

AWNI



Alternative Workers News-Iran

a fortnightly Newspaper from:  
«solidarity committees with iranian workers movment – abroad»

No. 139

[solidaritciwm@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritciwm@gmail.com)

15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

*In This Issue:*

- Your shared destiny, the workers and ...	P. 1	- Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers...	p. 3
- Abadan Oil Refinery official staff rally...	P. 4	- Oil company employees rally with ...	P. 4
- The news of gatherings in protest...	p. 5	- A step forward for the workers of ...	P. 5
- Letter from Swedish Workers' Syndicate...	P. 6	- Worsening repression in Iran...	p. 7

*Your shared destiny, the workers  
and the oppressed people, Their destiny;*

The Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers' Syndicate is an independent organization of all governmental, non-governmental parties, organizations and institutions.

The Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers' Union has been and is an independent organization and has nothing to do with any faction or clique.

Since its inception, The Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers 'union has tried its best to be the Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers' expressive voice.

The Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers' union has been trying to gain workers' demands, transfer their experiences and other parts of the Iranian labor movement among the Haft Tappeh workers' union, because we, the members of the Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers' union, believe in the working-class power.

We have not been and will not be a follower of this or that particular organization or party in any period.

We are a union totally independent of the government, the employer and the owners of capital (both in power and out of power) and our record performance so far and our labor record are proof of this claim.

Despite all the weaknesses, we are proud that we are still the voice of the workers of Haft Tappeh and we still believe that the working class is able to liberate itself by its own force and we do not have the slightest illusion about any person, organization or faction.

From the very beginning of our inception, we declared and insisted that our right must



**About us:** "The Committees in Solidarity with the Iranian workers Movement -Abroad" consist 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](mailto:solidarityciwm@gmail.com)



## **The ridiculous "election" and the seven evil men!**

### **Presidential candidates appointed and elected "Guardian Council"!**

Be taken only by our efforts and that this right can only be achieved through the unity, solidarity and the organization of the workers and outside the relations of the defenders of all forms and shapes of the capitalist system.

The ballot box and the elections have nothing to do with our workers' interests. We do not take any orders from any person, organization or boss! We have never received orders from anyone and we have not obeyed any source.

We have acted independently, we have stood on our own two feet, we have starved, we have been fired and imprisoned, we have been threatened and insulted, but without any illusions of this and that, we have moved forward and believed in the class power of the workers more and more.

Neither imprisonment, nor expulsion, nor threats, nor bribery have been able to separate us from the ranks of the workers and the lower/deprived classes of society.

The demand of the Haft Tappeh workers is the demand of other workers and toilers throughout Iran. Our will is common, our pain is common, and for this common pain we need a common working-class struggle.

We are not and will not be a election campaign of any body, and this is our right and we defend this right.

**Long Live the Unity and Class Solidarity of the Workers**

**Against Oppression and Exploitation!**

June 4, 2021

**Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers Syndicate**



## *Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers Gathering in the Factory Yard*

Tuesday, June 1st, 2021

Today, the workers at Sugar Cane Company went on strike in front of the empty offices of the management. They stopped working in protest to "water rights", endangerment of the job security and non- payment of wages and salaries.

According to the management contract with the workers the wages should be paid on the tenth of every month, but up to this very day, which is the 70th day since beginning of the Persian year, no wages have been paid to the workers.

Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers' Syndicate requests that people in charge investigate the demands of the workers.

*Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers' Syndicate*

### **The third day of the workers strike in Haft Tappeh**

Thursday, June 3rd, 2021

Warning shots for dispersing the workers after the gathering of the workers in the factory yard and in front of the entrance gate, one of the security personnel of the Haft Tappeh police station, whom is said to be the chief of the station, started the warning shots in order to disperse the striking workers.

The Syndicate strongly condemn this flagrant, anti worker and savage action. At this point the striking still workers are in the factory area.

*Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers'*



**Text: Haft Tappeh is thirsty, its workers hungry!**

**Haft Tappeh sugarcane is thirsty,  
bring water to Haft Tappeh!  
waterlessness**

**Haft Tappeh destruction**

**Unemployment of 5,000 workers**

## *Abadan official Oil Refinery staff rally*

The gathering of Abadan oil refinery official staff. On June 5th for the second time in this New Year, the official staff of oil industry rallied nationwide for salary raise in cities like Abadan, Ahvaz, Bahregan, Tehran, Asalooye, Gachsaran, Mahshahr, Lawan operational area, and in Abouzar oil platform in Persian Gulf. This rally was in front of official building of Abadan oil refinery. The participants in this rally as the government officials to revise their decision about this matter.





## *Oil company employees rally with slogan against minister*

The rally of oil company staff with slogan the staff of an oil company on May 22 in protest how to raise their salary, rallied in front of a collection of oil rich regions in Ahvaz and chanted against the oil minister. Hundreds of oil and gas staff simultaneously in capital and in southern regions like Abadan, Ahvaz, Asalouyeh rallied and chanted against the oil minister. The official staff of Oil Company on Wednesday in protest about how raise their salary carried some banners in front of collection of southern oil rich regions. In Tehran some other workers and industry staff rallied in front of parliament building and demanded to review their demands. Based on published videos, among the slogans of the



workers in different cities were: “Zangeneh Zangeneh shame on you, leave the ministry” and “production line forces do not have salary ceiling”. And at the same time some photos of protest gatherings and livelihoods of gas complex and organization of Pars special regions employees have been published..A group of oil continental plateau official employees in the operational region of Lawan rallied. Similar rallies took place in Gachsaran, Mahshahr, and Bahregan and in the Abouzar oil platform in Persian Gulf. The parliament's Consolidated Commission Resolutions in this year (2021)

have resulted in considerable limitation in salaries of official staff of oil ministry and the follow up of oil ministry had no results. For this reason some of official staff of oil who rallied on May 22, today on June 5 on the anniversary of discovery of oil in Masjed Soleiman rallied again.

## *The news of gatherings in protest in Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> may 2021*

\* - The retirees of the western Alborz steel Co. have gathered in protest today & demanded the rise of wages and pensions.

\* - The protest gathering of the retirees of the steel Co. in Esfahan ended up in confrontation with the security forces. The retirees of the steel Co. demand a rise in their wages and pensions and equalizing of wages.

\* - The protest gathering of the retirees of the steel Co. in Ahvaz. Was done in front of the building of the provincial government in the province of Khuzestan. They too demanded a rise in wages & their pensions.

\* - A group of teachers and staff of the non-selective schools from different cities gathered in front of the parliament building. In this gathering they demanded their official recruitment & handling of their work and livelihood problems.

\* - The gathering in protest of the teachers of non-selective schools in Esfahan in front of the office of education. These teachers demanded their official recruitment as well as handling of their work and livelihood.



Text: **We national group workers  
have not been paid for a few months**



## *A step forward for the workers of the 'zanjan'*

City council for creating job security following their continues protests: directly contracting for one year 900 workers of the 'zanjan' city council-and their continuing action for permanent contracts.

The working contract of the 900 workers of the 'green environment' services has been done for one year after their continuous protests. The actions of these workers for a permanent contract is ongoing.



In relation to this event; one of the workers of the 'zanjan' city council told a media reporter: in the past ten years a large number of workers of the 'green environment' & services of the 'zanjan' city council were devoid of job security because of temporary contracts, and now because of consistent pressure from the workers all 900 have had their temporary contracts redone for one full year, since the beginning of the month of 'Farvardin'. He also explained that all of the workers are after a permanent contract, so that they can have job security; he further explained that a worker with a direct and permanent contract can rest easy in his mind because of the job security and wages plus bonuses; when

work in the city council is 'permanent'. The worker not only should be directly contracted but the contract ought to be permanent.

## *Letter from Swedish Workers' Syndicate Platform to Hassan Rouhani*

Dr. Hassan Rouhani

Honourable President of the Islamic republic of Iran The  
Presidency

Pasteur Street

Pasteur Square

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Via email: rouhani@csr.ir, media@rouhani.ir

Dear President Rouhani,



The Swedish Trade Union Platform for Iran writes to express our deep concern over the situation of two well-known workers' rights defenders in Iran, Mahmoud Salehi and Osman Ismaili. They were arrested on 16 May 2021 after being summoned to the Prosecutor's office in Saqqez. According to our information, the two are charged with endangering national security by disseminating information concerning the celebration of 1 May, a day celebrated by working people around the world for well over a century. They were recently convicted of 'spreading propaganda against the system' under Article 500 of the Islamic Penal Code. Since they refused bail on principle, they are now in prison.

Mahmoud Salehi is in poor health and in need of regular medical attention, having lost both kidneys as a result of his past mistreatment in prison. For many years, as founder of an independent bakers' union



in Iran's Kurdistan province, he has been harassed, arrested and repeatedly imprisoned for defending the fundamental rights of workers to freedom of association, rights set out in instruments of international law. These latest arrests and convictions constitute serious violations of core labour standards of the ILO.

We urge the Government of Iran, as a matter of urgency, to secure the unconditional and immediate release of Mr. Salehi and Mr. Ismaili and guarantee their physical and psychological well-being and call on your Government to fully respect the right of all workers to freedom of association.

Yours sincerely,

Leif Isaksson

Ombudsman/International Secretary

LO International Department

Barnhusgatan 18

SE-105 53 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone: +46 8 796 25 00

Cell: + 46 70 254 21 03



### *Worsening repression in Iran*

#### **Mahmoud Salehi and Osman Esmaili sentenced to imprisonment**



In the face of the growth of the workers' protest movement in Iran, the Islamic regime is taking the repression of workers' activists and their defenders up a notch.

The increase in arrests of activists' ouvrier.es under false pretexts, as well as the extension of pressure of all kinds on citizens.nes supporting them, mark a new step in the repression of the creeping social movement.

May 1, 2021 is a demonstration of this. Despite a strong mobilization of repressive forces and parallel organizations such as the "Worker's House", workers, unemployed and retired people tried to gather to celebrate the day in some cities, where they faced police charges that resulted in several arrests. As a therefore, the repressive measures concerning 1 May continued to be taken beyond that date.

May 1, 2021 is a demonstration of this. Despite a strong mobilization of repressive forces and parallel organizations such as the "Worker's House", workers, unemployed and retired people tried to gather to



celebrate the day in some cities, where they faced police charges that resulted in several arrests. As a therefore, the repressive measures concerning 1 May continued to be taken beyond that date.

Those defending struggling workers are also in the line of fire of repression. The judicial pressure on the lawyer for the salarié.es of the Haft-tappeh sugar factory, Mrs Farzane Zilabi, is a glaring example of this. The indictment of the lawyer for the salarié.es of this agro-industrial complex is part of a new wave of pressure that has been falling on these workers since the expropriation of its owners.

During this long struggle that brought the strikers before the courts on several occasions, the lawyer Mrs. Zilabi defended them tirelessly. Accused of complicity in propaganda against the regime, of association to act against national security, of insulting the Guide, she has been banned from practising since 13 May on the orders of the judicial authorities. This arbitrary decision against Mrs Zilabi is strongly contested by haft-tappeh employees, by the other lawyers in charge of Haft-Tappeh's case, and by 336 lawyers at the Court who demand in a press release, the immediate annulment of this order which constitutes a serious attack on the independence of the bar.

### **Our organizations:**

- call for the immediate and unconditional release of Mahmud Salehi and Osman Esmaili, as well as the annulment of the sentences imposed on them;
- condemn the repression and harassment suffered by the lawyer for the Haft-tappeh sugar salarié.es, Mrs Farzane Zilabi, and call for the immediate annulment of her ban on practising;
- call for the annulment of all unjust sentences contrary to fundamental rights and freedoms; as well as the immediate and unconditional release of all activists imprisoned for their trade union activities;
- call on the Iranian regime to respect the international conventions it has ratified, including those on freedom of association, demonstration, strike and collective bargaining.

**French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)**

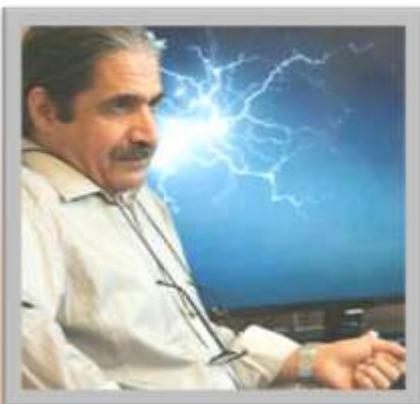
**General Confederation of Labour (CGT)**

**Unitary Trade Union Federation (FSU)**

**Union syndicale Solidaires**

**National Union of Autonomous Trade Unions (UNSA)**

Paris, 4 June 2021



Esmail Gerami, a pioneer of the nationwide protests against retirees who had been arrested at his home for participating in retirement gatherings to protest the harsh livelihoods of the Revolutionary Guards Headquarters, was sentenced to 5 years Prison, 74 lashes and a fine of 2 million tomans in prison after two months of temporary detention.

**Esmail Gerami, must be free right now!**