



In This Issue:

- On the eve of March 8th 2021 ... P.1
- Statement of Independent Workers' ... P. 6
- The workers of the 'southern Tehran'... P. 9
- Three members of the Syndicate of ... P. 9
- Brief News... P. 11
- With the strongest possible term... P. 4
- Manifesto of the workers of 'Hepco'... P. 8
- Notification for Ali Nejati, ... P. 9
- WHAT WOMEN WANT: ... P. 10
- We condemn the court summons... P. 12

Be auspicious March 8, International Women's Day!



On the eve of March 8th 2021

Along with the social movements 'struggle, towards a new horizon!'

This year, we are welcoming the anniversary of March 8th, the International Women's Day, in a situation where the women in Iran are still under the fascistic Islamic Republic Government. The reactionary Islamic regime, by using the stereotyped, medieval anti-women laws, has committed the greatest sexual class discrimination act against women, and in terms of economic, political and social contact, treat them as second class citizens.

The Islamic Republic, from the very beginning, in the era of all-out repression of society, began with the violation of women's rights, and for more than four decades, any attack on the status of

About us: "The Committee in Solidarity with the Iranian workers Movement -Abroad" of solidarity groups and individuals outside of Iran that support Iranian Workers' Struggle for:
 (1) Democratic rights and economic Justice ;(2) Exposing anti- labour policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (3) Building bridges between the Iranian and international workers'movement.

Solidarity Committees with Iranian workers-abroad

solidarityciwm@gmail.com



women has been a prelude to more comprehensive repression on society.

Nowadays, one cannot speak about the International Women's Day, without mentioning the working women. What distinguishes and makes this day auspicious, is the March 8, 1875, the struggles of hundreds of women workers in New York City textile mills, who protested against the low wages, long working hours, inhumane conditions, and not having the right to vote, so they went on strike in a bloody and class struggle, imposing their demands on the bourgeoisie, and it was because of these struggles that this day was called March 8, the International Women's Day.

The working and toiling masses, which make up the majority of Iranian society, have been struggling with poverty and misery, due to the inflation and high cost of living from last year March 8 to the present day.

In the context of widespread unemployment and the lack of social security and severe repression that has deprived women for the opportunity to organize, and poverty and misery is grappling an increasing number of women.



Based on widespread inequalities, women are exposed to social harms. Phenomena like "sleeping street women", "carton sleeping", "runaway girls" have spread, prostitution and sex trade and the export of women to the neighbouring countries have increased.

The statistics of honour killings and domestic violence has risen; suicide and self-immolation of young women are making the headlines of every day news media.

The Covid-19 (Corona) epidemic, which as a result of negligence of the capitalist rulers, so far, has claimed the lives of thousands of people, and led to widespread unemployment, and an increase in the number of homeless and hungry ones. With the emptiness of the table of the poor people, the women of the families have faced the dilemma of how to organize the family's livelihood. These economic disorders have exacerbated domestic violence, where the women and children are the primary victims every day.

These Corona conditions has caused the single mothers, who organize the house-holds, which also make up a significant percentage and were busy in peddling on subways and streets, are no longer able to continue their business, therefore are severely harmed and deprived of their livelihood.

Another group of women, who have risked gathering, despite the existence of the Corona virus, are the teachers of the literacy movement, who have organized widespread protests; and several times have staged protest rallies continuously in Tehran, and in front of Parliament House, and at the city level in Yazd and they have set up protest rallies, but still are in a state of disarray without receiving an answer.

The women the who organize the households, (mainly due to killing of their Coolbari husbands), in order to feed their children, they are forced to coolbari in the cold of winter in mountains, which is a sign of the great tragedy and criminal nature of such an anti-woman Islamic regime,



that instead of securing a livelihood and earning for these human beings, forces them to such inhumane jobs.

But women in the face of these discriminations and inequalities have not remained silent and their voices of protest have become louder. They continue their individual and collective resistance and struggle in various forms with persistence in every corner and part of the Iranian lands.



The women in prisons, with resistance and perseverance have despaired the criminals of the Islamic Republic.

The regime was faced with the cries of the sugarcane women workers in Haft Tappeh during the strikes and workers 'protests. The emergence of working women and working class families is a wake up call for the Islamic regime. The women protests have been pushed forward hundreds steps from the small or scattered groups, and today, they are organized in the content of a real and social movement in which the women make up half of the Iranian population.

Part of these women, who class as retired ones are struggling alongside their male counterparts in the streets, shouting against inequality and for the improvement of their livelihood, and challenging the Islamic regime, and the other part in prisons, resists and fights against oppression in unison with the outside struggle.

The fledgling women's movement with the uprising of 2017 and 2019, with the protests and strikes of the workers, especially in Haft Tappeh, Ahwaz steel (Foulad of Ahwaz), and Hepco, and nowadays, the brilliant and nationwide movement of retirees in the most Iranian cities has become an all-encompassing social movement, to achieve its goals of ensuring equality, welfare and freedom for the Iranian women masses.

Nowadays, the women's movement and the working class's women are moving in a direction, that despite facing serious obstacles and repressions, but in its struggle without any illusion towards the capitalist system of Islamic Republic, it has targeted the sharp tip of its campaign attack towards the structural changes in the system. And present challenges of the struggle in various forms, from the streets to the prisons, universities, schools (teachers), and hospitals (nurses), has brought the masses of oppressed women to the fore on a large scale.

Today, the workers' movement and the women's movement are aware that without relying on their mass movement, they will not even be able to maintain the achievements for which they have fought so far and they have paid a heavy price.

Therefore, the organized struggle of this class has such a power of change and upheaval that other social movements and oppressed layers will benefit from it. That is why the unity of women's movement with the workers in every arena of social struggle is an historical requirement.



women and men, and aggression against the capitalist relations and the abolition of private property.

Today, it is on this basis that the struggle of workers 'movement and especially the women workers 'movement, are moving toward unity and socialization, in order to define an horizon that not only brings freedom and equality for itself, but also for society as a whole.

Be auspicious March 8th the International Women's Day!

Toward the creation of independent Women's organizations!

Down with the anti-women capitalist system!

24 February, 2021

Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers Movement-abroad

solidarityciwm@gmail.com



With the strongest possible term, the summoning of Ali Nejati, the retired worker and a board member director of Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Syndicate is condemned!

Once again, the Islamic Republic has been terrified, due to the progress of the workers 'movement, and the discontent of millions of working and toiling masses, who are struggling with poverty and hunger, therefore, has resorted to summons, arrests, and beatings of labor activists and freedom fighters. For confronting the workers' strikes and protests, in the face of the glorious and nationwide movement of social security retirees in most Iranian cities, the regime has become fearful, inevitably attacked the labor activists and other social movements.



The broad wave of summons, arrests and imprisonments has intensified. In recent weeks, three retired members of the Tehran Bus Syndicate (Sherkat -e -wahed), Mr. Davoud Razavi, Mr. Ata Babakhani, and Mr. Ali Ghorbanian, as well as recently, Ali Nejati, a famous face in the labor movement, have been prosecuted and summoned once more by the capitalist government of the Islamic Republic.

The government which today deprives millions of working and toiling peoples 'right to livelihood, and is unable to meet the smallest demands of the workers and toilers has frozen the bank account of Ali Nejati-this labor activist out of helplessness and inability.

On the eve of determining wages, the nationwide and determined movements of retirees, and the March 8th- International Women's Day, the regime which is facing a wide wave of discontents, protests and strikes, in order to get out of this precarious situation, as always, seeking to restoring to repressing, summoning, imprisoning, torturing, and the executing of labor activists and freedom fighters. The attack by the Islamic Republic's agents, against the labour activists, as it has never gone unanswere this time either, will not be without trouble for the ruling regime.



Ali Nejati

The movement in the battlefield today is becoming stronger day by day, and it has based its struggle on the destruction of the capitalist Islamic Republic. Today, the life and freedom of Ali Nejati and dozens of labour activists are depending on the progress of this movement. The labour movement and other social movements in process of advancing their agenda will also defeat these barbaric policies of summoning, arresting and imprisoning. The Iranian activists in the labour movement will not be alone in their struggle and the international labor institutions and organizations, by their solidarity and support, will not leave unanswered the medieval barbarism of the Islamic Republic.

Solidarity committees, with Iranian workers movement, whilst condemning the summoning of Ali Nejati- a retired labour activist, but also will always struggle for the release of other imprisoned workers and political prisoners. We call on all the leftists and freedom fighters, in every possible way, do not fail to expose and condemn this abhorrent action. We also, call on all labour international organizations, to condemn this anti- labour action of the Islamic Republic, and to prevent the summoning and execution of the invalid sentences of 5 years imprisonment for Ali Nejat-this labour activist.

Stop prosecution, summoning and arresting of labour activists!

By repression and imprisonment, the regime will never be able to stop the labour movement!

All the imprisoned workers and political prisoners must be released!

Solidarity committees with Iranian workers movement-abroad

solidarityciwm@gmail.com

17 February, 2021





Statement of Independent Workers', Retirees', and Teachers' Organizations on the 2021 Minimum Wage

The wages of the workers in 2021 should not be less than twelve and a half million tomans (\$US500.00)



For years, the rapacious capitalist system and its supporting governments have brutally exploited the workers and deprived them of many of their social-political rights. These extreme exploitations have reached to the extent that the Iranian working class today lives in very difficult and exhausting conditions. According to statistical data and research of some economic centers

and institutions, in the current situation, more than 40% of Iranians, a significant part of whom are workers, live below the absolute poverty line.

Inflation is skyrocketing, with prices for goods and daily necessities rising weekly and sometimes daily, including food prices, which have risen by more than 57 percent in less than a year, of course, this is according to Iranian officials which in fact is more than that. Embezzlement and theft have become prevalent among some officials whom plunder a large part of the country's social wealth. The Coronavirus epidemic has negatively affected many jobs and eliminated significant portions of job opportunities. The price of the dollar has been rising, which in turn has fueled inflation in the country. Rising unemployment, along with rising inflation, has greatly increased the country's calamity indicator. The current situation compared to the past decades have created such great gap between rich and poor in society to the brink of explosion. **Existence of such a gap at the cost of labor exhaustion and turning workers to second and third jobs, dropping out of school, malnutrition and elimination of medical, health, sports, recreation and consequently increasing physical and mental illness among workers and the poor, the severity of poverty and misery such as homelessness, unprecedented increase in corruption, addiction, theft, prostitution, suicide, child labor, sleeping cartons, eating from garbage and... has been added.**

Such a situation must be seen primarily as the result of an unequal and unjust system of capitalism and, as a result, the growth and deepening of the class gap. At the same time, the relentless invasion of neoliberal capitalist governments on the wage repression of workers over the years should not be overlooked. **In order to protect capital, these governments are always trying to keep workers' wages as low as possible and impose their reactionary rules on workers in various ways. One way is to set a "minimum wage" well below the poverty line. This task is carried out every year by the "Supreme Labor Council", which carries its out using a dominant legal and unilateral structure. The establishment of affiliated organizations such as the "Islamic Labor Council" and the representatives of these anti-labor organizations in the "Supreme Labor Council" is one of the tools of the dominant legal structure.** This year, as in previous years, the government and the private sector are trying to crack down on wages by raising the issue of regional wages and setting separate "minimum wages" for single and married workers, and hire as cheap and obedient workers as possible with their wage policy as far as possible.



The issue of the "minimum wage" is the issue of all workers. Because, on the one hand, a very significant proportion of workers - employed workers - receive wages equal to or less than the approved minimum wage, and on the other hand, the "minimum wage" itself is the basis for determining other wages. From there, the wages of other wage earners will be determined, including teachers, nurses, retirees, and so on ... It is related to the "minimum wage" of the workers, the wage level of other wage earners will also be low. In the current situation, a wide range of



workers, especially service workers, teachers buy service, contract workers and... Even earn lower than the minimum wage, less than one million Tomans (\$US40.00), sometimes with a delay of weeks and months. In addition, workers working in the free trade, economic and special zone, due to the application of special laws and regulations in these areas, are deprived of any legal rights and, consequently, of the wage system covered by the same labor law. At the same time, a significant part of temporary and contract workers does not receive the same minimum wage due to lack of control. To all this, of course, must be added the deprivation and disenfranchisement of working women. Working women are deprived of equal pay compared to men by gender discrimination and the lack of guarantees for equal pay for equal work. Examples of work in kindergartens for educators and work in private schools for female teachers, as well as the obvious difference in wage rates in small workshops, can be seen as clear signs of poor implementation of approved wages.

It is certain that the "minimum wage" of workers should not be less than the average cost of living of an urban household. Accordingly, independent labor organizations took the initiative to calculate and announced the "minimum wage" of workers for the year 2020 equal to \$US350.00 (9 million Tomans) per month. This amount was equivalent to the monthly cost of living of an urban household, with an average number of 3.3 members in 2020 in the country. With such a basis and considering the current libertine and increasing inflation and the expected inflation in the next year, the minimum wage of workers in 2021 cannot be less than **\$US480.00** (twelve million and five hundred thousand Tomans) **per month** and less than this, really the lives of workers and their families, will cause serious shortages and will inflict serious and irreparable damage to the health, nutrition, medicine, treatment, clothing, housing, transportation and provision of cultural needs, and in a word, the basic needs of workers and their families. At the same time, the health crisis in the context of the epidemic of Corona, which even according to official statistics has led to the death of tens of thousands and the infection of hundreds of thousands of people and the high costs of this disease, further highlights the need to fight for this minimum wage.

Given the current rising inflation, politically conscious workers and activists are demanding that the minimum annual wage be set at least once every six months and aligned with the real livelihood basket of working-class households.

The reactionary government thinktank and private sector economists declare: "Increasing wages will cause inflation ". **The fact is that the prevailing inflation in Iran has its own special economic and political reasons and the increase in wages has no role in increasing inflation. According to a scientific-economic estimate, "wage increases do not affect total producer prices and hence total prices and therefore inflation."**

Over the past forty-two years, the real wages of the workers, the purchasing power of the working class, have steadily declined, while at the same time we have witnessed very high and rising inflation in society. **We the workers should not be just watching the destruction of**



our existence and survival. We must continue our protests against this deplorable situation in a united and organized manner, with a conscious, courageous and continuous effort, until the demands for our rights, including the increase of wages in proportion to the average cost of living in our society, are met and lead our struggles until they are met. Let's deliver. Workers need an independent organization across the country to achieve their full rights. Just as everyone needs air, water, food, clothing, housing, health, education, culture and entertainment for normal life!

Long live the unity and solidarity of workers, teachers and retirees

February 14, 2021

- 1- **Workers' Syndicate of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company**
- 2- **Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Cultivation and Industry Company Workers' Syndicate**
- 3- **Islamshahr Teachers' Union**
- 4- **Retirees Union Group**
- 5- **Coordinating committee to help establish Workers' trade unions**
- 6- **Retirees Union**
- 7- **Iranian Pensioners Council**
- 8- **National Union of Iranian Retirees**
- 9- **Follow-up committee for the establishment of Iranian trade unions**

Manifesto of the workers of 'Hepco'
***"Do not make the workers an instrument,
pay our wages."***

A group of the workers of 'Hepco' by publishing a manifesto; have pointed to their Live's difficulties in the past few years and have demanded that their wages be paid and difficulties be removed, and have addressed to the management that in order to remove worker's Live's difficulties they must stop using them as tools and find a better way of dealing with the current working conditions.



The workers of 'Hepco' have point out that, it has been a few years that the condition of of the workers of 'Hepco' Co. i.e. the only manu-facturer of machinery for roads maintenance and mining is seriously dire and confused and it seems that 'Hepco' Co. is known all over the world for the demonstration of its workers rather than the manufacturer of machinery for mining and roads.

The workers have added that that main shareholder of the company has not paid the debts that he has accumulated by privatizing the company and the money he has borrowed in the name of 'Hepco'. And eventually has decided that by raising the objection of the workers in protest he can avoid the the multi-million Tomans (Million dollars) of money payment to the



workers and by privatizing the company he has pocketed 240 Billion tomans (US\$9,600,000.00) for himself.

The workers in their long protest for not having job and financial security and empty promises of the management for compensation have gathered in protest in the city of 'Arak's' railway and have blocked the traffic for a few hours. **One of the workers has told the media's reporter that our apprehension is work and production and turning the wheels of production and having job security, in recent months' we have told the management several times to. Work out our difficulties at the roots level; he also indicated that none of the workers have been paid for the whole 10 month and many have not received their wages for the 9 month.**

The workers of the 'southern Tehran' company ...

Belonging to the project of the exporting of the stockroom in the port of 'Majidieh 'have gathered in protest for the 2nd day in solidarity for the laid off workers.

The active workers of the 'Southern Tehran' company in the 'Majidieh Port' of Mahshahr in protest to the laying off of their fellow workers by the employer have gathered in protest in front of the company; This is the 2nd day of the gathering of the workers of the 'Southern Tehran' company.

Notification for Ali Nejati, the retired worker and one of board members of the Syndicate of Haft Tappeh Sugarcane, to begin his 5 years sentence

In the last few weeks, Ali Nejati was contacted by the Evin prison officials that he needs to show up to start a 5 years prison. Ali Nejati was also threatened that if he does not abide by the call, his banking account will be closed. After while his banking account was blocked. **After some investigation in the branch one of Evin prison court, it got revealed that the file pertaining to Ali Nejati and Sepideh Gholian belonged to strikes taken place before by the workers in Haft Tappeh and was already declared terminated. The syndicate of workers in the bus company condemns the call on Ali Nejati to start a 5 years prison and demands freedom of all incarcerated workers and labor activists.**

Three members of the Syndicate of Bus Company workers were called by branch 2 of the Evin court to show up to the security police!



Gentelmen, Davood Razavi, Atta Babakhani, and Ali Gorbanian members of the Syndicate of Bus Company Workers were **Three members of the Syndicate of** called by branch 2 of the Evin court to the security police agency and they are supposed to get to the agency. **After these individuals participated in the gathering of independent pensioners' rally in front of the Parliament House, they were called on by the security police and in the last few days, notices have been sent to them. It is essential to say that these three members of the syndicate are also social security pensioners.**



From left to right: A. Gorbanian, D. Razavi, A. Babakhani at a gathering of retired workers

Just to mention that in the last days another file on the basis of "harming the national security", is issued regarding Mr Atta Babakhani in branch one of revolutionary public court in Karaj area and to declare it judicially, it has been directed to the national security police in Karaj. **Since 2020 pressures by security institutions have been intensified against the Syndicate of Bus company workers and under any excuse the security agents have threatened members of the syndicate or they have been called to the police.**

In one instance, last year 15 members of the syndicate were ordered to report to the police. In the last few years, pensioner's assemblies on the basis of demand for independent organizations and protest about trivial amount, many times under the poverty line payments, have grown in many cities. But the same thing is still happening.

Capital for social security has been provided through workers' insurance payment. But, unfortunately the rights of workers as the main owner of this organization to manage its affairs are taken away. The Syndicate of Bus Company Workers condemns any kind of file making, dragging and threat against the workers and demands putting stop on confining the three members of the syndicate, and strongly supports protests by workers, pensioners and wage earners for the purpose of achieving their eliminated rights.

Alternative for workers is unity and organization

The Syndicate of workers in Wahed Bus Company of Tehran and Suburbs

WHAT WOMEN WANT: *

Freedom, Equality and Humane laws

Please don't say Happy Women's Day!
I don't say Happy Women's Day to Iranian women,
since they don't need any Women's Day!
What they need is abolishing the discrimination and achieving the equal rights.
You cannot deceive them by a flower or a golden tea set!

In this society where a woman counts only as half of a man,
Such as their testimony in the court or their blood money,
Where you can see in their birth certificate,



That a child belongs to one parent: the child of the father,
Mother is only a nanny and a wet nurse!

When women want to get a passport and want to travel,
They need the husband's permission, no permission, and no travel!
Even if they lose the best opportunity in their studies,
Or the best position in sport!

Don't congratulate women for Women's Day, or Mother's Day,
Since it's like giving a lollipop to a kid to keep her calm,
and to forget what she really wants!

Don't humiliate women and mothers,
Don't give congratulatory slogans,
Look at them as an equal human being,
They are not the second sex, ARE NOT!!

I don't say: *congratulations*!
I only hope that one day,
your rights, you woman, will be
the same as somebody like me,
Somebody who is called a MAN!!

* - The remarks of a young man have become unsealed, published in video. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of video, we are not able to publish it, Sorry.

Brief News

- * - **Arak Hepco factory workers** continued their protests for the lack of job security and empty promises of officials with a rally under the Bakhtiari bridge.
- * - **Ali Nejati , Haft Tappeh retired worker** was summoned to go to prison for 5 years. They got his meagre pensions hostage through blocking his banking account, which is a very heinous and inhumane act.
Haft Tappeh sugar cane workers syndicates
- * - **Strikes and rallies of “Tehran Jonoob” workers** in Majidieh port of Mahshahr to protest against the expulsion of 25 of their colleagues .On Saturday 15th Feb. workers of “Tehran Jonoob” in Majidieh port of Mahshahr to protest against the expulsion of 25 of their colleagues stopped working and rallied in front of the entrance of this project.



* - **Workers of Nonindustrial operation** and services of Mahshahr petrochemical on Sunday 9th Feb. rallied in front of “Besat city” to protest against the failure to implement a job classification plan.

* - **Summoning Elahe Mousavi**, environmental reporter to the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office in Tehran. Elahe



Mousavi, environmental reporter and journalist of “Eskan News” in Golestan province was summoned to Tehran prosecutor's office. She should be present in court in five days. Her plaintiff is Natural sources of Golestan province. Her article about contamination of “Kansaz Khazar factory” made legal problems for her.

* - **Some of Hepco workers** in protest against their problems and for demands rallied along the railroad in Arak. Hepco workers, say some of the personnel have not received their wages for 9 months and all the personnel did not receive their full wages from January. Only they received their basic wage without the benefit in this skyrocketing inflation.

* - **Tabriz: Large and nationwide rally** of retirees and pensioners was held on Sunday February 21 at 10:30 am in front of the Social Security office.

* - **Strike In Abadan Refinery** - February 22, about 400 project workers of “Exir Sanat”, “Sekaf”, ... went on strike in the refinery grounds to receive aids and benefits, as well as wages for January and February, which still continues.

It should be noted that in accordance with the wage increase campaign initiated by project workers across Iran in August 2020, employers promised not to roll back wages and pay workers legal benefits and comply with labor law.

***We condemn the court summons of Ali Nejati,
our retired colleague!***

The judiciary and security forces have forced our retired colleague, Ali Nejati, to report for five years in prison; even though his legal case is closed and he suffers from physical problems, including heart failure.

For our country's judiciary and security system, not all retirees are the same! Some of their own bright-eyed pensioners are serving the corrupt Assadbaygi inside the Haft Tappeh company. People like Saberian, Bahari, Karimipour, Amjadi, and so on. But the majority of retirees have to fight for a meagre living, even after retirement.

Ali Nejati, our retired, colleague is no exception to this cruel rule: he has been put under pressure and harassment, and in a shameless act, even his bank accounts have been blocked. He was already retired at the time of the 2018's strikes, but was harassed by the security apparatus and then cruelly sentenced to five years in prison. But then all of his sentences were overturned because of our protests' demands included quashing all sentences against our colleagues and supporters.

We condemn any harassment of Mr Nejati, or the Haft Tappeh workers representatives, who have recently had lawsuits started against them. The response of the Haft Tappeh workers to these blatant oppressions will not be silence.

A group of Haft Tappeh workers from various departments

Friday - 19 February 2021

Translation: Shahrokh Zamani Action Campaign