



About us:

"The Committee in Solidarity with the Iranian Labor Movement - Abroad" consists of solidarity groups outside of Iran that support Iranian Workers' struggle for: (1) Democratic rights and economic justice ; (2) Exposing anti-labor policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (3) Building bridges between the Iranian and international workers' movements. For these purposes, the bulletin "Alternative Workers News-Iran (AWNI)" serves as the medium for publishing the latest news and reports about current legitimate struggles by the labor movement and progressive social activists in Iran. Concurrently, the editorial board of AWNI aims to circulate translations of selected highlights of news about international labor struggles, to progressive social activists in Iran.

The Editorial Board

In this Issue:

Three continues days of ...	P. 1
Continuous workers' strikes & ...	P. 2
B. Ebrahimzadeh: In protest ...	P. 3
B. Ebrahimzadeh: In support of...	P. 3
The Representatives of 1200 ...	P. 4
The workers of Poly-acryl ...	P. 5
Again here we are security ...	P. 5
A clear theft of earnings ...	P. 5
Iran climbs over 8 countries in...	P. 6
7 millions new job seekers enter...	P. 6

Three continues days of gathering by Hapko factory workers

According to January 9, 2017 Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA), workers in Hapko factory assembled to protest nonpayment of their wages and benefits which is claimed to non-affordability of the private financing department of the factory. More than 500 workers of car-making Hapko in Arak are in protest in the surrounding of factory and in the city square, since January 7 .They demand payment of the delayed wages and the chief stock holder to be prosecuted. Workers state that not only the manager for the private sector of the factory has not been able to fulfill his financial obligation and make the payments for the last 5 years, additionally; it has been years that the goal of the management is to close and dissolve the factory.

As indicated by the protesting workers, the major stock holder's claim that the financial asset is not true, because it is documented that in the first year of taking private possession in 2007, the owners had more than 400 million dollars profit.

According to the protesting workers, the chief stock owner is up to sell the factory property. In their view the high price for the 115 hectares land is one reason that they want to sell it. For that purpose, by stopping work and delay in paying wages, they want to close and liquefy the factory. In this situation, it is not clear what happens to the workers whose wages and benefits are being delayed.

**See the video report
on next page**



***Continuous workers' strikes & protests at The Gulf star Refinery
of Bandar Abbas for non- payment of wages***

From 18th December, 2016, Gulf star Refinery workers of "Nasb" Building Company, in the city of Bandar Abbas, commenced their industry wide strikes & protests, for long standing non- payment of wages, which have not been paid since August 2016. The strikes & protests still continue.

The angry workers of "Shariangostar", who were subject of the arrogance of their Company Director, Mr. Golamhoussaini, rushed to the head office of their Company and attacked him.

The active workers of companies, such as Abadrahan, Tehranjonoub, Daryasahel, Nasb building are trying to achieve their rights, but they haven't received any response, except repression, blacklisting, and expulsion, and their arrogant bosses and security agents, are actively intimidating the workers, in an effort to suppress their strike action.

Behnam Ebrahimzadeh:

In protest against the anti-labor bill, the "labor law reform"

The "labor law reform" bill imposes further exclusion of our workers and the general public. This bill imposes more work on workers with lower pay. This bill allows employers to easily expel workers and I am like everybody else against it. I join with my colleagues with the same voice for the immediate repeal of this bill from the agenda of the Assembly and immediate response to the legitimate demands of our workers.

What we know from the last abatement by Commissioner's Chairman that there is a possibility that this bill would be ratified. But, we will not accept this slavery. And my colleagues in Tehran's Bus Drivers Syndicate (Wahed), in the Free Trade Union of Workers of Iran and in different factories, and in their latest protest in front of Islamic Parliament on November 15, 2016, warned the authorities that if this bill is not thrown out of parliamentary mandate, workers will go on vigil. Although, I am presently in prison, in solidarity with their relentless struggles, but I consider myself as their comrades.



This effort for the implementation of "Labor Law Reform" is to push the fixation of the minimum wage which occurs once a year aside and instead bringing individual contracts for the workers and finally disperse our protesting lineups. In response to this issue we must

unite workers more than any other year and emphasize on the increase of our wages. Especially now that the Iranian calendar year is near the end and the minimum wage issue is on the agenda, once again declare and confirm that we do not accept wages below poverty line. We strongly demand a minimum wage increase above the poverty line which has already been announced by themselves. Namely, above \$850.00 per month. As it is expressed by our retired colleagues, we demand free treatment. As it is expressed by our dear teachers, demand free education for all children. We do not want our children to be deprived of education and be working as child labour, or begging on the streets. We are eager and demand all children from all walks of life to have access to educational facilities. Fortunately, today, the rank of our workers, teachers, retirees, and our deprived people in the society is more united than ever. We organize and stand in our unity against ratification of this Labor Law Bill and will defend our means of subsistence.

Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, Rajai Shahr prison, December 28, 2016

Source: News from Behnam Ebrahimzadeh's family

Behnam Ebrahimzadeh

is on hunger strike in support of the legitimate demands of political prisoners

It has been more than a month passed, since the following imprisoned workers are on hunger strike: Arash Sadeghi, Morteza Moradpour, Ali Shariati and Saeed Shirzad. This situation is of concern to all. The "crime" of these young workers is merely expressing of their views, and their human aspirations which caused their imprisonment and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. They are in protest against their heavy prison sentences and for being framed with breach of security rules. I, Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, a defender of workers' rights, children's rights provisions and human rights am sentenced to 6 years in prison, because of security issues, such as disturbing public and national security, and despite completing my 5 years of prison sentence, again have I have been given sentence of 7 years and 10 months, with all my power, defend the right to protest by these young workers. I, once again emphasize that framing the struggles of workers, teachers and social activists with false accusation of breach of Securities, must be ended. I demand to repeal all sentences including all other framed up security rules such as "disturbing national security". I demand to Dis-



Arash Sadeghi

Morteza Moradpour

Saeed Shirzad

Ali Shariati

pense the provisions of these young workers and urgent considerations to their situations. I demand to repeal the case for myself and my fellow workers such as Ismail Abdi, Jafar Azim Zadeh, Mahmoud Beheshti, Atna Daemi, Mahmoud Salehi, Ebrahim Madadi, Davoud Razavi and all other workers, teachers and social activists in our society.

Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, Rajai Shahr prison, December 28, 2016

Source: News from Behnam Ebrahimzadeh's family

*The Representatives of 1200 contract workers of oil industry
forwarded a letter demanding their equal rights*

According to the "Naft" report, part of this letter, as follows: "We have prepared this letter on behalf of 120,000 contract workers of the Oil Ministry, and with the cooperation & consultation of a large crowd of hardworking staff, mostly college educated personnel, with multi skilled work experience (average of 5 to 20 years).

Certainly, as you are aware of the news from media outlets, website news, leaflets and petitions, published by the employers, unfortunately, still refers to the workers, as oil contractors and we are signing contracts annually; contracts without taking into account, law coefficients, bad weather (dust allowance), separation from families, similar with an official employee in the same conditions, but with huge differences and widespread discrimination, our rights are ignored.

After five years of promises, by senior managements (Assistant to human resources) in 2013-2014, based on organizing contract forces to personnel; still we are working in the same prototype with minimum wages and rights; without considering, regardless of job the classification scheme; educational qualifications; useful work experiences in the oil industry; with similar work to official employees and even harder and more sensitive.

As you are aware, we are working hard, with all of our lives and health, despite job difficulties, complications and oil pollution, such as poisonous explosives and cancerous gases, and despite separation from our families. That is why we are expecting you to pay more attention to us, who are the oil human resources, which is holding the country's largest industrial capital and energy and contributes significantly in generating the wealth of the country.

Therefore, we are asking for equal rights for all oil personnel, so that by doing so, the equal conditions among individuals' welfares and rights are met in a way which compensates for the wasted inspiration of the personnel, who in their nonstop active work, fulfill their duties beside official oil personnel, with work experiences, education and similar work.

***The workers of Poly-acryl assemble and march
in Isfahan and Security forces attack brutally the participants***

On January 8th 2017 Ilana reported workers of the Poly—acryl of Iran in Isfahan once more came out in great numbers, protesting against policy of late payments to wage earners by the management. They were present at Abshar St. in front of the office of the company and also at the Governors house.

So as usual, the security forces charged the peaceful protesters twice, and arrested seven workers who were released the next day on bail. This was not the first time they were out in the last two years.

***Again security forces attack peaceful protester
who had a sit-down strike in a collective tent...***

Despite of cold weather and brutal charges from police, workers of Mahabad Agro-industrial complex continued their protest as it was reported on 9th. Of Jan.2017 by Ilana News Agency.

According to the workers, today (January 9th.), the 38th day of protest outside the complex and in streets have been continued. Now the representatives of the workers who are protesting, are still standing outside the complex, says a spokesman from workers. According to him, in the thirty-seventh day of assembly, the manager came out and asked us to pack up our tents. We refused. Then police came against us and told us that the tents are illegal, and must be dismantled.

We told the security forces we have many times to talk to managers, but had no result. Tents or without it, we will continue our protest until receiving our wages.



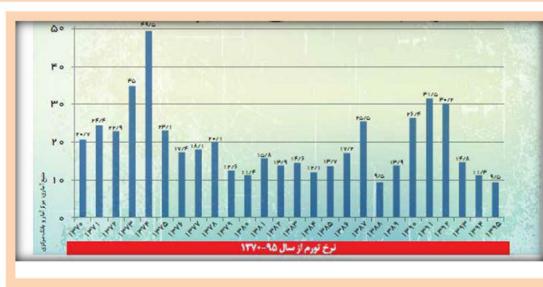
***A clear theft of the workers'
earnings in Aluminum Pars***

The management of Aluminum Pars, has not paid overtime money (between 2 to 5 hours per day) to 700 workers for the month of December, under the justification of preventing the factory from bankruptcy. Benefits were also deducted from the workers, in the past months. But the factory is not on the verge of bankruptcy, and production is fully taking place. In fact factory orders are so high that the workers are made to work overtime. Even wages of the workers who worked during holidays, have been deducted. This act of theft from the workers' wages is a crime and the perpetrators should be prosecuted. The Aluminum Pars Company is located in the industrial city of Saveh and is the largest producer of Aluminum sheets and couples, and instead of hiring more workers, forces the workers to stay overtime. But, by not paying the overtime wages, the company in fact robs the workers of their earned money. This kind of robbery is condemned and the best option for workers is to **resist** and **fight** the management, who steals their rightful earnings.

Iran climbs over 8 countries in the ranking of the countries with most unemployment rates in the past two years

According to a report by "Tasnim" dated January 2nd, 2017, IMF in a report on unemployment in different countries of the world has acknowledged the upward trend in unemployment rate in Iran in the past two years.

According to this report Iran's unemployment rate has increased from 10.6% in 2014 to 10.8% in 2015 and to 11.28% in 2016. This means that Iran's position in countries has worsened. In 2014, Iran had the 31st position with the highest unemployment rate, but in 2015, Iran occupied the 25th position, and in 2016, it moved to the 23rd position. This means that only 22 countries have worse employment than Iran. According to the report, South Africa, Macedonia, Greece, Spain, Sudan, Armenia, Albania, Croatia, Bahamas, Tunisia, Cyprus, Jamaica, Egypt, São Tomé, Nigeria, Porto Rico, Suriname, Belize and Italy have worse employment than Iran.



position in countries unemployment rate, of the being in a worse 2016, of 23rd.

countries, South Bosnia -Herzegovina, Serbia, Venezuela,

Comparing to Iran, Turkey with 10.17, Morocco with 10.15, Ivory Coast with 9, San Marino with 7.33, Chile with 7.6, Peru with 6, Sri Lanka with 4.05 and Trinidad and Tobago with 4 percent, have lesser unemployment rates.

7 million new job seekers enter labor market in Iran during the current year (March 20th 2016 to March 19th 2017)

According to a report by "Tasnim" dated January 1st, 2017, in a TV program called "Negahe Yek", Ali Rabi'ee, Minister of Co-operation, Labor and Social Welfare, said that last year 5, and this year 14 job seekers entered the labor market each minute. He added the government performance in creating employment has not been unsuccessful. In 2005, five millions entered the labor market annually and until 2012, on the average, we entered 5 million into the colleges and universities which means they enter the job market with delay.

Although the unemployment trend is upward, the government does not accept its responsibility in lack of planning and after 3 years still blames the previous government and claims that the present unemployed workers are the remainder of last government!

While it was predicted that the unemployment crisis would remain until 2015, we see that the lack of serious work on the part of the government, propaganda instead real action for solving the youth unemployment problem, have resulted in continued crisis.

Although the government agency gives the news of new employment of millions, the "Statistics Center" gives report, saying that this is not true, and the employment projects of the government have not had any positive effect on unemployment.

According to the Minister "Every minute, 14 and every hour 840 people become unemployed." This just by itself shows the depth of the crisis and the catastrophe. If every minute 14 new people are added to job seekers, then every year we have 7,257,600 people looking for a job. Even these figures are not reliable. At any rate, the unemployment is the main problem of the country. Government officials have given warning and some solutions in this regard. At present, more than a million university graduates and in total more than 3 million unemployed are looking for job in the country, but they say that 4.5 million unemployed graduates are entering in to the job market.