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# Alternative Workers News Iran

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## The outcome of American democracy for the workers, women, and people of Afghanistan

In the aftermath of 9/11 events, under the pretext of fighting terrorism and the arresting of Al-Qaeda leaders, the US government, with the cooperation of its NATO allies, launched a large-scale attack, and invaded Afghanistan by land and air, and occupied this country. The rain of bombs, and missiles guided rockets were dropped on the Afghan people, who lived five miserable years of life under the yoke of the Taliban Islamic regime, yet they were forced to endure another difficult situation. The Taliban, which is the joint product of USA, Pakistan, and other reactionary countries in region, and hosted of Al-Qaeda, refused to submit the of Al-Qaeda leaders to USA. Despite USA and NATO military, temporarily ousted the Taliban, in a bloody war to inject "democracy" into the half-dead body of Afghanistan, which has been experiencing 20 years of civil war, but the security was not restored. The corrupted governments, one after another took power, but for the people of Afghanistan, there was no news of providing security and comfort. The people of

Afghanistan during these years have fled to the neighboring countries, and some of them to the



European countries, to find peace, security and a better life for themselves and their children. [The American gift of "democracy" that ruled Afghanistan during the past 20 years, has brought nothing but murders, killings, poverty, misery, and homelessness. The US and NATO personnel](#)

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did not refrain from any crime and have repeatedly killed or abused the people of Afghanistan. The people Afghan people have never seen the face of good security. The widespread corruption, deprivation, ethnic discrimination, and the class gap, on one hand, and bombings, kidnappings, murder of children, women, young girls, students, and workers on the other hand, have become a daily occurrence, and it has linked the name of Afghanistan with this phenomenon! The US government in the past year, by meetings and agreements behind the scenes with the Taliban's and giving them green lights, and by assigning the corrupt government of Afghanistan, has made this group more aggressive towards the people of this country, and once more brought repression, killings, and homelessness to them. The Taliban, as ISIS (Daesh) attacks people, women, and girls, and with the dream of building another Islamic state in the region, enjoys the full support of the rotten Islamic regime in Iran. **We, the solidarity committees, in support of the Iranian workers movement-abroad, whilst in solidarity, sympathize**

with the plight and struggle of the people of Afghanistan, condemn the aggression of the USA, and other European countries, the regional governments, and the brutal crimes of the Taliban. We believe that a return to peace and security for the people of Afghanistan is possible, only with the organized unity and solidarity of the workers, and the oppressed social groups, especially women, with their organized struggle. The solidarity committees stand side by side with the women and men in Afghanistan, and in this unequal war and struggle against the Taliban and other forces and Islamic governments in the region, we will not withhold any help and support at our disposal.

**Down with the Taliban and all its supporting governments and forces!**

**Long live international unity and solidarity with the oppressed workers and people in Afghanistan!**

*The Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers-abroad*

August 2021

## **Advocacy and defense of workers' rights is not a crime!**

### **We condemn the trail of *Farzaneh Zilabi*, a lawyer for the *Haft Tappeh* workers!**

As you know, the second Branch of the Revolutionary Court of Ahwaz has summoned *Farzaneh Zilbi* to court based on baseless accusation. She will be tried for the second time in August. In August, she was accused to gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security propaganda, activities against the regime, membership in dissident groups and insulting the leadership are charges that the judiciary has used to many years to stifle the voices of protester and activists. In general, these accusations are stifling the voice of protest, poverty and unemployment, exploitation, coercion, corruption, looting and violation of civil rights and the independence of the lawyer. The reason of such accusation to *Farzaneh Zilabi* is to make much more difficult the legal pursuit of workers' rights and revenge against Haft Tappeh workers? **We announce**

- 1- Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers Syndicate,**
- 2- Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus company,**
- 3- Follow up Committee for the establishment of trade unions,**

that advocacy and defense of workers' rights is not crime, and the accusation of Judiciary to *Farzaneh*



*Zilabi* is baseless accusation. We support the lawyer of the *Haft Tappeh* Signatories of joint statement condemning the trail of *Farzaneh Zilabi*, lawyer for *Haft Tappeh* worked on behalf of labor organizations, retirees, and labor activists.

**4-Coordination committee to help the establishment of trade unions,**

**5- Pensioners union group,**

**6- National Union of Retirees of Iran,**

**7- Union of Retirees.**

## **Failure to carry out immediate, free, public, and standard vaccination is a crime! Vaccinate people immediately!**

Now, Iran has become a slaughterhouse due to the existence of an irresponsible and inefficient government that according to official statistic more than 700 people die daily because of Corona virus. Such a massacre of this magnitude is only smart part of the calamities that have befallen on the families and citizen who mourn their loved ones.

This dying because of Corona, neat the other problem of people, as lack of medicine and clinics, insufficient financial support, high cost of medicine and corona test and CT scan, expensive visits to doctors, especially private medical centers and more important, discrimination and class divisions in the treatment and health and vaccination of deprived people, reflect other dimension of governing policies.

While government institutions and the ruling minority are alien to all suffering, by seizing health facilities and equipment with the aim of achieving more profit, they ban on purchase of valid vaccines and the lack of support services from the very beginning, especially during the quarantine period, citizens expanded the scope of Corona Pandemic. The authorities didn't feel any responsibilities and with delay of vaccination leads the society and health services to a crisis. The authorities approved the budget for Corona 530 Milliard Toman (US\$2,120,000.00), while the budget of Islamic seminary is 1733 milliard Toman (US\$6,932,000.00), which means triple of budget for fighting against Corona virus. The main part of budget for Corona because of bureaucratic trend, goes to the profit-oriented system into the pockets of rent-seeking gangs and death dealers.



The workers want 4 requests including the rapid, safe, for all, and free vaccination and they request to perpetrators of the Corona massacre to citizens to be punished.

We, the signatories of this statement, while expressing our disgust and strong protest to all the inefficiency and negligence of government, warn the health of the people.

We want the above 4 requests to be fulfilled according to a plan. The authority should get the responsibility for all consequence if they don't offer the vaccination. We request quarantine with providing the minimum living time necessary for its implementation for workers and underprivileged people.

We request to provide these necessities to control and diminish the Covid -19.

**We condemn the arresting of the lawyers and strongly protest government's responsibilities. We demand their unconditional and immediate release.**

**Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers Syndicate,**

**Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company,**

**Follow up Committee for the establishment of trade unions,**

**Coordination committee to help the establishment of trade unions,**

**Pensioners union group,**

**National Union of Retirees of Iran,**

**Union of Retirees.**

**August 2021**

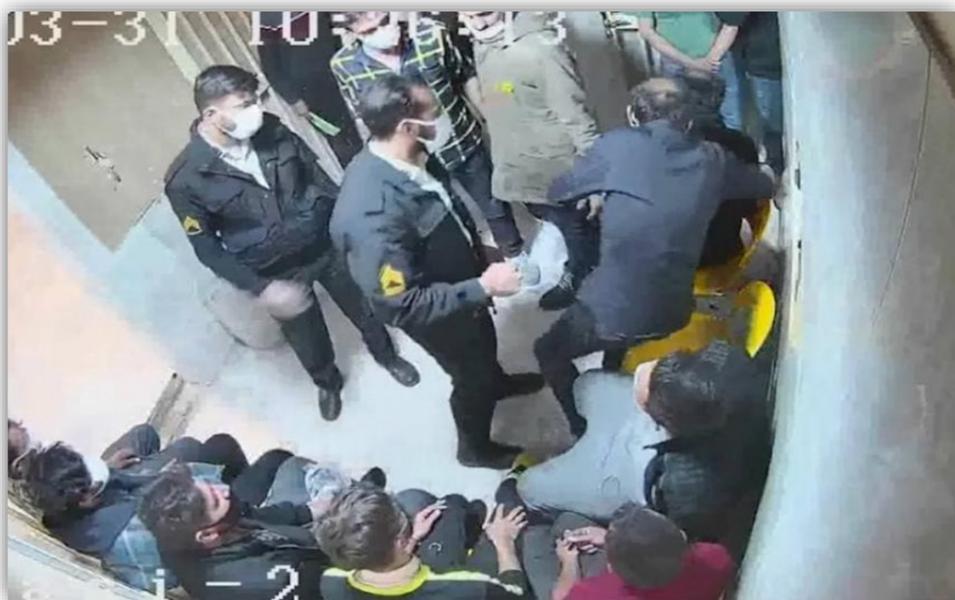
## Leaked Evin Prison CCTV footage shows brutality

PEN Sydney again expresses its grave concern for the safety of three members of The Iranian Writers Association (IWA) and all other political prisoners in Iran, after publication of leaked CCTV footage from Evin prison.

Two days ago, unknown hackers published a series of videos from inside the notorious Evin prison in Tehran in which the brutal treatment of prisoners has been publicly revealed.

Amnesty International released a statement condemning the torture, trauma, and inhumane treatment of prisoners that the footage revealed.

"Leaked surveillance footage from Evin prison showing appalling abuse of prisoners serves as a chilling reminder of the impunity granted to prison officials in Iran who subject those in their custody to torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment".



The Iranian authorities sent three members of IWA, *Reza Khandan Mehabadi*, *Baktash Abtin* and *Kayvan Bazhan* to Evin prison almost a year ago to serve 13.5 years collectively.

Their crime is publishing a book about the history of IWA and commemorating the famous poet *A. Shamloo*. PEN Sydney previously reported on the plight of the trio here and here.



The CCTV videos prove our concerns, that in Iranian prisons systematic torture and trauma are used on prisoners.

The leakage of the video footage coincides with the anniversary of a mass killing of political prisoners in 1988 when, according to Amnesty International, more than 3000

political prisoners were massacred, many in Evin prison. The current president, *Ibrahim Raeisi*, was one of four members of the "Death Committee",

appointed by *Ayatollah Khomeini*, who oversaw the massacre. Right now, in Sweden an Iranian official is on trial for his alleged participation in this crime.

PEN Sydney calls for the immediate release of IWA members and all political prisoners in Iran.

We remind the Iranian authorities of their obligation under the UN Human Rights Charter to respect all freedoms and to immediately abolish all executions and all forms of torture and trauma.

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<https://pen.org.au/blogs/news/leaked-evin-prison-cctv-footage-shows-brutality>

## “Revelations of Carter’s Former Advisor: ‘Yes, the CIA entered Afghanistan before the Russians...’” (1998)

Originally published: David Gibbs Blog by Le Novel Observation (International Politics 37, no. 2, 2000, pp. 241-242.)

Posted Aug 19, 2021

### The Brzezinski Interview with Le Novel Observation (1998)



**Question:** The former director of the CIA, Robert Gates, stated in his memoirs that the American intelligence services began to aid the *Mujahidin* in Afghanistan six months before the Soviet intervention. In this period, you were the national security advisor to President Carter. You therefore played a key role in this affair. Is this correct?

**Brzezinski:** Yes. According to the official version of history, CIA aid to the *Mujahidin* began during 1980, that is to say, after the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan on December 24, 1979. But the reality, closely guarded until now, is completely otherwise: Indeed, it was July 3, 1979, that President Carter signed the first directive for secret aid to the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. And that very day, I wrote a note to the president in which I explained to him that in my opinion this aid was going to induce a Soviet military intervention [emphasis added throughout].

**Q:** Despite this risk, you were an advocate of this covert action. But perhaps you yourself desired this

Soviet entry into the war and looked for a way to provoke it?

**B:** It wasn’t quite like that. We didn’t push the Russians to intervene, but we knowingly increased the probability that they would.

**Q:** When the Soviets justified their intervention by asserting that they intended to fight against secret U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, nobody believed them. However, there was an element of truth in this. You don’t regret any of this today?

**B:** Regret what? That secret operation was an excellent idea. It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap and



you want me to regret it? The day that the Soviets officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter, essentially: “We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam war.” Indeed, for almost 10 years, Moscow had to carry on a war that was unsustainable for the regime, a conflict that bought about the demoralization and finally the breakup of the Soviet empire.

**Q:** And neither do you regret having supported Islamic fundamentalism, which has given

arms and advice to future terrorists?

**B:** What is more important in world history? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some agitated Moslems or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the cold war?

**Q:** “Some agitated Moslems”? But it has been said and repeated: Islamic fundamentalism represents a world menace today...

**B:** Nonsense! It is said that the West has a global policy in regard to Islam. That is stupid: There isn’t a global Islam. Look at Islam in a rational manner, without demagoguery or emotionalism. It is the leading religion of the world with 1.5 billion followers. But what is there in common among fundamentalist Saudi Arabia, moderate Morocco, militarist Pakistan, pro-Western Egypt, or secularist Central Asia? Nothing more than what unites the Christian countries...

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Translated from the French by William Blum and David N. Gibbs. This translation was published in Gibbs, “Afghanistan: The Soviet Invasion in Retrospect,” *International Politics* 37, no. 2, 2000, pp. 241-242. For article full text, click here.

Original French version appeared in “Les Révélations d’un Ancien

Conseiller de Carter: 'Oui, la CIA Est Entrée end Afghanistan

Avant les Ruses...'” Le Novel Observation [Paris], January 15-21, 1998, p. 76. Click here for original French text.

Note that all ellipses appeared in the original transcript, as published in Le Novel Observation.

#### **Additional Sources:**

The memoirs referred to in the interview are Robert M. Gates, *From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider's Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War* (New York: Simon & Schuster,

1996), pp. 143-49. Written by a former CIA director, this book first revealed the covert support for the *Mujahidin*, prior to the invasion.

Washington Post correspondent Steve Coll downplays the significance of the CIA operation. He presents declassified documents from Brzezinski that express deep concern about the Soviet invasion. According to Coll, the documents “show no

hint of satisfaction” from Brzezinski, regarding the invasion. Note, however, that Brzezinski's 1983 memoirs clearly do imply some satisfaction regarding the Soviet invasion (Coll neglects to mention this).

See Steve Coll, *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001* (New York: Penguin, 2004), pp. 50-51, 581, footnote 17; and Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Advisor, 1977-1981* (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1983), p. 429.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/56738.htm>



#### **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.

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