

AWNI



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Norouz felicitations



To workers, teachers, women, students, farmers and the majority of oppressed and militant Iranian people

Release of some of the workers, teachers and those who were arrested during uprising of the last days of December 2017, and early days of January 2018 (The ten days that shock Iran), and those who were detained on the 8th March (International Women Day) rally, from the grips of the regime' thugs, as a result of their resistance and International and domestic support, also the relative victory of the militant workers of the Ahwaz steel factory, due to their stability and unity after 26 days of strike, echoes the New Year and the promise of more victories for all the toilers.

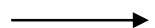
We sincerely congratulate the release of these dear one's from prison, and the success of steel factory workers, and congratulate the arrival of the New Year, and the auspicious Norouz.

We left a dark winter behind, our comrades were arrested, tortured, killed, expelled, dismissed from their work, factories closed down, months and years of wages were not paid, and workers were forced into the forced labor and slavery.

Despite this, the resistance and struggle didn't stop for a moment. Throughout this entire year, we witnessed the legitimate and militant struggle of all the strata and oppressed classes throughout the country, against the destructive ruling capitalist system.

The year ended, and the militant toilers didn't achieve much, particularly the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane workers, who stood firm, fought, and are fighting up to present and were not deceived by all kinds of promises and conspiracies of the employers and the anti-worker "official". Because of the unconditional support of the capitalist government and the judiciary and military forces of the employers, they have not achieved their righteous demands.

But there is no an end for this struggle and the fight is not over yet. On the eve of the New Year, with the favorable experience in the struggle and the special case, which can now link all of these struggles together: (shameless announcement of minimum wage for 2018), the continuation of these



struggles, by applying the experience and guidance of the knowledgeable experts and militancy spirits of the Ahwaz steel factory: “the only way to deal with all of the unjust cruelty that goes against us, is the unity amongst the workers of all industries throughout the country”.

This year can be better than the past year, with significant achievements and great victories for the working class and 90% of the oppressed and rightful Iranian people.

Welcome this year with unity, organizing and continuous struggle for the achievement of more victories!

Happy Norouz and be auspicious spring!

Down with the capitalist Islamic Republic of Iran!

Solidarity committees with Iranian workers movement – abroad

21 March, 2018

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Ahwaz steel industry group workers have succeeded

Workers from the Ahwaz Steel National Industrial Group, after 26 days of strike and non-stop gatherings in front of the governorate of Khuzestan and various marches throughout the city of Ahwaz, finally succeeded in receiving two months of their months' not paid wages and their Norouz (new year) bonus.

The workers of the Ahwaz Steel International Steel Group, which had struck since February 21st, suffered numerous obstacles during their protests, and despite the complete indifference from the employer and the governorate of Khuzestan to their demands, as well as the threats and arrests by the police and security forces, at no point did they stop their fight to get their rightful claims. They united and resolutely continued their strike and daily gatherings in front of the governorate of Khuzestan till noon yesterday.



Without a doubt, the 26-day strike of the workers

of the Ahwaz Steel National Industrial Group is a brilliant sample of the fight of the working class in Iran against the harshness that the capitalist system of the country has imposed upon us workers and can guide us throughout the country in our fight to meet our demands.

Although the struggle was for the payment of arrears and the difficult conditions that the employer had imposed on the workers of the Ahwaz Steel National Industrial Group, but this precious success and valuable experience could pave the way for us Iranian workers to fight for a human life and end the existing catastrophic situation.

The Free Trade-Union of Iran Workers Wishes Success for Workers of the National Industrial Group of Steel Industries of Ahwaz in The New Year and hopes for an end to the disasters imposed on them in the year 1396 (2017), and remembers Arash Mohammadi, the victim of unlawful imposition of the employer and the anti-human capitalistic regime, and congratulates Norouz (Iranian New Year) sincerely, to each and everyone.

Unity and Solidarity of Workers in Iran have been stonger!

A statement by a group of Ahwaz national steel group members

let us continue to build a permanent liaison between industrial & profesional sections of working class. unity and coordinations makes us strong.

This came out of our own direct experience in the recent fight for our wages and shaky situation of continuing employment.

We are now on 23rd day of multiform tactics and protests. As we continue the struggle, we realise more and more that how indifferent is the leading management to the worker's plight and miserable situation. On the other hand, for National Steel Group of workers who are taking part in their



struggle is an eye opener . It is unfortunate they do not appreciate the value of workers who create the wealth and get things done, and the laws and regulations are not to protect the workers, but serving the capitalists and the rich ones. Here we are the workers who get poorer every year and they have to go thru a wretched life.

what can we do? There is only one way to go: fight and fight again - protest and strike to the end, but our experience in the last three weeks proves that we need something More: organization and unity. We workers once more together in whole of the country have to be united and support each other in our struggle; the ruling class are supporting all along the capitalist and managements, so that we alone can not fight them and Win, we have to organize and work in unity.

let us begin a new way of doing it.: Get together, organize, unite in struggle and stay together til victory. That is the only way.

15th March, 2018

Group of workers from National Steel Industry of Ahwaz

*Reza Shahbi's New Year greetings,
gratitude and appreciations*

Drivers and workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Sherkat Wahed), workers, friends, labours' organizations, students, retirees, freedom fighting women and men, and institutions and supporting media in Iran and the world!

On behalf of myself and my wife, Robabeh Rezaei and my children, for all the protections, the unparalleled and continuous pursuits that you have defended me during these years, I thank all of you dear ones, as well as the advent of the spring of nature and the conquest of light over darkness. Congratulations to all of you on the rebirth of the nature and life once again.

If my back bent from and hardly I can sit up and rise, if I have been injured from the neck area, I should undergo surgery soon as recommended by doctors, If I have a problem with pressure and once

every few days suddenly in an emergency manner by help of a pill can get rid of the life threatening consequences by help of a pill can get rid of the life threatening consequences of it, and I cannot be alone, and there must always be someone beside me, so in case my life falls in danger due to my health conditions, But the thought of you loved ones gives me hope and willingness to go forward. If my kidneys, my bladder and my heart have been seriously damaged and my lips and face paralysed and crooked, So that all the my life is impregnated with great difficulty, But the kindness and support of you loved ones lead me to life; Although I've been fired, but the big world that is full of support and protection of you precious friends, gives me hopes for the brighter and better tomorrow. Although in these tormenting years of imprisonment, strike and illness, I have always been touched by the toughest conditions, and I've been kept in jail for even more months then I've been condemned to, but always a huge amount of support for me has been a powerful force. Whatever of struggle and resistance and continuation of imprisonment and pressure with in keeping completely to the highest principles, and of the honor of workers and class that upheld by me weren't possible without your heartwarming support.



**Reza Shahabi after his release,
among the family and activist members
of the Syndicate of Workers**

Workers, friends, colleagues and members of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Syndicate. (Sherkat Wahed), students, teachers, women and men, retirees and labor organizations in Iran and the world and all the institutions and media that back me as a representative of the workers, as of the Bus Company of Tehran and the Suburbs: In this way, I declare my gratitude and appreciation to all of you dear ones, I shake your hands dearly and warmly, and I hope that in the New Year (Persian calendar) with more effort and unity to achieve our demands of freedom and equality, and to be stronger and more successful than before.

With all due respect and thanks to all of you anywhere in the world and aspiring to the release of workers and political prisoners as soon as possible.

Reza Shahabi

The fired Worker

Member of the Board of Directors of the Workers Syndicate of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company

March 21, 2018

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An anti-worker meeting



called Worker Support and Solidarity!

The meeting of World Federation of Workers Trade-Unions WFTU Board of Directors is taking place yesterday and today (26 and 27 of Feb) in Tehran. This is the second time that the meeting of the board of directors of the Workers Confederation of the World is held in Iran. The summit was attended by representatives from India, Nepal, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Greece, Indonesia, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Vietnam, Denmark, Afghanistan, Brazil, Sudan, Portugal, Cyprus, South Africa, Bangladesh, Peru, Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Italy, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Venezuela and North Korea, According to Alireza Mahjub, representatives of workers from 24 countries from five continents have participated.

But in spite of George Mavericks (General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade-Unions) announcing the opening remarks: "We want to support the workers' concerns and emphasize our solidarity against imperialism. We also call on the Iranian people and the working class of the country to solidify and stand with them against imperialism," he said. There is not even a representative of the Iranian workers at this summit. He thanked many times the Labor House, and all the personnel of this organization for organizing this summit. Mr. Secretary-General speaks of social security and wage setting, but does he know that the minimum wages set by the High Council of Labor, one of its effective members, representing these same state-owned labor organizations, are set several times below the poverty line?



The secretary-general of the WFTU talks about the more autonomous functioning of the unions, but does he know what disadvantages are the independent labor organizations dealing with in Iran? Are they asking where the drivers of Sherkat Wahid or the Haft Tape Company representatives are? Have they asked why members of independent syndicates should either be in prison or faced with a variety of threats?

One of the so-called representatives of the people of Tehran in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, in welcoming the guests, stated the most important and most influential issue in the Middle East is the matter of war and its impact on workers:

"Capitalism accuses laborers of the lack of ability, but everyone knows how hard these workers work, and they are still abused by this totalitarian capitalist system. What should be the cornerstone of humanity is workers, not oppression, which has been dominated by capitalist means such as privatization and globalization. "

Mahjub added: "Today, the problems of the world's workers are unemployment, hunger, poverty, housing and work injuries, all of which are threats to the workforce. It is now the time for all activists

to concentrate their efforts to confront capitalism so that all humanitarian problems caused by the capitalist system are solved. "

Hearing these words and comparing what really happens in Iran suggests that Mr. Mahjub, like the foreign participants of this summit, does not have the slightest awareness of the situation of the workers in Iran. He does not know that not only the privatization that the making their own privatization and globalization bring to the Iranian workers, and how the government, the parliament and the phony institutions, such as the House of labor, and ... act in this direction. The news of the ventures of privatizing the Haft Tapeh sugar cane company and the fallen behind months of workers' salaries of this production unit ... is still fresh to the memory.

The House Speaker speaks of the unparalleled role of workers in developing countries, but it does not mention a plan that has been approved by the parliament in light of this role. In passing the laws, it is easy to forget about the principle of Article 43 of the Constitution and to obliterate it, and in accordance with the specific perceptions of Article 44, waste the property of the workers and the working people which is put in trust in the hands of the government.

Abdolreza Azizi, chairman of the so-called Social Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, says:



"I am pleased to announce Iran's commitment to strengthening the workforce unions and say that Iran is one of the world's leading countries in the region. Wherever labor unions have a proper understanding of their duty, public awareness is also better off by means of media and culture. The first basis for the growth of wealth is workers, so the consideration of the individual and trade interests of the workers as the real owners of the wealth, which do not benefit greatly from it, depends on their legal union activities. This is whether the worker is aware of his legal rights and the employer recognizes the rights

of workers and society support it. In Iran, this issue is so important that we have been set up at the government and ministry level and in the parliament of the Independent Expert Commission for this purpose. "

What are the performance and practical experience of these independent commissions? Which item has passed in favor of Iranian workers in parliament? And why does privatization move quickly and vigorously with parliamentary resolutions?

If he does not know or has forgotten, the Iranian workers will not forget that the workers of Aq Dareh and ... have been sentenced to punishment by whipping, Reza Shahabi is still in prison, Davoud Razavi and Ebrahim Madadi, Ali Nejati, Osman Esmaili, Mahmoud Salehi faces prison sentences, and teachers such as Ismail Abdi, Mahmoud Beheshti, Mokhtar Asadi, and others are being held in custody for union activities.

Mr. Hassan Sadiqi (the head of so-called the pioneers of the country's labor union), an dependent and state-owned institution whose role is to suppress the Sahrkat Wahed drivers and the one who cut the tongue of the secretary of the syndicate of the company in the year 84, is not forgotten, at the WFTU Board meeting of the board of directors of the WFTU) Also speaks of "defending the interests of the workforce in the whole world," noting the issue of setting the minimum wage, but they do not point out that the Iranian workers' minimum wage is several times below the poverty line and about \$ 250 a month. And this little wage, even if it doubles, it is still much less than the poverty line. It also does not mention that in these tripartite talks there is no room for representatives of the Iranian workers.

But they have rightly pointed out that "the Labor's House, under the banner of Alireza Mahjub (Secretary-General)" accepting the low wages, although they ignore themselves being in these tripartite talks.

Mr. Ali Rabie, the minister of so-called labor and the responsible for millions of jobless, said in this meeting:

"I myself am one of the founders of the trade union in Iran, and I founded the Iranian labor organization. Of course, I myself worked as a worker and worked before the Revolution at the General Ford factory." At that time, I was at work in the construction works, thus, so close I knew the workers' problems and their twists .. Familiarity with the suffering of the workers has helped me in this way. As a worker, I have experienced a lot of job insecurity and workplace pressures, so now, as a minister of co-operation, work and social welfare for unemployment in the fight against poverty, I use the same experience. "

"We must continue to steadfastly push down the forms of inequality from the face of our societies." In Iran, there are 60 to 80 years of development programs behind, but the workers' tables are still empty and the purchasing power of the wage earner is not appropriate.



The wage of 980 thousand Toman last year was determined by the achievements of the Minister of Labor.

He is proud that three million of the workforce of other neighboring countries are working in our country, which means they fill three million jobs availability. However, it is our human duty to accept them. "

But he does not say that these workers do not enjoy the minimums benefits of Iranian workers and they are exploited a few times and or several times more. The official march that the Labor's House set up on the International Labor Day last year and the slogans given against immigrant workers do not say anything.

At the end, the minister of labor emphasized the unity of labor organizations: "As long as we met in Brussels, we emphasized our unity against tyranny, and now we have to use all our power to confront the regimes that brutally confronts workers. "It is true that as a minister of co-operation, work and social welfare, I am present at this summit, but I already consider myself a member of the trade unionist."

He speaks in a way that it seems that the misfortune of workers in Iran is the rulers and he have no dealing with them.

It just needs to be asked that during the period of his ministry there were how many legal action and multiple labor lawsuits against workers by the judiciary? And what was his role in suppressing independent workers' councils and organizations from 57 to 60?

We do not need to inquire about the representatives of other countries. A little sample tells you about the whole. One can imagine that the real representatives of the workers of no countries are present at this summit, and the news that these delegates are giving of their workers and their achievements that the Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade-Unions declares at the Senegalese summit, Latin America in Calcutta and Vietnam, how far is from the reality.



*Notifies of International Education
 about the conviction of the arrest
 of Mohammad Habibi, a caring teacher*

The recent arrest of a teacher and a member of the board of directors of the Teachers' Association of Tehran at his school explicitly states that persecution of union members in Iran continues. On March 3, Mohammad Habibi was arrested in his school and, according to local reports, he was arrested and hauled away. They claim that security forces have used pepper spray and handcuffs in the presence of their students. According to police sources, according to sources, they first took him to his house and seized some of his personal belongings. Habibi was then taken to Evin Prison for arrest. His family had no news of him and they did not know where he was or whether he was in good health. However, officials still have not provided a reason to arrest him. Habibi was already threatened by Iran for his role as a union leader. Teachers' guilds in various cities and provinces immediately objected to his arrest. This is the most recent case of the Iranian authorities dealing with the activities of the trade union, which in Iran, of course, has a long history and acts as a criminal offense with guild activities members of the health International Union of Education have objected to the continued imprisonment. Other well-known members of the Teachers' Union behind the bars are Mahmoud Beheshti Langroudi and Isma'il Abdi, leaders of Tehran Teachers' Association. Abdi was sentenced to six years in prison by injustice in the Islamic Revolutionary Tribunal.



Mohammad Habibi

The fighting committee

International education along with the working class has launched campaigns to force the Iranian authorities to release Abdi and other members of the trade union who were imprisoned because of their legal activities in the union. Mohammad Habibi, who welcomes the release of Reza Shahabi March 13th. Reza Shahabi is a Ganji for the Tehran Workers' Union and a suburban bus company. Reza Shahabi will pay a penalty of 68 million to the Iranian rial (about 1,500 euros). He is also not allowed to participate in any union activity or political activity for two years. Last year, EI, the International Transport Workers' Union (ITF) and other international unions also contributed to the inhuman conditions of union members in Iranian prisons.

Niknejad	Hashemi	Bodaghi	Abdi
Habibi	Baghani	Bohluli	Beheshti

**Teacher's place is not in prison!
 Teachers must be freed!**