



Special issue about international solidarity with the Iranian workers struggles (Part 1)



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

The working class, for the defence of its rights, is up against the anti-human global capitalist system of exploitation and oppression- it has a common enemy, and therefore, itself is an international class.

If an ordinary worker is being under oppression, suppression, or robbed of his/her rights, in any part of the world, this international class has the duty to support him/her. This is the symbol of international workers' solidarity.

Since June 15th, five thousand workers of the sugarcane cultivation and industry complex of Haft Tappeh in Iran, have been on their long and tireless strike, and fighting for the fulfilment of their demand: arrears and overdue wages, especially for the abolition of the privatization, which is the problem of the majority workers of the world, who are struggling tenaciously, and relentlessly, without compromising.

Such legitimate struggles, in addition to the attraction of solidarity and support of the workers of other sections of industry and services, also other layers of people. These include, teachers, nurses, women, retirees, unemployed, students, defence lawyers, reporters inside Iran, but also in recent days, the workers of the giant industries of petrochemical, oil, gas, huge refineries and power plants, have joined this strike. They have turned it into a nationwide strike with giant force, which in addition to struggle for their demands, they have announced their solidarity and support for unique and exemplary struggles of the Haft Tappeh workers, and they are determined to learn from the positive experience of Haft Tappeh workers, and like them, continue their struggle for solidarity to the end.

What is most remarkable, and significant, is the problem of globalization and the struggle of the Haft Tappeh workers and other militant workers in Iran. Every day we are witnessing the publication of different kinds of messages, statements, reports, and articles and protesting letters to the Iranian government, or in support of the Iranian workers, by participation in street protests campaigns, and support and solidarity in each part of the world, which is expanding and continues, unabated.

The solidarity with the Iranian workers is a symbol of the growing of the international solidarity of the working class, and it goes to unite the army of billions of the workers in a single powerful front of the workers, against the corrupted and rotten capitalist system.

And at the forefront of this struggle is the united army, which is decisive and growing against privatization, of which the Haft Tappeh workers are the flag bearers.

We welcome and respect the sense of responsibility and the participation of many international organizations, Trade unions and syndicates, or progressive left parties in the international solidarity and their support for the Iranian workers, who are at the forefront of the struggle against the capitalist system.

We have dedicated this issue of the Alternative Workers News- Iran, to this significant matter, by publishing messages, and articles ... →



We express our gratitude, praise, and appreciation, and declare our mutual solidarity with the workers of the world, on behalf of the Iranian working class.

By providing these outstanding examples of our peers and their respective organizations, we are calling on other co-classes and their respectful organizations, to join us in our international solidarity campaign, and to the best their ability, in any possible way, contribute to support the struggle of the Iranian workers and strengthening this united international front of the working class.

Long live the international class solidarity and unity of the workers of the world!

Forward towards the creation and expansion of the united workers front of the world against the capitalist system!

Editorial Board of the Alternative Workers News-Iran

12 August 2020



In this Issue:

- workers auf the world unite!... P. 1
- A wave of strikes in Iran: we stand in solidarity... p. 3
- Huge strike wave fits Iranian energy sector ... P. 3
- IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with oil ... P. 5
- IUF calls on ILO to help secure wage arrears for ... p. 5
- Strikes in Iran!... p. 6
- Statement by the British National Shop Stewards ... P. 7
- Lantangkan Suara, (Indonesia) Kita Kerahkan Tenaga ... P. 7
- The Guardian, newspaper of the Communist Party ... P. 7

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

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A wave of strikes in Iran: we stand in solidarity!

Iran is particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the representatives in France of the Socialist Solidarity with Workers in Iran explained the catastrophic situation: «the hospitals are overwhelmed and lacking in resources; precarious populations are deprived of incomes; the progression of Covid-19 is dazzling. In Iran, the health system is particularly threatened. Due to internal corruption and speculation, millions of people, already suffering from the economic hardships, lost their jobs, without any income. Galloping unemployment and drastic rise of inflation are going hand in hand with this Covid-19 crisis. The economic pressures, as much as the progression of the disease are crushing the population».

(www.laboursolidarity.org/Des-syndicalistes-racontent)

On July 15, Amnesty International said: «There has been an alarming escalation in the use of the death penalty against protesters, dissidents, and members of minority groups in Iran». During the month of July, a total of eight protesters had their death sentences upheld by the Supreme Court, including three men - Amir Hossein Moradi, Mohammad Rajabi, and Saied Tamjidi - whose initial sentence caused outrage on social media and forced the temporary delay of their executions.



It is in this context, and in the face of the ever-fierce repression by the regime in place, the Iranian workers continue their struggles. Increasing number of strikes and protests take place. The workers at the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Mill in Khuzestan Province have been on strike for more than 50 days; it is the longest strike in their history, yet marked by much resistance and social struggles. They are on strike in protest to unpaid wages, for more than three months, poor working conditions and lack of response from regime authorities. A few days ago, thousands of workers from several major sectors of the petroleum and petrochemical industry went on strike in a coordinated manner. At the end of last week, the teachers organized a demonstration in front of the Islamic assembly denouncing social injustice.

The member of the «International Labor Network of Solidarity and Struggles» reaffirm their support and solidarity with the workers in Iran. International solidarity is essential, let us know our struggles all over the world!

With 80 Signature from Syndicate, Unions and other Workers organisation worldwide.



Huge strike wave hits Iranian energy sector strike

4 August, 2020 Thousands of workers have taken strike action in Iran's South Pars gas fields, protesting the late payment of wages and poor working conditions.

About 10,000 workers have stopped work as a wave of wildcat strike action has hit major refineries and industrial projects in Iran's South Pars gas fields. The workers are protesting the late payment of wages, poverty wages, insecure employment and poor working and living conditions as they battle 50-degree heat.



Late wage payments are a frequent problem, and localized protest and strike action is common. However, this large scale, coordinated wave of strike action is unprecedented, and affects a number of refineries and many contractors.

The strikers are builders, electricians, welders, pipefitters and other tradesmen working for employment agencies and gang masters on industrial projects in the world's largest natural gas field. They work a shift cycle of 20 days on, ten days off, and are housed in dormitories close to the workplace while on shift. They intend to refuse to work for an entire 20-day shift cycle.

The wave of strike action was triggered when Ebrahim Arabzadeh, a contract worker at Mahshahr petrochemical complex, died from heat exhaustion at work on 28 July. Workers presented a list of demands to the contracting companies. By Saturday 1 August, 10,000 workers were on strike, with 2,000 abandoning the gas fields entirely and returning home, and many others gathering outside the offices of the contractors.



IndustriALL Global Union's Iranian affiliate, the Union of Mechanics and Metalworkers of Iran, believes that the scale of the action means that workers have a chance to win concessions and possibly gain representation at major industrial sites.

As the strike continues, workers at other refineries and petrochemical complexes are expected to join. By 4 August, protests had spread to Isfahan refinery in central Iran and Mashhad in the north east.

There is a wave of industrial action sweeping Iran, including at the Haft Tappeh sugar refinery and at industrial facilities in the city of Arak. Striking workers are often [brutally suppressed](#). But the South Pars workers are using their precarious employment as an industrial weapon: because they are not permanent employees, they cannot be disciplined for work stoppages or leaving work altogether.

Organizers fear retaliation by the security forces as the strike spreads. There are unconfirmed reports of arrests and surveillance against key activists. It was reported today that the first two days of the strike led some employers to indicate that they are prepared to renegotiate terms, including at Iranshahr power station in the south east.

IndustriALL assistant general secretary Kemal Özkan said:

"Iranian workers have proved time and again that no amount of repression will silence them. They will stand up for their rights and continue to protest until their voice is heard. The workers in the gas fields are taking coordinated, strategic industrial action in defence of their rights. If they hold firm, they can win a substantial change. Iran will suffer industrial conflict until independent unions are recognized."

The development of the South Pars fields is Iran's flagship hydrocarbons project. The country is dependent on the project for foreign exchange as it experiences hyperinflation. The state-run oil and gas company has jurisdiction over all projects in South Pars. French energy giant Total signed a deal to develop the fields in 2017, but pulled out due to US sanctions.

The fields are being developed in partnership with other multinational energy companies, but Iran has struggled to raise the necessary financial commitment. Contractors are under pressure to complete work on projects which are behind schedule, and often face liquidity problems due to delayed payments on government contracts due to banking sanctions.



IndustriALL Global Union
in solidarity with oil and gas workers in Iran

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](#), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors in more than 140 countries, to express our full support and solidarity with the oil and gas workers in Iran in their struggle to achieve decent working conditions and respect of their fundamental labour rights.

IndustriALL Global Union fully supports your industrial action, starting on 1st August, and involving workers from Tabriz to Khuzestan, calling for vastly improved conditions of service and wages for temporary workers in the oil and gas industry.



It is imperative that subcontracting companies, which are pervasive in the oil and gas sector, address the legitimate demands of workers concerning, among others, fair wages, payment of correct work insurance for workers based on their jobs and salaries, provision of transport with adequate air conditioning in the extreme heat of the oils fields, which reaches up to 50 degrees Celsius, and provision of adequate dormitories for workers who stay on site for weeks at a time because of the remoteness of the sites.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with the sisters and brothers of the Union of Metalworkers and Mechanics of Iran (UMMI) in demanding decent working conditions and respect of the fundamental labour rights of temporary oil and gas workers in Iran.

In solidarity,



IUF calls on ILO to help secure wage arrears
for hungry sugar workers in Iran

10.08.20 News

[Printer-friendly version](#)

The IUF has called for the urgent intervention of the ILO to help secure unpaid wages owed the 5,000 workers at the [Haft Tapeh sugar complex](#) in Shush, Iran. Workers last received their wages in March.

While the workers and their families go hungry, [the owner is on trial](#) in Tehran, accused of obtaining from the government some 1.4 billion U.S. dollars in scarce hard currency, ostensibly destined for investment in the company, and selling it on the open market at 3 times the price.

Since June, workers have been holding daily peaceful demonstrations at the governor's office in Shush



to demand their wages. Work continues in the cane fields. There has been no factory production since June, but the workers are in limbo; the mill has not officially ceased production, although the gates are guarded by security.

Workers and family members have been infected with the corona virus which continues to spread while the government has officially admitted to drastically underreporting the number of infections. Workers and their families have no access to health services as their social security contributions have not been paid

by the employer.

The IUF has also warned of the real potential for state violence, particularly now that the Haft Tappeh workers have been joined by tens of thousands of [oil and gas workers on strike](#) over months of unpaid wages, among other issues.

In 2008, following a mass strike over months of unpaid wages, the workers formed a union which is affiliated to the IUF. Neither the employer nor the government has recognized the union, whose elected leaders have been imprisoned, dismissed and blacklisted.



A widespread strike affects refineries and oil fields in southern Iran.

Since the morning of August 1, a large number of workers and employees of Abadan refinery, Qeshm Heavy Oil Refinery, Parsian Refinery, Petrochemical Company in Lamerd, and phases 22 and 24 of South Pars in Kangan went on strike.

On July 29, workers of the North Azadegan oil field went on strike to protest against low pay and the threat of layoffs.

Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Company workers, exposed to the hot temperature around 50 degree Celsius, have been on strike since June 15th, demanding the immediate payment of all unpaid wages for several months. These strikes are taking place under very difficult conditions, as the Iranian regime does not recognize trade union rights and freedoms in accordance with International Labour Conventions, to which Iran is a signatory.

The government ignores the demands of the workers and tries to silence the strikers by repression.

But activists are organizing in particular to set up a national financial solidarity fund in order to help the strikers. In the current critical situation, they call for unity and support for all popular layers, so that their legitimate demands are heard.

French Trade unions:

Confédération française démocratique du travail (CFDT)

Confédération générale du travail (CGT)

Fédération syndicale unitaire (FSU)

Union syndicale Solidaires

Union nationale des syndicats autonomes (UNSA)

support the strikers in Iran

06.08.2020





*Statement by the British National Shop Stewards Network
in Solidarity with workers ' strike in Haft Tappeh
and Aazarab workers*

Comrades,

NSSN national chair Rob Williams read out this statement at the beginning of the annual NSSN conference last Saturday July 4th:

The NSSN sends its greetings to the workers in Iran currently involved in struggles and striving to build an independent workers' movement.

In particular we condemn the recent sentencing of 42 Aazarab Industries workers to a year's imprisonment, 74 lashes and a month's forced labour. We demand their immediate release and dropping of all punishments.

We send our greetings and solidarity to the thousands of Haft Tappeh workers who again have been on strike since June 15th demanding payment of unpaid wages, reinstatement of victimised workers and renationalisation of the company.

The NSSN believes that the revival of the workers' movement in Iran has an international significance and will help inspire similar developments against all the dictatorial and authoritarian regimes in the Middle East.

In solidarity
National Shop Stewards Network
July 6th 2020



* - *Lantangkan Suara, (Indonesia) Kita Keraahkan Tenaga dan Kekuatan ke Garis Depan!*

Epidemi virus Corona, telah memaksa seluruh negara kapitalis, termasuk Republik Islam Iran, ...

* - *The Guardian*, newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia, in its issue #1925 of July 27, 2020.

The Haft Tappeh workers' voice is our voice!

***Let's make our voice loud,
by bringing our strength and power
to the forefront.***



