within the Department of

Continued on page 4

The Paradise of Charlatans

well-timed smiles, he offers critiques of the current situation. This is part of a broader rebranding effort by the hardline market fundamentalist camp: distancing themselves from their past, changing their façade, and presenting themselves as the supposed alternative to the existing order.

Wage Suppression in the Name of Science

For decades, in books such as *Liberalization and Economic Performance* and *Economics- Another Narrative*, Dr. Ghaninejad depicted the minimum wage as an obstacle to economic growth and a force driving the expansion of the informal labour market. The talking points that state officials responsible for wage suppression have repeated over the years—claims like “raising wages is inflationary,” “it causes recession,” and “it increases unemployment”—are all drawn from the so-called scientific research and firm prescriptions promoted by the media outlets and think tanks aligned with Professor Ghaninejad.

Of course, the directives of Dr. Ghaninejad and his followers are not limited to wages. Their destructive influence has been felt across every sector—economic, financial, agricultural and livestock, industrial, and manufacturing: from farmers’ dependence on middlemen and soaring food prices, to currency fluctuations benefiting financial speculators, and privatizations that plundered factories while sacrificing workers.

However, as *Kargah* is a workers’ media outlet, we will focus on our area of expertise: the minimum wage.

A Scientific Challenge: Lessons from Romania

A World Bank study on Romania’s substantial minimum wage increase between 2013 and 2016—conducted under economic conditions similar to those in today’s Iran—directly challenges the so-called “sacred” claims about wage hikes. Using tax records and survey data, the study found that raising the minimum wage in an economy with weak production and low wages not only boosted employment but also reduced the informal economy, lowered poverty, and had only a minimal impact on inflation. Corporate profits did not fall, and the government’s budget deficit even decreased. The ironic point is that these results were published by the World Bank, a leading bastion of extreme market-fundamentalist ideology.

From “Alternative” to Scandal

When this discourse first emerged—during the mid- to late-1990s presented itself as an alternative to the unscientific management of the governments of the time, emphasizing its scientific credibility. Popular media outlets of the era, such as *Neshat*, *Asr-e Azadegan*, and *Shargh*, provided platforms to promote these ideas. By the early 2000s, with the rise of the *Donya-ye Eqtesad* media empire, it had become the dominant economic narrative. But how is it that the very first serious and credible global

research immediately exposes the falsehood of these so-called sacred directives. Knowledge that collapses in the face of empirical evidence is not science—it is an ideology that serves the interests of a select few.

A Sect with Its Own God and Prophet

This movement is less a scientific school than a sect, with a “prophet” named Mousa Ghaninejad and a “god” made of mafia-like economic oligarchs: steel, cement, oil, petrochemical contractors, and importers of assembled cars who have reaped massive profits from extreme market-oriented policies. The circle of beneficiaries—from petty brokers to major entrepreneurs—are those who directly pocket what is taken from the public.

This reality is so blatant and scandalous that prominent media outlets like *Donya-ye Eqtesad* and *Tejarat-e Farda*, as well as smaller affiliated media, openly host advertisements and investments from this economic mafia—and in some cases, were even established by them.

Fraud in the Name of Science

Mousa Ghaninejad and his market-fundamentalist sect, under the guise of economic science, have plundered the resources of the majority and handed the profits to the steel, cement, oil, petrochemical contractors, and importers of assembled cars. Yesterday, this movement was the guardian of the status quo; today, it continues that role in online platforms and entertainment programs. This is not science—it is an organized fraud and deception. Until it is fully exposed, Iran will remain a playground for these charlatans.

#####

Nuclear Test

Energy. In his testimony before Congress, William stated that he considers computational models and the results of non-nuclear experiments to be sufficient.

The *New York Times* also reported on Thursday, October 30, that in the past, nuclear tests were conducted by the Department of Energy, which develops and produces nuclear weapons, and not by the Department of War, to which Trump has assigned the responsibility of carrying out these tests. This is a clear indication of Trump’s warmongering policy, reflecting the most aggressive factions of U.S. imperialism.



Masih Alinejad—an Iranian sellout and paid agent of U.S. imperialism—who, alongside the Shah’s son and others, constitutes one of the pillars of

today’s farcical “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement, rushed to Join Maria in Norway. She publicly addressed Maria declaring:

“Among women around the world, María Corina, you are a true hero. My sister, you are my sister. We are women.”

The masks have finally dropped. The posturing has collapsed. No makeup required.

Hands Off Venezuela

economic and commercial power.

Are these extensive military manoeuvres really, as Trump falsely claims, a counter-narcotics operation?!



It is obvious that the deployment of destroyers, amphibious assault ships, and a nuclear submarine—alongside other offensive military attack units off the coast of Venezuela—is not a counter-narcotics operation. A brief look at the seizures carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard in the Pacific Ocean—an area through which almost 90 percent of the drugs coming from Colombia and Mexico are transported to the United States—shows that such a military effort in the Caribbean is completely unnecessary. Drug shipments there are quantitatively marginal and insignificant, as even Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) analyses indicate.

It is no secret that, under the cover of a “war on drug trafficking,” Trump is pursuing regime change in Venezuela. The so-called anti-drug campaign in Latin America is in fact equivalent to Bush’s false claim about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq against Saddam Hussein. The declaration of war on Venezuela, just like the bloody attacks on Iraq and Libya, stems from U.S. imperialism’s interest in their natural resources—not from a fight against drugs.

According to numerous reports, civilians in the region are being trained in the use of weapons. Let us see what role this “popular militarization” plays under current conditions.

The integration of the civilian population into paramilitary structures—whether in urban areas, towns, or other communities—follows the doctrine of “Integrated National Defence,” which has existed for more than a century.

The reports attempt, through sensationalist and often racist language, to discredit the broad public support for calls for general mobilization in various countries, especially Venezuela.

Contrary to the false claims of the United States and its Western allies that people in Venezuela are being recruited into the military through coercion or deception, the Venezuelan government’s calls for public mobilization have a legal basis. Presidential Decree No. 3560 from 2005 and the 2014 Law on Registration and Military Service for Integrated National Defence provide the legal foundation for this mobilization, which is considered a national duty. Therefore, the mobilization and training of Venezuelan citizens are neither forced nor new, and certainly not illegal, as Western imperialist governments portray them to be.

Also, reports have appeared in the media claiming that Maduro has offered the United States oil and gold. Let us examine how credible these claims are: They are hardly reliable and are aimed at creating division within the government and sowing distrust between Caracas and its key partners in the Eurasian bloc. Moreover, these reports are built on vague premises, rely on unverifiable sources, and lack any substantiated evidence.

Such an alleged offer would also be procedurally meaningless. This is partly because of the multilayered sanctions regime that prevents any agreement of this kind, and partly because Venezuela’s oil production is steadily increasing in cooperation with its BRICS regional partners. In Venezuela, the term “psychological warfare” is often used. In reality, what is at issue is media manipulation aimed at preparing the ground for a military attack.

It is entirely clear that efforts are underway to seize control of the narratives, intensify the country’s information environment, and exhaust people cognitively by flooding the media with content about alleged military movements. This content is often inaccurate or taken from fabricated contexts created by imperialist actors and political opportunists and is deliberately used to create the impression of an imminent invasion.

There is a calculated approach at work here. And in the information age—defined by robots, the algorithmic control of social networks, and artificial intelligence—there is no need to resort to science-fiction scenarios to imagine targeted groups that publish content daily.

With the rise of AI, such groups publish daily content aimed at influencing the collective psychology of Venezuelans—naturally in favour of U.S. imperialism and to the detriment of the Venezuelan government.

Amid this conflict, a Venezuelan woman received the Nobel Peace Prize. While she was celebrated in Europe, reactions in Latin America were sharply critical. This contrast is clearly understood in **Continued on Page 6**

Hands Off Venezuela

most countries of the world, especially in Venezuela itself. Awarding the prize to María Corina Machado has had a divisive and polarizing effect, greater than that of any other prize in recent times. Of course, Obama's award also sparked controversy, but this one appears to have surpassed it.

Indeed, this controversy—or more accurately, this farce—has overshadowed them all. The positive reaction in Europe is certainly linked to colonial patterns projected onto Machado's persona: a white woman from a wealthy family, with political positions that supposedly praise Europe's "civilizing mission," and who openly endorses its most recent outcome—namely, the genocide in Gaza and the devastation of the region by Israel, with the support of all Western countries.

However, in Latin America, the award was received with bitterness. It was viewed as an attempt to whitewash a politician whose career has been built on calling for destructive sanctions and military intervention by U.S. imperialism—measures whose consequences fall overwhelmingly on the Venezuelan people.

However, an escalation of military conflict in Venezuela — which holds some of the world's most important gas regions as well as the largest oil reserves — would have devastating global consequences, especially for the European Union, which is heavily dependent on energy prices and supply chains. A possible war in the Caribbean would greatly intensify the global economic crisis, particularly in the EU, and would tighten its grip on them. Europe's alignment with Washington in the Caribbean would greatly increase the dangers facing Europe.

Although realists view the actions of the United States in Latin America and around the world with deep concern, the uncritical leaders of NATO's European member states have effectively handed their leash to Washington, allowing American imperialism to pull them even further into a deepening crisis — despite the European Union's heavy dependence on energy prices and vulnerable supply chains.

Although Europe's silence amounts to a potentially complicit stance that only heightens tensions and deepens the crisis in Venezuela, people around the world see the actions in Latin America and beyond as further U.S. aggression against the independent nations.

Lackeys of Imperialism and Zionism

motives—support the Palestinian people's struggle is secondary; what matters is material and moral support for the Palestinian people in an unequal, defensive war. Just as in the Vietnam War, some European imperialist governments such as non-aligned countries, defended the Vietnamese movement, and even the revisionist Soviet Union, speaking the language of "socialism," as ----→

Down with the child-killing Zionist regime; victory to the rightful struggle of the Palestinian people!

Palestine

a blind eye to the aggressions in the West Bank and Jerusalem, the expansion of settlements, and the policies of gradual annexation of land. Meanwhile, Palestinians need genuine protection against the violence and threats posed by settlers.

2) The Security Council resolution neither addresses the roots of the crisis nor provides a path to a just peace, as it makes no reference to ending the occupation, the system of discrimination, the right of return, or the right to self-determination. The resolution even ties reconstruction and aid to the will and conditions of the occupying regime, creates a division between Gaza and the West Bank, targets the historical and legal role of UNRWA, and could lead to the elimination of this international institution.

3) The Palestinian resistance organizations also declared their firm rejection of labelling the resistance as "terrorism" and of raising the issue of the Palestinian people's defensive weapons. They stated that any disregard for the historical, legal, and national context of this resistance is an attempt to legitimize the continuation of the occupation.

4) The statement stressed that any international force must operate solely under the supervision of the United Nations and in coordination with official Palestinian institutions, and that its mission must be limited to protecting civilians, providing humanitarian aid, and preventing the continuation of the war — not becoming a parallel security structure or administrative authority. Implementing the resolution without fundamental amendments and without real guarantees for stopping the war and the withdrawal of the occupiers will risk escalating tensions and prolonging the conflict and cannot offer a solution that brings stability and justice.

Any plan or decision that is not aligned with the national will of the Palestinian people and does not guarantee an end to the war and the liberation of Palestine will not be binding for the Palestinian nation.

The Palestinian people, despite years of resistance and sacrifice, will never abandon their legitimate rights, and any attempt to impose foreign solutions or eliminate the Palestinian national cause is destined to fail.

well as many religious forces, supported the Vietnamese movement. Yet this support was in practice positive and strengthened Vietnam's independent liberation resistance movement. The same applies to the movements in Yemen and Lebanon, and all honourable and free-spirited humans must support their resistance against Zionist invaders. Thus, the essence of the coded label used by critics of the "resistance-axis left" is the defence of imperialist powers that support the Zionist regime, and the disparagement of the liberation struggles of several countries in the region.

Nuclear Testing

Many countries signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was signed in 1992 by many nations that possess nuclear weapons. Under these treaties, countries commit to refraining from nuclear tests on the surface, underwater, and in outer space. However, underground testing is permitted.

The Soviet Union conducted its last underground nuclear test in 1990; Britain in 1991; the United States in 1992; and China and France in 1996.

India, Pakistan, and North Korea have not signed these treaties. India and Pakistan carried out their last nuclear tests in 1998, and North Korea conducted its last nuclear test in 2016." (Source: Wikipedia)

The nuclear powers have clearly adhered to a decades-long suspension of nuclear testing, and they continue to do so. The United States, as mentioned earlier, last conducted a nuclear test in 1992. Without a doubt, what Trump means by "other countries" is a reference to Russia's recent missile tests. One week ago, Moscow announced the successful test flight of the *Burevestnik* cruise missile, which is powered by a small nuclear reactor. For this reason, it is said that the missile's range is practically unlimited — and that it can reach Washington as well!

Two days later, Moscow confirmed the testing of the *Poseidon* underwater torpedoes, which also operate using nuclear power. However, both tests were related to missile-launch delivery systems that are routinely tested — not nuclear tests themselves, as the warmongering and deceitful Trump claims!

What Trump is pursuing in his statement is, in fact, a futile attempt to justify future nuclear tests in the Nevada desert of the United States.

According to observers, Trump's announcement is primarily a political message. *Frank Sauer*, a nuclear weapons specialist at the Bundeswehr University in Munich, says: "There is no longer any need for actual underground nuclear tests." He then adds: "Since the last U.S. test in 1992, the three major U.S. nuclear programs that have maintained the safety and reliability of the American arsenal have been carried out primarily through high-performance computer simulations."

In addition, so-called "*subcritical tests*" are being conducted in which an amount of plutonium smaller than what is needed for a nuclear chain reaction is used.

Even if some experts are truly trying to justify new tests, their arguments would at most support the development of new warhead designs.

However, from a military standpoint, the United States

does not necessarily need a new warhead. Some scientists raise the question of whether an aging arsenal should be tested under real-world conditions. But *Sauer* believes this issue is highly controversial among experts. He is certain that this is a political signal. But our party believes that it stems from the unrestrained militarism and warmongering of U.S. imperialism.

According to *Sauer*, the timing of these tests in relation to Russia's recent missile-launch system tests shows that Trump is reacting directly to the *Burevestnik* and *Poseidon*. Of course, Western media pretend that Trump is confusing missile-launch systems with warheads, or that this reflects a misunderstanding — which is completely contrary to reality.

This decision by Trump is simply a sign of warmongering, nothing more.

In any case, nothing in the realm of nuclear weapons testing happens quickly.

Sauer explains: "An all-sided nuclear test requires years of preparation." If the United States were truly to conduct tests in the near future, they would be more symbolic than scientific.

Opponents of nuclear weapons — both in the United States and around the world — are deeply concerned.

Fabian Hinz, a defence expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, also assumes that nuclear weapons testing will not take place in the United States anytime soon. Instead, he believes that "subcritical tests — in which no nuclear chain reaction occurs — virtual simulations or simply tests of delivery systems will take place."

Hinz refers to Trump's statements and says: "He wants to push other countries — such as Russia and China — to conduct nuclear tests." (!!)

The "International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons" (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, is deeply concerned. Sebastian, the head of the campaign's German office, correctly states: "This announcement is a highly aggressive attempt by Donald Trump to use nuclear weapons of mass destruction as a political tool."

The fact that, before the test-ban treaty, nuclear-armed countries alone caused more than 4 million people to suffer from cancer between 1945 and 1992 shows the scale of the catastrophe Trump intends to unleash.

The military expert *Sauer* says with concern: "A new nuclear arms race is underway."

Thus, it appears that the taboo against nuclear weapons testing is collapsing.

Some experts believe that since early 2013, there have been reports of activity at test sites in China, Russia, and the United States, well

Continued on page 3

Memory of Comrade Babak

The magnificent May Day march of 1980, which began at Rah-Ahan Square, was one of the most successful workers' celebrations. The resolution of this demonstration—amid pressure and attacks by the pro-government fanatic elements mobilized to disrupt it—was read aloud in Pasture Square.

On the eve of June 1981, Khomeini's bloodthirsty Pasdaran raided Comrade Babak's workplace (Gachsaran Factory) in order to arrest him, but with the help of the factory workers, he managed to escape. After this, the comrade began working as an electrician at Iran National Auto (the passenger-car plant). In those dark days—when the blood-sucking bats of the regime had cast their oppressive wings of terror and fear over everywhere—he formed a workers' cell inside the factory and launched numerous strikes and protests. Reports of some of these actions, insofar as security conditions permitted, were later published in *Toufan*.

The distribution of anti-regime leaflets in one of the most concentrated industrial centres of Iran spread great fear among the reactionaries, and they mobilized all their efforts to locate and extinguish this revolutionary nucleus. During this period, Comrade Babak was elected to the Central Committee of the Party at the enlarged Plenum in the summer of 1981. From then on, he continued—with full merit—his relentless struggle in this new frontline against the regime of the Islamic Republic and for freedom and socialism.

After the second major attack on our Party in February 1983, he was identified and arrested by the criminals of the Khomeini regime. Comrade Babak heroically withstood the regime's inhuman tortures and did not surrender to the executioners. He did not betray his ideals and demonstrated, before the contemptible enemies who tortured him, the steel will of the working class and its indomitable strength. He lost his life, but he never knelt and he never surrendered.

Comrade Babak followed the same path that "Baba", "Esfand", and many dozens of other devoted militants of the Party of Labour had illuminated with the sacrifice of their precious lives. He—this noble communist who possessed nothing but his two hands to labour—walked without fear of torture or death along the red road of proletariat, toward breaking the chains of the working class enslave.

With his memory, we pledge that we will not lay down the blood-stained banner of his Party, and that we will, inspired by his struggles, by his sacrifice and steadfastness, march forward until a world free of oppression is established. ---→

**Shame and hatred upon the killers of Comrade Hassani!
Eternal glory to the shining memory of the martyrs of
the path of freedom and socialism!**

A Brief Look at the Lackeys of Imperialism and Zionism and the Detractors of National Resistance Movements

These days, the phrase "resistance-axis left" has become a coded label for those Iranian left currents that are anti-communist, Zionist-liberal in orientation, and that—under the pretext of defending so-called "democratic principles, freedom, human rights, and secularism"—wage an unrelenting, hysterical campaign against Leninism and its greatest adherent, Stalin (under the name "Stalinism"). They insist on diverting the interpretation of the contradictions of the post-Soviet multipolar world by branding it with the label "Axis of Resistance." These sophistic circles are fundamentally incapable of presenting any constructive or solution-oriented theoretical discussion.



5

Under the pretext of opposing the Islamic Republic—of course from a right-wing and reactionary position—these circles disparage national movements in the region that are fighting invaders for their homeland, and they instead defend imperialism and colonialism.

These politically bankrupt circles do not support the resistance of the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, and Yemen, which is carried out by parties, organizations, or political resistance fronts with religious ideology; rather, they recommend surrender, subservience, and servility toward colonial powers. It must be emphasized that these movements are neither dependent on the Islamic Republic nor fighting on its behalf. Such absurd accusations originate from the propaganda artillery of BBC, Voice of America, Iran International, and similar outlets aimed at discrediting them.

The content of the Palestinian people's struggle is resistance to the oppression and colonial domination of Israel's Zionist-fascism. Anyone who does not defend this struggle of an oppressed people effectively becomes an accomplice to expansionist Zionism. Which regimes or parties—whatever their political **Continued on page 6**

Memory of Comrade Babak

Due to his connection with Azerbaijan and the comrades in Tabriz, Babak became part of its central core and actively participated in the struggle of the people against the Shah's regime.

At that time, Comrade Babak was a worker at the "Gachsaaran" factory, and due to his trade-union activities, he was repeatedly threatened by SAVAK. However, the power of the mass movement was such that SAVAK's threats did not go beyond words. Because of his courageous struggle to defend workers' rights and his fight against the Shah's yellow union, he was elected president of the factory union, and after the establishment of the factory council, he was elected head of the factory council. Since Comrade Babak had previously worked in several factories, he had gathered many active workers around him and gave them socialist education. The heroic martyred comrades who were killed in street battles against the puppet monarchical regime on the eve of the Revolution—Comrade Eghtedarmanesh and Comrade Erfanian—were among those whom Comrade Babak organized into a Party cell. Comrade Eghtedarmanesh, in turn, since he worked in town of Ekbatan, was able—under Babak's guidance—to exert significant influence on the workers of the district and to help lead their struggles.

On the eve of the Revolution, Comrade Babak played a remarkable role in expanding the workers' struggles in Tehran, and he was one of the active figures who, thanks to his wide network of connections among Iran's militant workers, brought the idea of forming workers' soviets instead of unions into the workers' movement and contributed to elevating their struggles.

Babak was also the first public speaker of our Party. He led the ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of Dr. Taqi Arani in Ibn Babouyeh Cemetery—a ceremony which, after many years of the Shah's dictatorship, had been organized by our Party for the first time (one week before the Revolution). On that day, the thugs of the treacherous Tudeh Party, who had come to the ceremony to deceive the public and exploit Arani's great name, rushed at him the moment they heard the words "Soviet social-imperialism and its local servants", as Babak was speaking. They attempted, with knives and clubs, to prevent the exposure of their clique. But thanks to the self-sacrifice of the martyred comrade Erfanian, the plot of these thugs was foiled that day.

On the eve of the Revolution, Comrade Babak, together with several labour activists who served as representatives of their factories, formed the initial core of the "Founding Council of Iranian Workers" The Council quickly established itself among the workers of Iran and became a genuine workers' organization.

Numerous unions and workers' councils joined it, and it announced its existence— through the establishment of

the Workers' House—by issuing a statement containing 31 articles outlining the demands of the workers. Comrade Babak was the first spokesperson of the "Founding Council," and he read the Council's declaration aloud in the courtyard of the Workers' House, a moment that was met with great joy by the participating workers.

The "Founding Council," which was rapidly expanding, began preparing for the first May Day celebration in Iran after the overthrow of the Shah. Through outreach to the unions and factory councils of Tehran, it organized and prepared them for participation in this great demonstration of workers' power. In this effort, Comrade Babak was a central figure who worked tirelessly for hours—sometimes without rest or sleep—organizing this massive undertaking.

During those days, all Iranian intellectuals, especially those aligned with the "Line 3" current, turned their attention toward the Founding Council. Each of the political organizations associated with this current, driven by ambitions to take over the organization through influence among workers, sharpened their appetite, disregarding the interests of working class and acting solely for their own factional and organizational gains. But they failed.

On the eve of May Day, during a general meeting of the Council, several representatives were elected to be responsible for organizing the demonstration. But the night before the celebration—some petty-bourgeois organizations such as Fadaeian and Peykar annulled the elections in absence and try to select another group in its place. Nevertheless, despite these conspiracies, the magnificent celebration took place, and hundreds of thousands of Iranian workers responded to the Council's call, demonstrating their indomitable power in this historic march.

After this demonstration, the conspiracy to break up the Council did not stop. The Peykar Organization continued its efforts to destroy the Council. There was no choice but for the Council to take a stand against this factional action by the Peykar Organization. This period in the life of the Founding Council was one of the most critical, during which Comrade Babak, with extraordinary energy, wisdom, and competence, devoted himself day and night to preserving it and managed to guide many of the Council's committed workers through this difficult stage.

To counter the "anti-council" propaganda and to organize and guide the practical struggle of the workers and promote workers' ideas, the Founding Council—under the responsibility of Comrade Babak—began publishing its own newspaper. From that point until June 1981, Comrade Babak stood at the head of the Founding Council. During this period, the demonstrations and continuous activities of the Founding Council—led by him—made him a loved and admired figure among a large section of the Iranian workers.

Continued on page 8



Eternal Glory to the Shining Memory of Comrade Babak!

A Brief Account of Combative and Revolutionary Life of Comrade Babak (Mohammad Hassan Hassani), Member of the Central Committee Of PLI

The blood-stained claws of the bourgeoisie emerged from the sleeve of the Islamic Republic regime, and Comrade Mohammad Hassan Hassani, another member of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Iran, was murdered after months of imprisonment and torture.

Comrade Hassan was born into a working-class Azerbaijani family, and he grew up with their pains, sufferings, joys, and aspirations. He devoted all his energy to the working class and the toiling masses. He joined the Party of Labour of Iran in 1977, and from then on, under the name “Babak,” he became one of the tireless activists of Iran’s labour and communist movement.

At the same time as the democratic movement of the Iranian people for freedom and independence—and with the mass uprising of the people of Tabriz on 29 Bahman 1356 (February 18, 1978)—the 29 Bahman Committee of the Party was formed.

Continued on page 9

Firm Opposition of Palestinian Resistance Organizations and Parties to the U.S.- Proposed Resolution on Gaza

The organizations of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, in a statement, rejected any foreign guardianship over Gaza and warned about the dangers of the U.S. resolution in the Security Council and the deployment of an international force. The Hamas resistance organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization, the Palestinian Communist Party, and several other Palestinian organizations, groups, and figures jointly declared:



1) Any international force that is to be deployed in Gaza, in its current form, will amount to a kind of custodianship and imposed administration, and will restrict the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and to managing their own affairs. This decision represents a form of international participation in the war and killings against the Palestinian people and, in addition to ignoring the situation in Gaza, turns

Continued on page 6

New Nuclear Weapons Tests by U.S. Imperialism

After World War II, the United States was engaged in testing nuclear weapons from 1951 to 1992, but it ceased this activity after signing the international treaty banning nuclear weapons testing.

Now, Donald Trump’s surprising announcement that he will immediately begin new nuclear weapons tests has sparked global concern. Shortly before meeting with Xi Jinping, the President of China, in South Korea, Trump wrote on TruthSocial that he had ordered the Department of Defence — which he had renamed the Department of War (!!) — to conduct tests “on the same basis” as other countries have done!!

It is still unclear which weapons this warmongering figure is referring to, exactly what tests and in which country were done.

The reality is that, aside from North Korea, no country has tested nuclear weapons since 1992 — nor is any country doing so now.

Nuclear weapons testing is conducted to measure their effectiveness and destructive power. Naturally, most countries that possess nuclear weapons have engaged in nuclear testing.

Continued on page 7

The change of the regime - only through the concerted effort of the Iranian people!