



The Islamic fascist regime committed another crime!

Baktash Abtin passed away in prison!

“The security forces raided my house in 2015-2016 and laid three charges against me. Several times of interrogation, and several court appearances, which subsequently resulted in 6 years of imprisonment. The question is this, whether these pressures will cause e any disruption in my firm determination? No! My friends, colleagues, and myself in Iranian Writers Association, did our job well. If another 30 active members of the Association are taken to prison, our passionate youth and veteran members will certainly not allow our Association to cease its activities. No matter what the regime does to close us down, our members will do their duty. Therefore, these pressures could not in any way undermine our determination to do what we were supposed to do. But hoping for brighter and better days.”

(Part of Baktash Abtin’s speech during his sentence). The death news of Baktash Abtin was shocking! The death of this poet, film maker and permanent member of Iranian Writers Association was due to the negligence of the regime’s mercenaries in treating him, and it is considered a premeditated murder. There is no doubt that all political prisoners of the Islamic Republic’s prisons are facing revenge and death by the prison’s authorities. Baktash Abtin was a fighter with a passion for freedom and humanity. He defended freedom of writing and expression until his last breath and encouraged his colleagues to continue his path. He was neither afraid, nor fearful of beatings and threats from the oppressors of the Islamic Republic. May his memory continue and live long to show future generations, how this brave man stood up to his oppressors!



The supporters of the miserable capitalist Islamic Republic know more than ever that their crimes are innumerable and have lost their legitimacy and are infamous in the eyes of Iranians. By killing our loved ones, they will not be able to disrupt the determination, will and public opinion of the masses, in their struggle against the fascist government. Today, the class consciousness of a force that is aware of these values, whilst exposing such crimes, will force the Islamic reactionary government to retreat, and keep these victims’ names alive, and undoubtedly, the inhuman acts of this government will not go unanswered!

We, the Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers Movement- abroad, extend our condolences to Baktash Abtin’s family and Iranian Writers Association’s members, and share in their grief and together with the comrades of this loved one, we will not give up our struggle, until the overthrowing and total destruction of this regime of terror, execution and repression takes place.

*Free all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally!
Down with the criminal capitalist Islamic Republic!*

Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers Movement- abroad
8 January 2022



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Joint declaration of independent organizations of workers, retirees and teachers regarding the decision about wages for the next year (March 2022 to March 2023)

January 7, 2022

A hard and unequal battle continues for determining the minimum wage for the next year (March 2022 to March 2023)

The last few months and weeks of each year is the time to rekindle the hard, unequal and crucial battle to determine the minimum wage and the increase in the general level of other wages for the following year. On the one side of this battlefield are the millions of women and men workers in different sections of industry, services and agriculture who demand wages befitting the ever increasing cost of their daily needs. On the other side are the capitalists and their protector government, the agents working for the bosses and the government masquerading as "workers' representatives" in the "High Council of Labor" who try, in different ways, to keep the real level of wages, meaning the purchasing power of the workers, low and to appropriate ever increasing share of the social production of the workers for the capital. Over more than 40 years we have been witnessing the sharp and continuous decline of the workers' purchasing power in Iran, while at the same time huge accumulation of the wealth and the capital of the capitalists as well as the astronomical income of the moneyed classes have been happening. The main reason for this vast class gap is the exploitation of the labor by the capital which has been carried out by the political, judicial, administrative and security apparatuses of the capitalist system. Using suppression and oppression they prevent the creation of the independent

worker organizations which is necessary to defend the workers rights. In order to control the workers protests they have created the subservient and sterile workers organizations such as "Worker's House" and "Islamic Councils of Labor" and to send their representatives to the High Council of Labor and use them as the safety valves while they pass their anti workers rules. The hourly wages of Iranian workers are among the lowest in the world. Another factor that ruins the lives of the workers and ninety five percent of the people in general is the inflation, meaning the general and constant increase in prices of the goods and services consumed by people. The main factor causing inflation is the monetary and physical policies of the governing system in internal and external arenas. Based on the official statistics, over the past 42 years, the price index of the products and services consumed by public has shown an increase of 2,500!

Inflation rates for the last 3 to 4 years have been 31.2% for 2018, 41.2% for 2019 and 36.4% for 2020. Although the rate of inflation for 2021 has not been announced, but according to the data from the Central Bank the rate for 2021 is estimated to be 45%. In 2021 the rate of inflation for food and beverage items is more than 60%. The housing costs according to the officials is more than half of the income for the poor and the

middle classes. Inflation rate for 2022, considering the monetary and foreign exchange policies of the government will be at least 40 to 50 percent. In spite of these horrible figures that are rare in the world, the average increase for the government employees in 2022 will be about 10%. The ceiling for the minimum monthly wages for these employees will be 4.5 millions Tooman (US\$180.00) which is barely adequate for one week of a household expenses. This government policy is not only the theft from the millions of government companies workers, and others in educational and health apparatus, but also gives a glaring example to the private sector and to the High Council of Labor to follow the government policy!

Over the past years we have exposed the bosses, the government and those in the High Council of Labor who falsely call themselves the workers representatives, but they are in fact the partners in crime with the bosses. We have also proposed the criterion and the basis for the minimum wage that has been supported by the increasing number of workers organizations and the supporters of the working class. In our view the minimum wage of the

workers all over the country should not be less than the average expenses of a household. Based on this criterion we suggested, in January of 2020, that the minimum wage for 2021

should be 12.5 million Tooman(US\$500.00) per month. Realities of life showed the correctness of our suggestion! Now, based on the same criterion and considering the present unbridled inflation we declare

that the minimum wage for 2022 should not be less than 16 million Tooman(US\$640.00) per month. We suggest to all wage earning workers of different branches of industry, mining, roads and buildings construction, transportation, agro-industrial companies, etc; to all the hardworking teachers who are the vanguards of the struggle to secure their economic, social and cultural rights and they are elevating the cause of education;

to all health workers who have given hundreds of human sacrifices in performing their heroic battles against Covid-19; to all office workers of public and private sectors; to all retirees and in general to all wage and salary earners and pensioners to put the demand for 16 million Tooman(US\$640.00) per month at the center of their struggle in the coming months. We invite the militant students, vanguard intellectuals, journalists and university faculty to support the struggle of the workers to increase their wages based on a minimum wage of 16 million Tooman(US\$640.00). We invite all these forces to create their independent organizations and a united struggle to achieve their goals. We also support the resistance of all workers against anti worker policies such as regional wages, consensus wages, elimination of minimum wage and establishment master-

apprentice system. We say to all the workers, the worker's organizations and the supporters of the working class that the real change and the significant improvement in material and spiritual life is dependent on the basic change in the existing eco-socio-political and cultural relations and nobody will make this change for them. The fulfillment of such a great change is possible only if millions of workers unite and organize. At present, the capitalists, the big landowners and their supporters have all the economic levers and the judicial, legislative and executive, meaning administrative, military, security and intelligence, powers and use these levers to keep their positions and privileges and to keep the workers at bay. In this unequal battle, the working class has nothing but its great multitude. But a great number is only efficient when it has a clear and correct goal and acts in unison and is organized.

The way out for the workers is unity and organization!

Let's take action for the real change and significant improvement by relying on our own power!

Signatures:

Vahed Syndicate of Tehran's Bus Company Workers

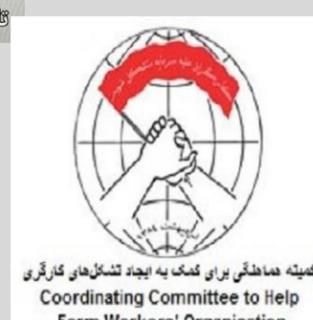
Workers Syndicate of Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Company

Guild Center of Islam Shahr Teachers

Unity Group of Retirees

Coordinating Committee to Help for Creation of the Workers Organization

Committee to Pursue the Creation of the Workers Organizations



workers at the Persian Gulf Gas Power Plant fighting on



Angry workers at the Persian Gulf Gas Power Plant went on strike demanding adjustments of their wages according to the rate of inflation. Following a promise to meet the demands of Workers a member of Board of Directors told a reporter that the workers went on strike and back to work, by the order of the Minister of Labor who promised to follow up on their demands . The workers continued: *Kourosh Yazdan* (Director General of Labor Relations of the Ministry of Labor) accompanied by the Director General of Labor of Hormozgan Province, CEO and Board of Directors of the Persian Gulf Power Generation Company and a group of workers of the maintenance company, attended the meeting. They added: "The most important problem for workers is the restoration of wages commensurate with inflation and the cost of living, the non-payment of some bonuses along with incentive and welfare benefits and the removal of a clause from the workers' employment contract. This demand was paid to the workers from the beginning of the year.

The workers said: "Another part of the problems of the workers of this power plant unit, according to the labor law, is the obligation to implement the job classification plan for equalization and restoration of wages. . In conclusion, they said: "Also, the employer is obliged to inform the Ministry of Labor about the implemented approvals after holding this meeting." In this regard: [the workers of the Persian Gulf gas power plant, in continuation of their wide-ranging protests against the transfer to Shasta and the non-implementation of the job classification plan, prevented the entry of Shasta managers, CEO and](#)

[board of directors of the power plant and spent the night at their workplace.](#) They continued. On Monday, December 28th, the workers of the Persian Gulf gas power plant located in the



northeast of Bandar Abbas, in the Qala-e-Ghazi area, were prevented from entering Shasta and they prevented the managers, claiming to buy Shasta and the CEO and board. They were taken out of the power plant and spent the night at their workplace on Tuesday night and continued their gathering on Wednesday mornig, December 29th.

According to media reports, the workers of this power plant want to change the CEO and internal managers of this power plant due to passivity against its transfer, and on the other hand, they want to implement a job classification plan as has been approved by Ministry of Labor Ministry of Labor. The workers also say that there were violations in the process of handing over the power plant, which made its handing over to Shasta (a social security subset) suspicious and ambiguous. The latest media report indicates *Kourosh Yazdan*, Director General of Labor Relations and Compensation of the Ministry of Cooperation, met the protesting workers of the Persian Gulf power plant . He claimed that he had come to Bandar Abbas on the direct order of the Minister of Cooperatives and promised to review their demands without delay. He also committed himself to the implementation of the provisions of the labor law, such as the job classification plan and all the coordinates of the labor law.

An open letter from 'Ismail Gerami', a Retired worker and political prisoner



I, Ismail Gerami, a retired worker of a carton factory, who participated in the legal gatherings of retirees requesting increase in our wages in accordance with the law, have been convicted under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and sentenced to four years in prison. Now, it is nine months that I have been kept in the "Greater Tehran Prison".

Where in the world is a 66-year-old retiree, who suffers from epilepsy, prostate, lower back pain and continuous toothaches being convicted and sentenced to prison just because of participating in rallies and protesting for non-payment of wages? The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is treating a retiree in such way while its claims of observing human rights has deafened the ears of the world. The "Greater Tehran Prison", where I am imprisoned, is an example of an Iranian prison that does not have drinking water and the prisoner has to buy it himself. The food is even of a very low quality! Which in some cases, the prisoners have to buy ingredients and cook themselves. In "Greater Tehran Prison" there is not even suitable hot water for taking a bath. I, "Ismail Gerami", were a voice for retirees and I expect all retirees, colleagues, friends and acquaintances to be my voice and translate this letter into any languages they can and send it to any syndicates and workers unions in any countries as well as to the human rights organization, so that the world knows that the claim of respect for human rights by the Islamic Republic of Iran's government is nothing but a lie.

Esmail Gerami, retired worker

Greater Tehran Prison

27/12/2021

The strike in Rejal Petrochemical succeeded

The powerful protest of our dear colleagues in 'Rejal Petrochemical' located in the site number three of 'Sarbandar Petrochemical Special Zone', which had started on Thursday 24th December 2021; with demands such as: the increase in wages, contracts being permanent and in writing, operating the job classifications plan, the payment of all wage items, payments for working in bad weather conditions, payments for working on weekends and public holidays as well as the rewards for the pandemic lockdowns periods; has forced the company officials and provincial and city officials to accept the protestors' demands.

The strike of this group of colleagues caused the customer orders to be delayed by almost a week, confessed 'Ehsan Rasti', the CEO of the complex. During the last week, the managers of Rejal petrochemical complex in cooperation with the managers of Sarbandar Petrochemical Special Zone tried to bring in new workforces from other sites and petrochemical complexes in the region to the Rijal so they can work instead of the striking workers and produce customers' orders as soon as possible. But our vigilant colleagues demonstrated unity and solidarity with protestors and did not accept the decision preventing it from happening.

The Council for Organizing Oil Contract Workers Protests, as always, supports the unified strike and the united voice of this section of its colleagues in the private company of Rejal, and while congratulating these loved ones, is ready to share their valuable experiences in the powerful strike of project and contract workers. We are and will be with our dear and hard-working colleagues until the complete dismantling of contractors in all sectors of the oil industry and the elimination of the oppressive laws of the special zones and the full pursuit of our legitimate demands.

Council for Organizing Oil Contract Workers Protests



The protest of the workers of the manufacturing and spare parts of 'Iran Motor' for the change in their professional title.

A group of the workers of the manufacturing and spare parts of 'Iran Motor' have protested because of the change in their professional title. According to the workers, their working contracts are based on monthly period and since the beginning of winter, their work title has been changed. The workers say that a group of the workers in protest to the change of their professional title and refusing to sign their work contract were suspended from work, but were later reinstated by signing their work contract. According to the workers, monthly contracts endangers their job security and they have no choice, but to sign their monthly contracts with the conditions that is put on them by the bosses. The workers say that their work is hard and dangerous and are worried that by the change of their work title the danger and difficulty of their work gets overlooked.



workers of the 'Rajal.' Petrochemical company have gathered in protest

On Saturday, 12th of December, 2021



The workers of the 'Rajal.' Petrochemical company have gathered in protest for the 7th day demanding what is owed to them. Our co-workers in this petrochemical company are protesting to the temporary work contracts, insufficient wages and non-payment of their wages and demand immediate creation of their

work and job planning and structure. The workers are also demanding the correction of their written contract and payment for hard working conditions (wheatear and water.) According to the special circular and what is owed to them in relation to working on Fridays, holidays for before the months of 'October.' in the year. These workers are also demanding their bonuses for working in the current pandemic that was previously promised to them. Our total demand is reducing the contractor's demands and having a permanent contract.



UNKOWN FUTURE FOR THE WORKERS OF 'ROI' COMPANY !

According to the report from Ilina, the factory has been closed for five month. Two weeks ago the workers for the first time gathered in protest for the closure of the factory and reduction of their work contracts. In spite of the fact that the management had asked for one week to solve the situation, but according to the workers the management has told them to apply for unemployment insurance, because currently the factory isn't going to open.

After that the workers, once more, On Tuesday 8th of December gathered in front of the governor's office in Hormozgan. According to one of the workers of the 'roi' Company the the official representative of the province's government had told the workers to go back to the factory and that no one has the right to stop them from working in the factory.

Today, on Saturday, 12th of the month of "December, the workers in reaction to not having their problems resolved for the third time, gathered in front of the governor's office and waving the documents from the prosecutors and the governor's office demanded to be protected.

According to one of the workers; there are plenty of raw materials in the factory and the reason for the closure of the factory is not known. The workers are worried for their future since the condition of the factory's reopening is unknown.

Protest of Vahed CO. Drivers!

In continuation of the protest to lack of reviewing the work structure and non-payment of delayed wages, the drivers of the Vahed Company on Saturday 19th of December, turned on their headlights and drove at 30 km/hour, while the other workers of the company gathered in protest in front of the management's office. In relation to the follow up and writing letters in the last few years and lack of reviewing the work structure and lack of attention by the management for implementing the workers' demands. The workers, on Sunday, 19th of the month of December, gathered in protest in front of the city council offices in Tehran. With the beginning of the protests, the worker's credit cards have been charged up and the management has announced like before that the workers' demand is under review and the deputies of the transport of the city council has promised to look further in to the



demands of the drivers. But according to past experience not only their promises will be forgotten, there will also be an attack in to the wage system of the workers; also by taking in to consideration that many of the co-workers retire every year, they will be prevented from wage increase and design of the work structure.

Dear co-workers ; the implementation of work review and and work structure and receiving of the delayed wages is tied in with continuous protest and if by turning on of our head lights and reducing the bus' speed to 30 km/hr, we do not get our demands (the other workers in solidarity with us at 10 AM will gather in protest in front of the management's office.) and if the mangment refuses to implement our demands, we will reorganise a different protest.

The workers' strike of 'Tabas' Coal mine is still on

Wednesday, 12 January, 2022

The movement of the workers of the 'perodeh-tabas.' from the strike location to the security of the mine for the prevention of the in and out movement from the mine.

The workers of the 'Tabas.' mine in their two days strike refused to enter the tunnel and the management did not respond in any way to the strike and the protest of the miners. 'Ismail samani'

the deputy of the mines said yesterday that the wages of the workers is 8 million Tooman(US\$320.00), but by printing the the pay slip that statement turned out to be a total lie. The workers have demanded the sacking and removal of the mines CEO 'Ramsatali kariti' for being the person responsible for their low wages.



PEN AMERICA MOURNS "UTTERLY PREVENTABLE DEATH" OF BAKTASH ABTIN

Abtin received PEN America's 2021 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2022

(New York, NY) — Imprisoned Iranian poet, filmmaker, and recipient of the 2021 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award Baktash Abtin died in a Tehran hospital, succumbing to COVID-19.

"Our worst fears materialized today, as we mourn the utterly preventable death of Baktash Abtin," said PEN America's Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Nossel. "COVID is a natural killer, but Abtin's death was aided and abetted by the Iranian government every step of the way. Tehran's Evin prison was a perpetual super-spreader event, making his unjust imprisonment since September of last year an effective death sentence. Abtin was denied medical treatment, his comorbidities were ignored and at times he was shackled to his bed."

Nossel continued: "Abtin, jailed alongside his colleagues and co-defendants Keyvan Bajan and Reza Khandan Mahabadi, was a true champion of free expression and a steadfast leader in the Iranian literary and human rights communities. When this brave role put a target on his back, he did not flinch or hide. We will remember Abtin as a gifted poet and filmmaker, but also as a courageous thinker and an honorable advocate. Our thoughts are with Abtin's family, friends, and colleagues in the Iranian Writers' Association. We urgently call on officials at Evin prison to release Keyvan Bajan and Reza Khandan Mahabadi immediately, along with others unjustly detained in Iran and who are battling COVID infections or other severe health concerns, before it is too late."

View Abtin's remarks upon receiving the 2021 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award:

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.

Contact us : solidarityciwm@gmail.com