



**Special issue about international solidarity  
with the Iranian workers' struggles  
(Part 2)**



**Slogans: We will stand until our last breath!**

**Thieve are free, but the worker imprisoned!**

**Privatization is the workers' the enemy!**

**Workers must be in the factory, thieves in prison!**

**In this Issus:**

- Australian Unions stand in solidarity with Iranian... P. 2
- Solidarity with the workers of Haft Tappeh!... p. 2
- Thousands of Iranian oil workers strike over pay... P. 3
- Solidarity action ... p. 4
- National trade union confederation „Cartel ... p. 5
- A letter from the Australian Education Union to the ... P. 6
- CFMEU Supports the Iranian [Workers.wmv](#) ... P. 6
- The Maritime Union of Australia gives its full ... P. 7
- Urgent action - tortured Iranian Kurd at risk of ... P. 7
- 7 - In Iran, Kolbars should not be forgotten... P. 8
- Solidarität mit streikenden Arbeiter\*innen von ... P. 9
- Solidarität und Unterstützung benötigt! ... P. 10

**About us:** "The Committee in Solidarity with the Iranian workers Movement - Abroad" consists 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

**Australian Unions stand in solidarity with  
Iranian workers**



August 2020

[Iranian Ambassador 070820.pdf](#)

The Australian union movement stands in solidarity with the thousands of workers on strike across Iran at the Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Industrial Complex and at refineries and industrial projects in the South Pars gas fields.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) ranks Iran as among the worst countries in the world for workers, with no guarantee of rights. Iran's labour laws do not allow workers the right to form independent unions, and workers are regularly threatened, detained, and tortured. Workers' demonstrations are violently repressed, with workers and union leaders arrested and imprisoned for exercising their right to strike.

The ACTU has written to the Ambassador of Iran expressing solidarity with the workers on strike across Iran, and calling for:

- the immediate payment of all unpaid wages of striking workers.
- an end to dismissals and threats against workers' lives;
- the unconditional release of all imprisoned workers.

**El Mediterraneo: Nueva Cuenca de la revolución mundial!  
Solidarity with the workers of Haft Tappeh!**

August 4, 2020

Today is the 52<sup>nd</sup> day of the workers' strike at an agribusiness enterprise in Iran, Haft Tappeh. This historic strike is the culmination of years of struggle of these workers to stop privatizations and claim their rights. The Haft Tappeh union was first established during 1974-75 but the anti-worker policies and the slander by of the Islamic Republic concerning anti-revolutionary activity on the part of the workers eventually led to its banning, just like hundreds of other unions.



During 2005-2006, upon receiving the news of the privatization of this public enterprise the Haft Tappeh workers rose up against this in unison and rebuilt the union in 2007. The lead organizers were immediately held up by the police forces and other leading members of the union were arrested and barred from attending protests and other social events.

Yet despite all this repression, Haft Tappeh workers reignited the struggle against privatization and injustices once again in 2018. As a response, the union leader Ismail Bakhsi was arrested and forced to give "confessions" on national television.

Despite the hypocritical claim of the Islamic Republic to stand for the workers and the oppressed, it has been proven once more that they in fact stand for the bourgeoisie against the workers. The neoliberal policies of the regime push millions into poverty and violently repress their just struggles. And all these developments are completely ignored by the pro-regime media as well as the imperialist stooge opposition media.

There is no news about the demands and protestations of these workers on their 52<sup>nd</sup> day of strike, and the rare mentions about the workers at all only briefly touch the marches of the workers in Shush city, in a manner that misleads public opinion. The reason is clear! The right-wing opposition of the Islamic Republic is in fact in perfect agreement with the regime when it comes to their stance on privatizations which align with that of the World Bank and IMF. The only difference is the attempt by the right-wing opposition to conjure up a fallacious dichotomy of “good privatizations vs. bad privatizations” so as to hide the devastating effects of these policies.



On the other hand, due to the extremely weak state of the Iranian left, the international left remains unaware of such important struggles. The main demands of this strike are: cancelling the privatization, reinstating the workers who were fired, stopping the police repression on workers' organizations, payment of the overdue wages and other benefits and finally the organization of production under workers' control. These progressive demands are not covered by the mainstream media at all, and the working class militancy is reduced to subversion.

Meanwhile, the supposed alternative media in Europe and Northern America, and those other smaller media institutions who are pro-Russia, pro-China or even pro-Islamic Republic completely ignore this strike and resistance, or worse yet portray it as a subversive imperialist project.

Before our eyes, the working class is stubbornly and independently resisting the repression on a daily basis, and yet faces a complete blackout and censorship from all sides. It is as if all these “opposition” tendencies unite on a single point: to silence the voices of the working class and their militants.

We ask our international comrades: Is it not worthwhile to share the news of this courageous strike which is going on for 52 days and will continue until the demands are met? Is it not worthwhile to stand in solidarity with them?

Haft Tappeh workers do not receive any support from any organization or institution; they continue to resist and struggle with empty pockets and empty stomachs. To actively ignore these progressive vanguard workers amounts to supporting reaction and imperialism. Is the slogan of “Workers of all countries, unite” just an empty romantic phrase? Or is it the battle cry of workers in class struggle? Comrades, we call on you to be the voice of the Haft Tappeh workers and the Iranian working class all around the world in all languages.

**THOUSANDS OF IRANIAN OIL WORKERS  
STRIKE OVER PAY**

Via *Morning Star*



Marking a serious development in the country's current economic and social instability, fixed-term project workers in the massive oilfields, petrochemical companies and gas fields in Khuzestan and oilfields of southern Iran went on strike on Saturday and prepared to return to the towns and cities where their families live until their demands are met. Safety at work and deplorable working conditions for project workers is well documented: Ebrahim Arabzadeh, a contract worker at the Mahshahr Petrochemical complex, died as a result of heat exhaustion last week amid high temperatures, reaching 60°C in places. Workers' ongoing complaints include dire conditions of poverty, deprivation, unpaid wages and wage arrears, poor housing and management's disregard of demands.

The strike has hit a number of refineries, petrochemical complexes and also the *massive Assaluyeh* gas fields in the Persian Gulf.

## *Solidarity action*

Support text:

We support their demands in solidarity with Haft Tappeh strike workers in Iran. Thousands of workers have been on strike since June 15th. We are also actively in solidarity with them in Vienna. Workers are in an unsecured working state, while as privatizations and corruption of managers continues the workers are not paid for months, and active and militant workers are imprisoned, tortured, and send into exile.

Workers of Haft Tappeh in Iran have voiced out against the reactionary Islamic Republic, increasing unemployment, public poverty, and the people's misery. Their battle is our battle. Long live international solidarity!

August 8, 2020



**A photo from  
62nd day of strike!**

Austrian Socialist Youth  
Vienna Socialist Youth  
Austrian Communist Youth  
Communist Students Union  
Austrian Socialist Students' Union  
Social Democratic Workers' Union against extraordinary status policy  
Austrian Critic Students' Association  
Communist Union of Workers-International  
Labor Party  
Community and Politics Association- For Discourse on Human beings  
Support Centre for Iranian-Vienna People's struggles their battle is our battle.  
Long live international solidarity!

August 8, 2020

Austrian Socialist Youth  
Vienna Socialist Youth  
Austrian Communist Youth  
Communist Students Union  
Austrian Socialist Students' Union  
Social Democratic Workers' Union against extraordinary status policy  
Austrian Critic Students' Association  
Communist Union of Workers-International  
Labor Party  
Community and Politics Association- For Discourse on Human beings  
Support Center for Iranian-Vienna People's Struggles





## NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION "Cartel ALFA"

Member of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
Member of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Strada Lipoveni, Nr. 63, Etaj 2, Sector 3, Bucuresti, CF 030037, Romania  
tel: +4 021 - 538.53.08; +4 021 - 538.53.31; fax: +4 021 - 538.53.82  
www.cartel-alfa.ro; e-mail: alfa@cartel-alfa.ro

C.N.S. "Cartel ALFA"  
Cabinete Presedinte

Inserat  
legitim 24/07.08.2020

### Workers and employees of oil and petrochemical refineries in southern Iran begin mass strikes We support the demands of the Iranian workers!

On Saturday, August 1st 2020, workers and employees in oil and petrochemical refineries in southern Iran in the industrial cities of Abadan, Mahshahr, Qeshm and also in the Parsian petrochemical refinery in Lamard city of Fars province and phases 22 and 24 of South Pars in Kangan city started their protests. They went on strike for several months due to lack of wages and hard-working conditions, lack of insurance and minimal safety facilities.

This series of strikes is ongoing and expanding. Iranian workers have suffered the most in the last 40 years by the hands of the Iranian regime, which systematically violates workers' rights. They have been subjected to non-payment of salaries and expulsion threats and have been repeatedly attacked by government security forces. Also some labor activists have been imprisoned and are currently threatened with covid-19 infection in prisons of Iran.

In addition, workers at the large Haft Tappeh industrial and sugarcane factory have been on strike and protesting for 50 days at temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius on the streets of the city of Shousha in southern Iran, demanding to receive their overdue wages and demand the return of fired workers to their jobs. They have not received any response from the Iranian government. Their strikes and demonstrations continue.

Therefore, the Iranian regime must:

- Pay all unpaid salaries of striking workers.
- Stop dismissals and threats against workers' lives immediately.
- Release all imprisoned workers unconditionally from prisons.

We want to support protests and strikes of Iranian workers, especially the striking workers in the oil and petrochemical industry in southern Iran and the workers of the Haft Tappeh sugar factory.

Sincerely,

Bogdan Iuliu HISSU

President





*A letter from the Australian Education Union  
to the Iranian Ambassador to Sydney*

Mr. Fereydoon Haghbin

Ambassador of Iran

August 14th, 2020

Sir,

I write to you on behalf of 194,000 members of the Australian Education Union to express our support for thousands of demonstrators and strike workers throughout Iran.

Workers at the Sugarcane Haft Tappeh industrial complex has been on strike since June 15th for their suspended wages and social security benefits, which have not been paid since March. Workers from major refineries and industrial projects in south Pars gas field have been on strike since August 11, protesting against their overdue pay, their extremely wages, lack of job security and living conditions while facing with 50 degrees Celsius heat.

The International Confederation of Trade Unions (ITUSC) has placed Iran among the lowest-ranking countries in terms of workers' status, in which workers' rights are not guaranteed.

We condemn the harassment and dismissal of workers, the crackdown on labor protests and the arrest and imprisonment of workers and union leaders.

Best regards

Correna Haythorpe

*CFMEU Supports the Iranian Workers.wmv*



The Union of Buildings, Forestry, Mines and Energy Australia C.F.M.E.U - in Sydney Supports the workers of the Haft Tappeh Sugar cane factory and condemn the Iranian regime for the mistreatment of the workers!

Following the call of the Iranian Workers' Defence Association - IWDA to support the strike workers in Iran; we announced our support by sending a video message to the strike workers of Haft Tappeh Sugar cane.-16 August 2010

The Construction Union's department of building, forestry, mining and energy Australia in Sydney. Announces its solidarity with the Haft Tappeh sugarcane workers.

Your fight is our fight. We condemn the Iranian government and the employers who do not recognize your wishes. We also condemn the arrested of trade union activists for standing up to their rights and demanding their immediate release.

We stand in Solidarity with all of you; we wish you success and hope to celebrate your victory soon.

In Solidarity

Posted in Audio Text of the Speaker of the Union addressed to The Strike Workers of Iran on 6 August 2020



*The Maritime Union of Australia  
gives its full solidarity and support for the Haft  
Tappeh workers in Iran*

As they struggle for their own jobs, wages and rights and against privatisation that will worsen the lot of working people in Iran.

We support the workers and their demands including:

- arrears payment, and their insurance renewal;
- The return of their expelled co-workers;
- The release of political prisoners
- The removal of the embezzler employer, and putting an end to the privatization of Haft Tappeh;
- The return of the embezzled assets to the workers;

We demand the release of all imprisoned workers and call for an immediate to stop the harassment, arrests, torture, and clampdown on the rights of these workers in struggle and all Iranian workers.

In solidarity,

**Warren Smith**  
**Assistant National Secretary**  
**Maritime Union of Australia**  
**A Division of the Construction Forestry**  
**Maritime Mining and Energy Union.**

***URGENT ACTION -  
TORTURED IRANIAN KURD AT RISK OF EXECUTION***

Written on August 6th, 2020

Urgent action - tortured Iranian Kurd at risk of execution

Arsalan Khodkam, from Iran's Kurdish minority, is at risk of execution in West Azerbaijan province. He was sentenced to death for "spying" after a grossly unfair trial that lasted about 30 minutes and relied on "confessions" he says were obtained under torture. He has never been allowed access to a lawyer of his own choosing. The use of the death penalty for "espionage" violates international law.



**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**

**Head of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi**  
*c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN*  
*Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland*

## *In Iran, Kolbars (porters) should not be forgotten*

West of Iran, the Kurdish regions, called Rojhelat and populated by 8 to 10 million Kurds, are subjected to a discriminatory and repressive policy from the Iranian regime, which fiercely suppresses all political contestation and identity claims. To keep the population in precariousness, it restrained the economic development of the region, installing hardly any industry there and redirecting the production of resources mainly in the interest of the central regions of the country. Unemployment is endemic there, with no job opportunity for young people who have to massively exile in the big Persian cities.



The Iraq-Iran border offers the only economic alternative for thousands of inhabitants of Rojhelat: the kolbari (porter), that is to say the cross-border exchanges of goods, through the mountains, carried on the back of a man or a mule. At high risks, all kinds of goods thus transit from Iraq to Iran: from baby diapers to household appliances, including clothes, blankets, car tires, tea ... and also, products banned in Iran: satellite antennas, alcohol, cigarettes. These goods will then supply the markets of big cities, as far as Tehran.

All along the border, thousands of workers, including children and elderly people, make the journey every day risking their lives to barely earn enough to support their families from day to day. Only businessmen who hire the kolbars get richer. The activity of the kolbars is in a gray area, subject to political vagaries and the goodwill of the authorities: sometimes legal, sometimes tolerated, sometimes illegal.

Besides the dangers of the mountains, freezing in winter and scorching in summer, and whose soils are infested with mines, they are under fierce repression from the Iranian government. According to their good will, and to the bribes paid to them, the border guards can decide to turn a blind eye on the activity of the kolbars or, on the contrary, to shoot on sight, under the pretext of "state security." and "the fight against smuggling". In 2019, 79 kolbars died, including 57 shot dead, murdered by border guards, and 165 were injured. Many are sentenced to prison terms or heavy fines that they cannot paid. If the Iranian authorities ended up putting in place work permits, they were distributed in a largely insufficient number and under conditions that were too restrictive, in particular on the number of authorized trips so that their holders could earn a decent living. In fact, it gave above all an additional legal argument to suppress the major part of the Kolbars, who work without a license.

The fate of the kolbars synthesizes both the impact of the nation-states and their assimilative policies on the Kurdish people, the extreme drifts of neo-liberalism to fuel the Iranian consumer society at all costs while maintaining a population in the most extreme precariousness, and the harmful effect of the sanctions of the USA on Iran, which only make more precarious populations already kept under pressure by the regime.

As trade unions, we denounce the repressive policies of the Iranian regime towards the kolbars and more generally the Kurds. We draw the attention of workers and the international community to the humanitarian and social disaster of the situation of the Kolbars. The Iranian government must stop the repression of the Kolbars and the assassinations respect human rights and allow the development of real economic alternatives for the people of Rojhelat.



## **SOLIDARITÄT MIT DEN STREIKENDEN ARBEITER\*INNEN VON HAFT-TAPPEH UND VIELEN ANDEREN IM IRAN**

40 Jahre Islamische Republik sind genug. Dieses Regime hat Massenarmut, Zerstörung, Unterdrückung, Gefängnis und Tod gebracht. Es muss weg.

Wir sind von Herzen solidarisch mit den mutigen Arbeiter\*innen der Zuckerrohrfabrik Haft-Tappeh und Allen, die sich ihrem Kampf angeschlossen haben, wohl wissend, zu welchen Mitteln dieses Regime greift.

In den letzten beiden Jahrzehnten haben die Arbeiter\*innenproteste gegen die Privatisierungspolitik, Entlassungen, befristete Arbeitsverträge und Lohnsenkungen rasant zugenommen.

Die Streikenden jetzt fordern die Auszahlung ausstehender Löhne, die Erneuerung der Versicherungen und die Wiedereinstellung entlassener Kolleg\*innen.

Auf die vielen Protestbewegungen der letzten Jahre, zum Beispiel auch die der Studierenden und der Frauen, hatte das Regime immer nur eine Antwort: Festnahmen, Morde, brutale Gewalt und Repression. Immer wieder werden aufständische Menschen hingerichtet, sogar Jugendliche.

Aber je schlimmer die Mächtigen zuschlagen, desto näher sind sie ihrem Untergang.

Wir unterstützen eure Forderungen und möchten Euch sagen, dass wir mit grossem Respekt an Eurer Seite stehen.

**NIEDER MIT DER ISLAMISCHEN REPUBLIK  
FÜR EIN LEBEN IN FREIHEIT, FRIEDEN, WÜRDE UND GERECHTIGKEIT  
FÜR ALLE MENSCHEN  
SCHLUSS MIT DEM RELIGIÖSEN FASCHISMUS  
SCHLUSS MIT DEM NEOLIBERALEN KAPITALISTISCHEN SYSTEM IM  
IRAN UND ÜBERALL**

**INTERNATIONALISTISCHES BÜNDNIS FRANKFURT / MAIN DEUTSCHLAND**



# Solidarität und Unterstützung benötigt!

*„Brot, Jobs, Freiheit, Räteverwaltung!“*

Seit einigen Wochen gibt es im Iran eine Welle von Arbeitskämpfen und Streiks.

Obwohl Gewerkschaften und Streiks verboten sind und viele aktive Arbeiter\*innen im Gefängnis sitzen, breiten sich die Kämpfe zunehmend aus.

Sie richten sich gegen die unerträglichen Arbeits- und Lebensbedingungen und die wachsende Armut. Löhne werden häufig über Monate nicht gezahlt und sind zudem extrem gering.

Ein Großteil der Arbeiter\*innen ist über Leiharbeitsfirmen mit Blanko-Verträgen beschäftigt, so dass sie jederzeit kündbar sind.

Die Situation ist eine Folge der neoliberalen Politik, die das iranische System seit Jahrzehnten mit aller Brutalität durchsetzt sowie den Auswirkungen von Korruption und Wirtschaftssanktionen.

Bisher fanden Streiks aufgrund

der fehlenden Organisierungsmöglichkeiten und massiven Unterdrückung nur vereinzelt statt. In den letzten Wochen hat sich die Situation verändert.

Inzwischen gibt es in über 30



Fabriken Streiks, die sich auch aufeinander beziehen. Darunter auch Arbeiter\*innen der Öl-Industrie und Raffinerien. Es gibt sogar Rufe nach einem Generalstreik - bisher aufgrund der Unterdrückung undenkbar.

Eine wichtige Rolle spielen dabei die Arbeiter\*innen der Zuckerfabrik Haft-Tapeh. Dort kämpfen Arbeiter\*innen seit vielen Jahren gegen Privatisierung und für ihre Rechte.





Nun sind die 4000 Arbeiter\*innen von Haft Tapeh seit mehr als 60 Tagen im Streik und mit ihren Familien auf den Straßen.

Sie fordern u.a. die Auszahlung der fehlenden Löhne, die Wiedereinstellung der entlassenen Arbeiter\*innen, den Stopp der Privatisierung und nicht zuletzt die Produktion unter Kontrolle von Arbeiter\*innen-Räten.

Umso größer die Streikwelle wird umso größer wird die Gefahr, einer massiven Unterdrückung seitens des Regimes.

Deshalb haben die Arbeiter\*innen einen Aufruf veröffentlicht. Sie rufen darin weltweit zu Solidaritätsaktionen auf. Zudem sind sie auf finanzielle Unterstützung für sich und ihre Familien angewiesen, da sie während des Streiks keinerlei Einkommen haben.

Wir bitten euch deshalb, zeigt euch solidarisch.

Weitere Infos und den Spendenaufruf findet ihr unter: [www.labournet.de/category/internationales/iran](http://www.labournet.de/category/internationales/iran) oder ihr kontaktiert uns über: [kollektiv@riseup.net](mailto:kollektiv@riseup.net)



Internationalistische Plattform Bremen