



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*





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## UNITED AND ORGANISED 5 JUNE IN GENEVA

In protest against the presence of the Islamic Republic  
at the International Labour Organization Conference  
and in solidarity with the struggles of workers in Iran

# IMMEDIATE END TO WAR!

We demand the unconditional release of  
imprisoned workers and all political prisoners,  
the immediate abolition of arrests, torture, and executions.

We demand the right to form independent organizations,  
to protest, to strike, job security, workplace safety,  
livelihood security, and wages that match the cost of living.

**5 JUNE 2026**

**12:00 – 15:00**

**PLACE DES NATIONS, GENEVA**

**We invite all defenders of workers' rights and  
freedom seekers to participate in this protest gathering.**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR  
THE PROTEST RALLY IN GENEVA**

[geneva-rally-committee@mail.com](mailto:geneva-rally-committee@mail.com)

<https://t.me/+LFHmcwBMk2pkZjdi>



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## A Message of Solidarity from Independent Labour Organizations in Iran to Workers, Trade Unions, and Labour Organizations Worldwide



With warm and comradely greetings to all labour organizations and all those fighting for the emancipation of the working class who have gathered in Geneva for the 114<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference.

Your gathering underscores the necessity of international working-class solidarity and unity, while reaffirming the fundamental principle that the emancipation of the working class can only be achieved by the working class itself.

Comrade workers!

Through unrestrained repression, the waging of regional wars, and the escalating threat of a Third World War, the capitalist system seeks to preserve and intensify the exploitation of workers across the globe. At the same time, it strives to shift the heavy burden of its recurring crises onto the shoulders of workers and other toiling people.

A concrete example of such capitalist wars is the “Forty-Day War” imposed on the workers and the people of Iran. The possibility of its resurgence in various forms remains ever present, whether in the immediate future or at a later stage.

He “Forty-Day War” was an aggressive conflict waged by U.S. imperialism and the Israeli regime in pursuit of their respective hegemonic ambitions globally and in the Middle East. It sought to overthrow, weaken, or force the capitulation of the Islamic Republic, with the objective of diminishing its influence—especially its pan-Islamist orientation and regional position— in favour of U.S. imperial interests and Zionist objectives. Thus, alongside the hegemony of U.S. imperialism

3 and the expansionist policies of the Israeli regime in the Middle East, the



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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reactionary and anti-people policies of the Islamic Republic—particularly its efforts to expand its political and military influence in the region—have been among the key factors contributing to the escalation of regional tensions and conflicts, and have facilitated the warmongering of the aggressor powers.

For years, the Iranian working class under the rule of the Islamic Republic has been suffering the effects of these crises in an unbearable manner. The political structure of capitalist governance in Iran has stripped workers and the working masses of their most fundamental human rights and has led to a profound social breakdown.

The suppression of workers, women, students, intellectuals, and activists defending the rights of national minorities, as well as the prohibition of human rights advocacy, the imposition of censorship and systemic suffocation of free expression, internet disruptions, and restrictions on access to information, form the regime’s prevailing methods in Iran. These measures are implemented through imprisonment, torture, and relentless executions.

Inflation, poverty, unemployment, job dismissals, and low wages are the “legal” and routine mechanisms through which the parliament and the government impose anti-human and anti-labour policies on working people, by enacting laws that undermine their rights.

Any form of protest against the current situation is criminalised under the accusation of “disturbing national security.” The right to organise and establish trade unions, and to struggle for fundamental labour legislation, is treated by the judiciary of the capitalist system of the Islamic Republic as “war against the system,” an offence punishable by the harshest penalties, including the death penalty.

As a member of the International Labour Organization, the Islamic Republic is bound to uphold the organization’s fundamental conventions, including those guaranteeing freedom of association and collective bargaining. Yet the regime has consistently failed to respect these conventions, agreements, and basic labour standards,



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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and has not demonstrated any genuine compliance or commitment to them.

Despite repeated warnings and efforts by activists and independent labour organisations in Iran and around the world, institutions affiliated with the Islamic Republic—such as the so-called “Supreme Centre of the Islamic Labour Councils”—

continue to send their representatives to the annual conferences of the International Labour Organization, instead of genuine and independent representatives of workers’ organisations.

It is even more regrettable that individuals affiliated with the regime and involved in violations of workers’ rights have been elevated to positions on the Board of Directors and other committees. Accordingly, we, as workers, independent labour organisations, and retirees, demand the exclusion of the Islamic Republic’s representatives from the International Labour Organization and insist on the participation of authentic and independent representatives of workers within this body.

**Long live the class unity of workers of all countries!**

27 May 2026

**Haft Tapeh Sugarcane Workers Union**

**Coordination Committee to Help Establish Labor Organizations**

**Khuzestan Retired Workers**

**Group of Retirees’ Unification**



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## Open letter from the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Vahed) to workers' representatives at the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference



Dear sisters, dear brothers, comrades, and representatives of trade union organizations,

At a time when workers and all oppressed populations in Iran are confronted with war, insecurity, deepening economic hardship, repression, and the ongoing violation of their most fundamental labour and human rights, the Vahed Bus Company Workers' Union of Tehran and its suburbs is once again addressing the workers' representatives participating in the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference.

For years, independent trade union organizations and labour activists in Iran have consistently denounced the fact that workers are deprived of the right to form organizations independent of the authorities, to engage in collective bargaining, to strike, and to freely assemble

Trade unions, other independent organizations, and labour activists continue to face dismissal from employment, arrest, imprisonment, threats, intensive security surveillance, and various other forms of repression, solely for defending workers' most basic rights.

Members and activists of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company have, in recent years, paid a heavy price for defending workers' rights and for asserting the right to form independent trade union organizations, facing hundreds of arrests and prison sentences. Among them, four members of the



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Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Vahed) —Nasser Moharramzadeh, Hossein Karimi Sabzevar, Hassan Saeidi, and Reza Shahabi — have, for several years, been dismissed from their jobs and deprived of their professional and social rights and benefits as a result of their trade union activities, their commitment to defending workplace demands, and their struggle for workers' rights. Their families have also, for a prolonged period, been subjected to mounting economic pressure and increasingly severe material hardship as a direct consequence of this repression.

At the same time, the representatives appointed by the Iranian state to international labour bodies, including the International Labour Organization, do not represent independent trade union organizations or the genuine interests of Iranian workers. These individuals are delegates of state-controlled institutions and operate within a framework shaped by government authority and the suppression of independent trade union activity. And, in practice, they form an integral part of the machinery of repression and of obstructing the formation of independent trade unions.

In recent months, the living conditions of working people in Iran have further deteriorated, becoming more difficult and more precarious than ever. For more than 80 days, following the outbreak of the war involving the United States and Israel against Iranian territory on 28 February 2026, our union, along with all independent voices, has in practice been silenced due to widespread internet shutdowns.

Working people, crushed by the devastating consequences of war, militarism, inflation, unemployment, and the deepening of poverty, are also facing widespread internet outages, as well as censorship and intense security pressure.

We firmly oppose war, militarism, economic sanctions that target civilian populations, and all policies that destroy workers' lives and livelihoods.

The recent military attacks, which we condemn as criminal, carried out by the United States and Israel, as well as the destructive and repressive policies of the the Islamic Republic, once again demonstrate that it is workers and



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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ordinary people who bear the highest cost of conflicts between dominant powers of the global capitalist system.

The victims of war are workers, children, women, retirees, teachers, drivers, nurses, and millions of ordinary people whose lives, workplaces, and neighbourhoods are destroyed.

As we have repeatedly emphasized in our previous letters and statements, workers in Iran need solidarity with independent workers' struggles, not support for war, foreign interference, repression, or state-affiliated organizations.

The power in Iran has simultaneously intensified repression in the context of war and insecurity. Political prisoners, labour activists, women's movement activists, teachers, students, and other social actors continue to face arrests, prison sentences, and severe security pressure.

We once again reaffirm that repression, imprisonment, executions, and violence cannot eliminate the root causes of social protest or workers' demands for justice, equality, freedom, and human dignity.

Our objectives are clear: the path toward social justice and the emancipation of workers and the working-class lies in strengthening independent working-class organizations, in collective solidarity, and in the organized struggles of workers themselves and other oppressed populations, and not in military intervention or dependence on foreign powers.

We express our deep gratitude for the solidarity actions organized by labour activists and workers' representatives from different countries during the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILO Conference, as well as during the rally held on June 5.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

We call upon them to bring the following urgent demands, formulated by independent trade union organizations and labour activists in Iran, to the attention of international public opinion:

- An immediate end to the war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran.
- The immediate abolition of the death penalty.
- The cessation of repression, arrests, and security operations against social and political activists in Iran.
- The immediate and unconditional release of all imprisoned labour activists, political prisoners, and human rights defenders.
- The recognition of workers' right to form trade unions and other independent organizations, to hold assemblies, to engage in collective bargaining, and to exercise the right to strike.
- Access for all working people to basic needs, including a decent wage, job security, healthcare, housing, education, and social protection.
- An end to internet shutdowns and censorship, as well as to restrictions imposed on freedom of expression and communication.

With renewed greetings and solidarity

**Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (Vahed)**

June 1, 2026



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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## Workers' Interests Are Not Represented at the ILO Conference!

Workers in Iran are deprived of the right to establish independent, non-governmental, and free organizations, while labor protests, strikes, and demonstrations are subjected to severe repression.



Trade unions and labor organizations worldwide—particularly their representatives in the International Labour Organization (ILO)—are aware of this reality. Nevertheless, every year a delegation of the security representatives of the ruling class and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is invited to this conference, disguised as representatives of workers and entrusted with responsibility.

The International Labor Organization is an organization for regulating working conditions in favor of governments and employers, and the independent interests of workers are not represented in it. Only as a result of the historical struggles of the working class in various countries, has the organization's charter included some of the achievements of these struggles, including the right to form organizations, collective bargaining, elimination of discrimination and legal equality.

What emerges from the objectives of this organization is the formulation and implementation of laws within the framework of existing relations, that is, the provision of working conditions in line with the needs of governments and capital owners, and the interests of workers have no place in it.

What emerges from the objectives of this organization is the drafting and implementation of laws within the framework of the existing order, namely the provision of labor conditions in accordance with the needs of governments and owners of capital; workers' interests have no place within it.

The policy governing the International Labour Organization is tripartism, according to which governments—based on the frameworks established by



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

global institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund—are required to implement policies through national legislation. Thus, representatives of governments, employers, and organizations acting in the name of workers, organized from above and within the framework of dominant policies, collectively regulate labor-capital relations. This process bears no relation to the fundamental interests of workers and brings no meaningful improvement to their living conditions.

Any change in the working and living conditions of workers will depend on the creation of social organizations that rely on the strength of workers and the election of their real representatives.

The Iranian people's movement for demands in the 2025 Uprising, during the massive protests that lasted several days, on January 8 and 9, was subjected to a bloody attack by the repressive forces of the Islamic Republic. In this event of crackdown, thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands were arrested and are at risk of execution every day.

After this horrific disaster that occurred with the conspiracy of the monarchists, it was not long before the attack on Iran by the United States and Israel began. During the 40-day war and heavy bombing, a number of important infrastructures and educational centers, including steel industries, iron smelting, refineries, petrochemicals, ports, factories, schools and universities, were destroyed.

As a result of this war disaster and the destruction that took place in industrial centers, in addition to the wave of unemployment that existed before the war, thousands of workers have also become unemployed after the war. The 70% inflation rate in Iran and widespread unemployment have exposed millions of workers and working people to extreme poverty and misery.

In addition to the destruction of infrastructure, a number of workers were killed and injured.

The continuation of wartime conditions has pushed all protest and social movements, especially the labor movement, to the margins. Taking advantage  
**11** of wartime conditions and the fragile ceasefire, the capitalist regime of the



# Alternative Workers News Iran

a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))

Islamic Republic has intensified repression, dramatically increasing arrests and executions.

The Internet shutdowns have not only cut Iran off from the world but have also prevented the voices of workers and oppressed people from reaching an international audience. A large portion of working women, whose employment is directly dependent on the internet, have become unemployed.

The recent war between the United States, Israel, and Iran has also had devastating economic effects in the Middle East and the world, including rising energy prices, which have caused inflation, rising prices, and to some extent unemployment of the workforce, and as a result, has imposed an increasing cost of living on the working class worldwide.

For more than four decades, the ruling class in Iran has obstructed workers' organization through repression, imprisonment, death sentences against protesting workers, and the use of security and judicial apparatus. Nevertheless, the struggle for organization and for realizing the legitimate demands and aspirations of the majority of society continues uninterrupted.

The only way to confront capitalist policies and shift the balance of class forces in favor of the working class, in Iran and around the world, is through organized struggle, unity, and international class solidarity. Especially in the current critical conditions of Iranian society, the working class in Iran needs the support of its fellow workers across the world.

We stand in solidarity with the protest gathering in Geneva, organized by the **National Committee for Organizing the Protest Gathering in Geneva on June 5, 2026**, and call for an **immediate end to war, the immediate and unconditional release of imprisoned workers and all political prisoners, and the immediate abolition of torture and the death penalty.**

**Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers Movement - Abroad**  
**Campaign to Support Iranian Workers**

May 25, 2026





# Alternative Workers News Iran

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## Pensioners have no choice but to protest!

Ali Nejati, a worker activist and retired sugarcane worker from Haft Tappeh, described today's economic conditions for wage earners as "difficult and worrying" in a statement about the living conditions of retirees and workers.



In an interview with the "Welfare Realm" website, he emphasized that not only retirees, but also workers, teachers, and employees are in a difficult situation due to the rising cost of living.

Referring to the rise in prices of basic goods, medical expenses, and housing, Ali Nejati described these conditions as "deplorable" and said that wages are unable to keep up with the current inflation.

According to him, social security retirees have repeatedly protested this situation in recent years, but he believes that "their voices have not been heard by the Islamic authorities."

This labor activist has considered the monthly minimum wage of approximately 16.6 million Toman (\$US135.00) — which reaches approximately 23 million Toman (\$US200.00) per month with benefits — to be "below the poverty line" and emphasized its inadequacy to cover living expenses.

Ali Nejati also pointed to structural problems in the Social Security Organization, saying that heavy government debts, a lack of resources, and a decrease in the fund's income due to the closure or recession of some production units have placed additional pressure on this institution.

He further emphasized: "The only way forward for pensioners is to protest." According to him, although in the current situation, efforts are underway to pursue their demands through dialogue with officials, if this process remains fruitless, pensioners may once again pursue their demands through street rallies.

**#protest\_strike**

**May 16, 2026**

**#Ali\_Najati**

**#Pensioners'\_Demands**



# Alternative Workers News Iran

a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))

## Statement of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company on the Consequences of the Recent Devastating War



A devastating war profoundly disrupted our lives and struggles as workers in every respect: from the around-the-clock bombardments by the United States and Israel—which made it clear to all that “precision strikes,” “military aid,” and “humanitarian interventions” were nothing more than a shameful and destructive deception—to the presence of military and Basij repressive forces at every corner, the widespread fear, anxiety, and insecurity caused both by the bombings and by severe state repression, as well as the staggering inflation and the unacceptable internet shutdown imposed by the government, which disrupted the work and lives of millions and deprived the overwhelming majority of people, as well as independent organizations—including our syndicate—of the ability to communicate and publicly express themselves.

This war not only killed thousands of innocent people, but also targeted residential homes, hospitals, schools and infrastructure, including the country’s vital industries; In a way that millions of jobs were directly and indirectly destroyed or became more unstable and insecure. The blows that this war has dealt, especially to the working class, the deprived people of Iran, our movements and our ability to organize, cannot be easily compensated, but it will not stop the struggle of the movements for rights.

This war not only claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people, but also targeted residential homes, hospitals, schools, and infrastructure, including the country’s vital industries, resulting in the direct and indirect destruction of millions of jobs or rendering them even more precarious and insecure. The blows this war has inflicted—especially on the working class, the deprived people of Iran, our social movements, and our ability to organize—cannot be easily repaired. Yet it will not stop the struggle of movements seeking justice and rights.

The ruling capitalist order and global capitalism place no real value on our



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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lives or our future. If they now seek an end to this imperialist and devastating war, it is solely from the perspective of their own long-term interests, public pressure, soaring oil and gas prices, shortages of other essential goods, and the threat of global economic recession—not because of concern for the fate of more than 90 million people living in Iran and the millions across the region who have become victims of this war and its militarized and repressive atmosphere.

The outbreak of the recent war also provided a pretext for the Islamic Republic to execute many political prisoners in so-called expedited trials, often exceeding even its own legal frameworks and regulations. As a result, dozens of people were executed within a short period, and thousands more were arrested on baseless charges, intensifying the suffocating atmosphere of repression in the country to an unprecedented degree.

This war and any warmongering policy must be stopped immediately and completely; the threats of the US and Israel to resume military attacks on Iran must end; the repression and executions by the Islamic Republic under the pretext of war must be stopped; the livelihood crisis, skyrocketing inflation, and millions of unemployed people caused by the war must be contained by immediately providing the people with basic necessities, free or cheap; the class-based Internet must be dismantled, and full access to the free Internet is the inalienable right of us, the workers and the toiling people of the country.

We call on the global working class to continue to stand resolutely against war and to strengthen its class solidarity even more than before in defense of the right to self-determination of the working class and the oppressed people of Iran and the region.

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



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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## May Day is a day of struggle and demonstration of the power of the working class against the rapacious capitalist system

The emergence of May Day with the solidarity of workers and the demonstration of power and general strike of hundreds of thousands of workers in American cities on May 1, 1886, for 8 hours working day, was recorded in the history of the struggles of the working class.



This day has become one of the greatest successes and symbols of the struggle of the working class throughout the world, not only in this country itself, but gradually in all countries on this planet. This stable success has had not only economic significance, but also great political significance for the working class all over the world. Because, it was a struggle that put the entire world's working class in opposition to global capitalism.

This year, in addition to the constant oppression and tyranny of such society, the workers and the broad masses of the Iranian people once again endured the bitter and tragic experience of January 2026, with the widespread slaughter of children, women, men, and the elderly and young who had been sent to the battlefield for bread and freedom, causing deep sorrow and heartache. Also, once again, America's predatory and colonialist policies, Israel's expansionism and warmongering, and the regional rivalries and grandiosity of the Iranian and Israeli regimes, caused these madmen, armed to the teeth in service of the exploitative system of domestic and global capitalism, to point their weapons at the masses and impose a devastating war on the working people of Iran and the countries of the region.

In these circumstances, the task of labor organizations and conscious workers



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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is to . Propagate and promote revolutionary working class ideas and slogans and strengthen the working-class alternative against the bourgeoisie and anti-worker oppositions.

In turn, on the eve of MAY Day, we are trying to help raise class awareness and organize the working class in various fields by clarifying the political and economic situation and by proposing urgent slogans and demands.

1. The goals of American imperialism and the expansionist Zionist regime, as well as the goals of the Islamic Republic in this war, are not in the interests of the Iranian people. These conditions place very heavy responsibilities on the shoulders of the conscious workers and the revolutionary and freedom-seeking forces. The slogan of an immediate cessation of war should be our main slogan at this moment because, on the one hand, the cessation of war allows the people to breathe, reduces killing and destruction, and increases the possibility of organizing and fighting by the masses. At this juncture, the workers must make the slogan of an immediate cessation of war and peace, bread, and freedom the forefront of their struggles.

2 - The current war, with its bombing and heavy damage to factories, has led to the closure, dismissal and unemployment of thousands of workers and the loss of their jobs and income. - The unemployment rate for workers in Khuzestan alone has reached about one hundred thousand due to the war and bombings, and more than 35 factories, refineries, petrochemicals and steel industries, etc. have been closed and out of production. The bombing of refineries and petrochemicals in Phase 21 of South Pars and other industrial centers and labor centers and the unemployment of tens of thousands of workers in these centers and other cities and service jobs and airports should also be added to this statistic. - Payment of wages, return to work, establishment of unemployment insurance, continuation of social security insurance, reduction of working hours, right to hard work and job classification plan, right to protest, assembly and strike, equality between women and men workers in the field of employment, wages, assuming responsibilities, securing the rights and



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

pensions of retirees, prohibition of child labor, free public health and treatment, reconstruction and provision of suitable housing for the victims and those who lack housing. There are demands for which persistence and struggle are of particular importance.

### **3– Struggle for wage increase**

The Supreme Labor Council approved a minimum wage of 2026 based on 60 percent and 45 percent for other levels, which is a minimum of sixteen million and a maximum of about 21 million Toman(\$US135.00 to \$150.00) per month (approx.120000 Toman per one dollar), including job benefits. This amount is **four times** below the poverty line and does not cover the living expenses of workers' families. Therefore, the struggle to increase wages is a necessary and permanent matter that must be continued in any situation. Because wages are the price of labor and the reconstruction of the generation of workers, or in other words, the price of the most basic living expenses that the capitalist system must pay to workers in exchange for a certain amount of work to provide workers and the survival of their generation. Iranian workers have no hope in the labor law and the Supreme Labor Council for wage increases. Because the duty and function of these two institutions is to force workers to comply for further exploitation.

### **4- The struggle for freedom of association and party formation**

From now on, revolutionary workers must consciously join the active struggle to create a revolutionary workers' organization and be at the forefront of social movements! A very important fundamental point that must be emphasized here as an immediate solution is the formation of organizing nuclei hidden from the eyes of the political police and under conditions that ensure the immunity of workers and organizers.

Also, forming neighborhood committees is creating organizations in workplaces and living spaces, and wherever there is a protest or movement in today's critical situation, forming these nuclei, with the unity of the most informed and passionate workers, is a necessary condition for advancing the labor movement and the entire social movement.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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**5– The fight for freedom of expression, freedom of publication, and the right to enjoy mass media, and the fight against suppression, censorship, news silence, and internet freedom.**

**6-Fight for the unconditional release of political prisoners.**

There is no force on earth that can crush the millions of workers who are increasingly becoming class conscious, uniting and organizing. Only the organized and class-conscious working class can nip in the bud any attempt to deceive the people, to restrict their rights and to turn them into mere tools in the hands of the bourgeoisie.

**Long live the class unity of workers!**

*Happy May 1st, International Workers' Day!*

*May Day 2026*

*Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers' Union*

**Coordination Committee to help create worker organizations**

*Retired workers of Khuzestan*

**Retirees' Union Group**





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## **We only get what we deserve on the street**

Justice, livelihood, dignity are our inalienable rights!

Protest rally of Shush Social Security retirees. Today, Sunday, in front of the Shush Social Security Organization.

Protest against poor living conditions and lack of social justice. Protest against low and inadequate wages, protest against lack of medical treatment and social security services. Protest against looting and plunder, protest against unbridled inflation and high prices, and the prevailing poverty and misery. Protest against discrimination, exploitation, oppression, and inequalities. Protest against lack of freedom, protest against poor living conditions, lack of comfort and security, prosperity, and a decent life.

## **Down with slavery, long live life.**

Sunday, May 16, 2026

#freedom\_bread

#Happiness\_Prosparity\_Development

#Eliminate\_exploitation\_and\_wage\_labor

## **Kish Wood Factory Workers Protest Over 5 Months of wage Arrears and Delays in Payment of Their Monthly Wage and Insurance Claims One of these workers said in this regard:**

This company has more than 120 direct contract workers who are engaged in industrial and mass production of kitchen systems, building doors, home furniture, etc. Meanwhile, workers' wages have been delayed since November and workers' insurance has been delayed since the beginning of January last year (2025). In addition to the problems related to salaries, the payment of these workers' insurance premiums has also not been paid since the beginning of January last year. Most of the workers are immigrants. The non-payment of 5 months of salaries and at least two months of insurance for workers who live far from their families on Kish Island is causing them problems in terms of livelihood and medical care.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

## **2025 More than 1200 killed and 8000 injured due to lack of workplace safety!**



According to the annual reports of the Center for Statistics, Publications and Works of the Human Rights Activists Association in Iran, in 2025, at least 1270 people were killed in work accidents and 8264 cases of physical injuries to workers were reported while working. Most Iranian workers work in conditions without job security and proper insurance coverage, and the lack of inspectors and weak safety infrastructure have presented serious challenges to the registration and prevention of occupational accidents.

**Wednesday, 06 May .**

## **Kerman Miners' Wage Arrears/Worker Layoff Crisis in Isfahan and East Azerbaijan**

Kerman coal mine workers have not received half of their wages for February and March this year. On the other hand, missile attacks on Isfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Complex during the recent war have put Iran's largest steel plant in serious crisis. Out of the more than 27,000 employees of the complex, only about 2,000 have returned to work. The governor of East Azerbaijan also announced that about 2,000 people in the province's production units have lost their jobs or faced job threats due to war-related damages. \_According to the annual report of the Statistics Institute of the Human Rights Activists in Iran, in 2025, there were reports of workers' wages being delayed or not being paid for at least 672 months in 188 industrial and service units, 2,457 dismissals or layoffs, 658 cases of unemployment, 560 months of no labor insurance, 9 cases of factory closures, and 2,259 workers in the field of



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

## **40,000 Mazandaran construction workers and steel retirees have no insurance**

40,000 Mazandaran construction workers and steel retirees are facing insurance termination, delayed payment of claims, and a lack of medical services. The government has defaulted on its social security contribution obligations due to economic debts. Steel and social security retirees are also complaining about delays in wage increases and rising costs of living. At the same time as the livelihood and healthcare crisis continues, workers and retirees in various cities are facing problems such as insurance termination, delayed payment of claims, and a lack of medical services. In a situation where the country's economic situation is dire and unemployment and inflation are rampant, a large part of the country's working and pensioner community is struggling with chronic problems such as insurance termination, delayed payment of claims, lack of medical services, and imbalanced resources of the Social Security Organization; a situation that is the result of years of the government's disregard for its legal obligations and the accumulation of its debts. In an interview with the Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA), Moslem Makari, head of the Amol Construction Workers' Association, said that more than 40,000 construction workers in Mazandaran province and about 5,000 in Amol city are still waiting for insurance. Some sentences may contain gender-specific alternatives. Click a sentence to see alternatives. According to him, the Amol Construction Workers' Union, which started its activities with 71 members, now has more than 11,600 members, but only about 1,500 of them are covered by the 7% insurance.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

*a fortnightly newspaper from :(( solidarity committees with iranian workeres movment -aboad))*

## **Women workers, preservation of the family and the society under the shadow of the war**

After the attack on Iran by Israel and the US and the forty day war, there is a very brittle cease fire. Destruction of the infrastructures and sections of the residential areas during the war has left devastating results on the working class and the toiling people of Iran. Thousands of people are killed

and injured and the Iranian society is facing severe economic, political, and social crises.

Factories, communication networks, hospitals, schools and people's houses, they all have been targeted. Attacking the infrastructures of the basic and primary industries has increased the unemployment of the workers acutely. Many of the employment centers have been either completely closed or by decrease in the number of employees, reduction in wages and irregular payments have put pressure on the workers' lives.



During the war, people have lost their purchasing power as a result of the maddening increase in prices and the widespread unemployment. War did not remain in the military sphere only, but crept unnoticeably and in an attrition way into the daily lives of the workers and the toiling people; the costs of these can be seen in the empty livelihood of people, unstable work contracts, sudden and inevitable decisions by the employers, widespread unemployment and nightly worries of the workers. Simultaneously, severe security ambience has made any protest to the existing conditions much harder.

Among all these, women workers who constitute a large portion of the unofficial workforce, are facing a double class and gender-based oppression. About 57 percent of the Iranian women who are employed in unofficial and unstable jobs have been affected during the recent war development and are also deprived of any insurance support. Women who are the breadwinners of the family face a more difficult situation and are vulnerable to livelihood disaster.



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## **Consequences of war on women workers and the workers' families**

Expulsion of women workers from the labor market has caused severe decrease in household livelihood and expansion of absolute poverty. Their unwanted return to unpaid household work has decreased the economic independence of women. This situation has created a pretext for an increase in economic and gender based violence in the families.

At the same time the quality of life for children has been severely affected in a negative way; educational poverty, inadequate nourishment, abandonment of school, psychological pressures, increase in the probability of forced and early marriage for girls are all part of these direct consequences of this crisis.

In the war conditions where the bombardment threatens every single moment of the people's life and where the security forces have put the whole society under pressure by creating an atmosphere of fear, suppression and terror, women are put under a much more difficult situation. They not only have to deal with the livelihood crisis, but also to take care of the family's psychological security.

## **Women workers: from survival to social resistance**

The war and its aftermath put heavier duties on the shoulders of women on the "home front". Women workers, in order to save the survival of the family, had to accept more responsibility. Under the conditions of the back breaking inflation, many of them went for the domestic jobs such as cooking, tailoring, handicraft and selling products online and otherwise in order to supplement the family income.

In these war conditions, women take initiatives to save the survival of their families. They try to create a network of mutual help in the neighborhoods and strengthen social solidarity. These networks are not only a good channel to transfer the experiences and the initiatives among women but also play a role in microfinancing, mutual support and creating collective solutions.

As a result of the collapse of public services, women have been forced simultaneously to play the roles of teacher, nurse, social worker and watch. Lack of existence of childcare, medical clinics and social services has put a double



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burden on women's shoulders. Attending to children, elderly, the sick and the wounded has been relegated almost completely to women.

Women workers during the 40 days war, not only were the main victims of economic pressure, discrimination and social instability, but they also had a decisive role in saving the social survival of the society through their individual initiatives and collective activism.

Women's endurance, utilizing their abilities and their creativity to preserve the family and the society has become a form of collective spirit and social resistance. This experience can become a pretext for formation of organizing ability, strengthening the class solidarity of women in different forms.

Under the conditions where war, poverty and suppression have simultaneously cast its shadow on people's lives, the role of women is not limited only to survival, but to make women one of the most important forces for saving the society and as a force of resistance faced with social collapse.

*April 29, 202*

## **300 Workers Unemployed at Bashal Motor Company in Savadkooh, Mazandaran**

Bashal Motor Company, which produces various types of automobile parts in Savadkooh County, has laid off about 300 of its temporary contract workers since the beginning of this year, citing a shortage of raw materials. These layoffs come despite there being no reports of the possibility of workers receiving unemployment insurance, while according to reports, many industrial companies in Mazandaran Province have not suffered any direct damage in the war.



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## **Teacher's Week; In Mourning for Children and Teachers Victims of War and Repression**

It's Teacher's Week and we're talking about classrooms whose bells no longer ring; about backpacks whose owners were left behind in the rubble of war. About children who should have been doing homework, not adding their names to the list of those killed. The children of Minab School and other children who died in the war are unfinished worlds; children kidnapped in a world that has normalized death for years and wants us to get used to it.

Schools are closed, books are dusted, and children, before they learn the alphabet of life, grow up with the language of sirens, smoke, and loss. But we don't get used to it; not to war, nor to the power that steals the future from the eyes of students.

For us, Teacher's Week is not just about celebrating education and teachers; it is about standing by the right to life of all those who fell victim to war, oppression, and thirst; it is also about keeping alive the memory of the killed, imprisoned, and detained teachers who, alongside children and students, paid the price of standing against oppression, war, and destruction. Those who wanted school to be a place for life and awareness, not the continuation of oppression, silence, and silence.

Coordination Council of Iranian Teachers' Unions

## **Unemployment of 300 workers at Bashl Motor Company in Savadkooh, Mazandaran**

The Bashl Motor Company, which produces various types of automotive parts in Savadkooh County, has laid off about 300 of its temporary contract workers since the beginning of this year, citing a shortage of raw materials. These layoffs come at a time when there is no report of the possibility of the workers receiving unemployment insurance, while according to reports, many industrial companies in Mazandaran Province have not suffered any direct damage in the war.



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## Hundreds of nurses in Tehran were fired for “unjustified absence” for protecting their lives during the war

Despite the labor laws stipulating that “leaving service in wartime conditions is justified,” the majority of dismissals of nurses in private hospitals were due to

leaving work during the war, and the economic problems of medical centers did not play a role in the reduction of these forces.

Although, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Labor, **leaving work in life-threatening conditions is not considered unjustified absence**, between 600 and 1,000 nurses in private hospitals in Tehran faced closed doors and dismissal orders after returning to work; an action that the chairman of the board of directors of the Nurses’ Trade Union Association considered inhumane and illegal, which has no justification. Mehdi Hamzeh said: During the recent war, many nurses in private hospitals in Tehran left their workplaces out of fear for their lives and also because there were no patients in these centers. The employers of private hospitals also did not insist on nurses staying at work during the war, because the conditions were war-like and there was a fear of death, and at the same time they did not have patients, so their action and the dismissal of nurses after the war under the pretext of quitting work was unexpected and unethical. Of the approximately 63 large private hospitals in Tehran, between 10 and 25 nurses were dismissed and unemployed in each of these hospitals after the war, so the number of dismissed nurses in these centers is estimated to be between 600 and 1,000. According to the law, the Ministry of Labor applies unemployment insurance benefits to these nurses, but the amount of unemployment insurance is at the minimum wage level and is very small. Almost all large private hospitals in Tehran have dismissed nurses after the war. This issue has been



27 less common in clinics. Small clinics in these conditions managed their staff more by managing shifts at a 50 percent level and had fewer layoffs.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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Some of these centers are turning to recruiting non-graduate students, midwives, and non-specialists to compensate for the shortage of staff and to pay their staff less, and unfortunately, the result of this is an increase in hospital errors and irreparable harm to patients. These measures lead to major malpractice cases, and unfortunately, last year we also had several cases of serious harm to patients. Many private sector nurses work on 6-month or 1-year contracts, and this leaves employers free to easily adjust the staff at the end of the contract and not sign another contract with them, which has greatly reduced the job security of private sector nurses. In a situation where nurses' rights are easily violated, the few official organizations that exist have not been able to prevent violations of the law and the trampling of nurses' rights.

**Source: Health Watch**

**From triple-digit inflation in food items to the nightmare of homelessness:**

**The shrapnels of war in the livelihood basket**

To realize that the 60 percent wage increase in 2026 has not shaken the worker's livelihood basket, we only need to look at the inflation that has devastated all goods and services in the past month or two. On May 5, ILNA news agency quoted Faramarz Tofighi, a former member of the Supreme Labor Council, as saying that nearly 40 days after the start of the new year, the livelihood basket rate has reached 71 million Toman (\$US590.00) per month. According to this labor activist, "The wage with all benefits did not even reach 60 percent of the 45 million Toman (\$US375.00) livelihood basket that was previously proposed during wage negotiations. Today, the same unrealistic 45 million Toman ((\$US375.00) per month basket has reached 71 million and 300 thousand Tomans (\$US595.00) per month, meaning it has become 78 percent more expensive in less than two months." According to him, although official Central Bank data shows that annual food inflation has reached bethas exceeded 200 percent within a year. ween 117 and 165 percent, field data indicates that actual food inflation has exceeded 200 percent within a



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## **The minimum wage of an Iranian worker is equivalent to \$US 3.00 per day**

The peak of the dollar exchange rate against the Iranian rial has caused the minimum daily wage of an Iranian worker to be equivalent to only "three dollars". The monthly wage base of the Ministry of Labor 2026, according to the resolution of the Supreme Labor Council, is about 16 million and 625 thousand Toman (US\$135.00) per month. However, since the announcement of the wage base for 2026 at the beginning of this week until Thursday, the dollar exchange rate has increased by 15% against the Iranian Rial and has reached over 180 thousand Toman (US\$1.00).

Even assuming that the depreciation of the Rial stops, the monthly wage base of a worker in Iran will still be approximately \$US90.00 per month. For example, this figure in Turkey, Iran's neighboring country, is \$US730.00 per month . "The holes in our lives are no longer filled in any way; I have not eaten red meat for two months; I have not talked to my wife about financial matters for two months; we have gone to the verge of divorce; the only thing that has kept us together as a "family" is; My three-year-old son is already experiencing deprivation; I can't buy enough food for this child. I am ashamed of my family."... These are the words of "Ali," an unemployed worker at a manufacturing company who lost his job after the 12-day war last summer. In February, he was hired as a caretaker in a residential complex in the north of the city with a monthly salary of 21 million Toman(\$US175.00). He lives in South Yaftabad and heads a family of three; he pays 10 million Toman (\$US85.00) a month for rent and makes ends meet by driving a Snap (delivery job). While only a few weeks have passed since the beginning of 2026 in Iran, estimates of the living costs of workers show that the gap between income and expenses has increased to an unprecedented extent. According to the 2026 wage circular, the minimum daily wage for workers has been set at 5,541,850 Rial (\$US5.00) which brings the total monthly base wage to about 16,600,000 Toman (\$US150.00) per month. This is despite the fact that even with benefits included, the workers' income is significantly below the 71 million Toman(\$US590.00) per month subsistence basket and practically does not meet the basic needs of a household.



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## Current Situation of Petrochemical Workers

According to the Executive Secretary of the Bandar Imam Workers' House, the workers of the affected units are not currently in a normal production situation, but in a situation between work and standby. If this trend continues, a large part of the workforce will be unemployed. He stated that 70 percent of these workers cannot even bear one or two months of temporary unemployment, and the government must urgently consider measures to prevent the closure of the workshops and the continuation of the current situation. As a result, the current situation of the workers cannot be summarized simply in the phrase that the units have not yet been completely closed. The more accurate reality is that some of the workers are still working, but they are facing low capacity, limited presence, security conditions, uncertainty about the continuation of production, and severe livelihood pressure.

**Sunday, 10 May, 2021**

## 138 National Oil Company Workers Fired and Dismissed Workers Protest

Following the wave of dismissals, it was announced that the National Copper Company has fired 138 workers and employees of the company under the auspices of the Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization of Iran. The dismissed workers gathered in front of the National Copper Company's administrative office last week after the National Copper Company ignored the workers' return to work letter from IMIDRO (Iran Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization) and the Minister of SAMAT (Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade - Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade).

These dismissals took place while the National Copper Company and copper production did not suffer any damage during the war, either directly or indirectly. They fought for bread, stood for dignity, and left us before seeing justice and liberation.

For years, in the heat and cold, in the heavy silence of neglect, they became the voice demanding justice; the retirees who stood and resisted for a



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decent table and a dignified livelihood. Today is Thursday, and there is no place for many of those tired but steadfast voices among us; Those who hoped to see justice one day, but their eyes were closed before that day arrived. Their memory is not just a memory; it is a lamp that keeps the path of demand bright. May their memory be cherished and their name always live in the memory of this path of seeking justice. Nostalgia

## **Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Workers Syndicate**

**14 May, 2026**

### **Urmia Municipality Employees' Insurance Cut Off! 6,000 Workers Face Healthcare and Livelihood Crisis**

Reports indicate that the economic and livelihood situation of employees of public and government institutions in Iran is worsening.

In this context, according to reports, the Social Security Organization has cut off the insurance of about 6,000 workers and personnel of the Urmia Municipality, causing many problems for the workers.

The workers were later informed that a number of them were told when they visited medical centers that their insurance documents were invalid and that they would have to pay for their treatment independently.

Earlier, reports had been published about the termination of the health insurance of a number of social security insured persons in Tehran and other cities due to the non-payment of insurance premiums by their employers during the war.

### **Crisis in the online labor market**

Job Vision, a job-hunting platform, announced that 318,000 job applications were registered on its system in just one day, a 50 percent increase. At the beginning of the war, about 750,000 people were introduced to the unemployment insurance fund; A fund that previously only covered about 180,000 people.



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## **The war led to unemployment for 4 million wage earners**

Before the war, in February 2026, the Iranian labor market was plagued by high inflation, stagnation, declining purchasing power, the spread of temporary and contractual contracts, and an increase in hidden and open unemployment, and the gap between wages and the cost of living

had reached a level where the wages of workers sufficient to cover a family's food expenses exceeded the total income of a worker.

But during the war, one of the most important aspects of the war situation was the widespread wave of unemployment and layoffs.

## **The war may have led to the unemployment of about four million workers.**

Even in areas not directly involved in the war, working conditions have worsened significantly. Reports indicate that workers continue to die in the workplace; not

because of the war, but because of structural insecurity, lack of supervision, and hazardous working condition

## **The war led to unemployment for 4 million wage earners**



## **138 Workers of the National Oil Company Dismissed and Protest of the Dismissed Workers**

Following the wave of dismissals, it was announced that the National Copper Company has dismissed 138 workers and employees of the company under the Iranian Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization.

The dismissed workers gathered in front of the National Copper Company's office last week after the National Copper Company ignored the letter from IMIDRO and the Minister of industry requesting the workers to return to work.

These dismissals have taken place while the National Copper Company and copper production have not suffered any damage during the war, either directly or indirectly.



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## Since the beginning of the war, 205,000 people have registered for unemployment insurance!

The post-war labor market has faced one of the heaviest waves of recession and layoffs in recent years. The destruction of industrial infrastructure, long-term internet outages, declining demand, and a decline in business activity have

caused many companies to suspend some of their activities or reduce their workforce.

Alireza Mahjoub, Secretary General of the Workers' House, announced the destruction of more than 700,000 jobs, stating that 130,000 people were directly unemployed as a result of the attacks, and about 600,000 jobs were also lost indirectly.

Mohammadi, Deputy Minister of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, said the war has directly destroyed more than one million jobs, leaving about two million people directly and indirectly unemployed.



## Second day of protest rally of Petronad Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company workers

According to ILNA, today, Sunday, May 17, a group of Petronad Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company workers also held a protest rally in front of the governor's office in Mahshahr for the second consecutive day.

These workers held this protest rally in protest of the dismissal of 200 local workers who were recently dismissed from Petronad Petrochemical Company.

One of the dismissed workers of this complex, stating that he had been active in Petronad for two years as a master fitter in projects, said: "We have been active in Petronad complex, which produces petrochemical raw materials for medicine and some other industries, for years. The complex was supposed to recruit personnel for its various phases and go to work from the beginning of the year. After the New Year holidays, work began on the complex, but at the same time, the local workers,



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who numbered more than 200, were fired from the complex and apparently non-local labor was recruited.

Monday, May 18, 2021

## **At least 5 protest rallies were held:**

On Sunday, May 17, a group of social security retirees held protest rallies in the cities of Tehran, Tabriz, Rasht, and Shush.

A group of workers from the Petronad Bandar Imam petrochemical company also held protest rallies for the second consecutive day. According to the HRANA news agency, citing ILNA, today, a number of social security retirees held protest rallies in front of the Social Security Organization building in the cities of Tehran, Tabriz, Rasht, and Shush. These citizens held this rally to protest the more than two-month delay in increasing the annual wage subject to Article 96, the indifference towards determining and notifying the right to housing, and the failure to implement the mandatory law in the medical sector. According to them, no circular or notification has been issued to specify when this housing allowance will be paid to pensioners, and this uncertainty has doubled their livelihood concerns in the current inflationary conditions.

The pensioners further stated: More than two months after the new year, the Social Security Organization has still not implemented the resolution to increase the annual wages of pensioners based on Article 96 of the Social Security Law. Earlier, the authorities had promised that the wages would be increased in June, but so far no practical and tangible steps have been taken to issue new decrees, and pensioners are still waiting. Another criticism of the protesters in the aforementioned cities is the disregard for the “Social Security Mandatory Law.” Referring to the exorbitant costs of medicine and treatment, the pensioners emphasize: The Mandatory Law is not being observed; It is not possible for pensioners to pay heavy medical expenses from their pockets, and the current basic insurance services do not in any way meet the medical needs of the country's retired community.



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## **Resolution of the Protest Action of June 5, 2026, Geneva, in Support of the Iranianworkers Movement**

We are on the eve of the 114th Session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva (June 1–12).

This year, as in previous years, coinciding with the ILO conference in Geneva, we, a group of labour and political activists, have gathered in front of this organisation in defence of the rights and struggles of Iranian workers and wage earners. We insistently call for attention to the catastrophic conditions of Iran's working class and for the support and solidarity of the international working class through trade unions, labour organisations, and international labour federations in European and other countries.

This gathering is being held in protest against the reactionary 40-days war of Israeli and U.S. attacks on Iran, to demand its cessation, and to condemn the anti-worker, repressive, and exploitative policies of the Islamic Republic toward workers.

The Iranian working class is living through one of its darkest periods. The economic and livelihood assault of the Islamic Republic's capitalist system, which has been waged against the working class and the toilers of Iran for years, reached its peak in January 2026 with soaring and uncontrolled inflation and the collapse of the national currency. As a result, the vast majority of Iranian society faced severe livelihood and economic pressures and took to the streets in mass protests to improve their conditions.

During the several days of protests, the right-wing monarchist opposition, through conspiracy and with the support of the United States and Israel, sought to appropriate this great mass movement. In the attacks carried out by the suppressive forces of the Islamic Republic across many Iranian cities, thousands of people were killed in less than two days, and countless others were injured. Several thousand people were also arrested in this brutal assault and remain imprisoned, subjected to torture and interrogation. Every day, some of them are executed without trial and without

**35** the right to legal counsel.



# Alternative Workers News Iran

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Not much time had passed since the tragedy of 2025 when the Israeli and U.S. attacks on Iran began. The war spread across much of the country, targeting infrastructure and industrial centers. Large numbers of people were killed and wounded, and residential areas were destroyed.

Throughout the bombings, workers continued to work in industrial facilities and workplaces. In the absence of independent labour organisations in these workplaces, workers were unable to stop the wheels of production, and a number of them were killed or injured as a result. Prior to this 40-days war, workers and working people had already experienced the 12-days war resulting from Israel's attack on Iran and had directly witnessed the devastating consequences of war, death, and destruction in their daily lives.

However, during the 40-days war, the working class faced a catastrophe of mass unemployment due to the nationwide internet shutdown and the destruction of industrial infrastructure, including petrochemical complexes, steel plants, Mobarakeh Steel, and the petrochemical facilities of Asaluyeh. A large portion of the workforce lost their jobs, particularly women workers, who had held a significant share of employment through internet-based work.

Before the war, the labour movement and other sections of the workforce, through class struggle in the streets and through strikes and protests in workplaces, had challenged the Islamic Republic's rule in pursuit of their demands and rights.

The dark shadow of war has pushed these movements for social and labour demands to the margins by dismissals, imprisonment, and executions. The Islamic Republic's mercenary forces use wartime conditions as a pretext to respond to any movement with severe repression.

What the working class and a large section of Iran's toilers face today, and what the capitalist system of the Islamic Republic has imposed upon them through policies of increased austerity, includes:

**36** The destabilisation of labour relations through widespread privatisation and



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subcontracting schemes; temporary, blank, and unsigned contracts; lack of job security; privatisation of education, healthcare, the severe housing crisis; environmental destruction; reductions in wage levels under the pretext of wartime conditions; the absence of unemployment insurance and social security coverage; and unsafe working environments that victimise workers' lives every day.

Internet shutdowns, which has been one of the Islamic Republic's responses to political crises, have led to the closure of many services such as healthcare that has resulted in unprecedented unemployment.

Under such conditions, unemployment, inflation exceeding 70 percent, rising prices, and increasing living costs have made life even more difficult for workers, wage earners, and the poor.

Today, through our gathering and strong protest, we strongly condemn the policies of the International Labour Organisation regarding the working and living conditions of Iran's working class.

Today, we firmly condemn the approach of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) toward the Islamic Republic of Iran's criminal and anti-worker policies.

The government elements of the Islamic Republic are not representatives of Iranian workers. The Islamic Republic violates and tramples workers' rights by openly disregarding ILO conventions, particularly the fundamental labour conventions concerning the right to establish independent labour organisations free from government and employer control. Workplace safety and protection standards are likewise ignored.

Given the grave economic and political conditions facing workers in Iran, we emphasise the consideration of the following demands:



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- The immediate and unconditional cessation of war.
- The release of imprisoned workers and all political prisoners; an end to arrests; and the abolition of the inhumane punishment and state-sanctioned killing of execution.
- The right to form independent labour organisations free from government and employer control, and the right to strike and protest.
- The elimination of gender discrimination and wage inequality between men and women.
- Job security, safe working conditions, and the abolition of temporary and contract labour arrangements.
- Payment of unemployment benefits adjusted to inflation and rising living costs until productive units are rebuilt and workers return to work.
- Universal social security coverage for all wage earners.
- Free healthcare insurance and adequate medical services.
- Allocation of non-repayable financial assistance to war-affected workers and working-class families.
- The prohibition of child labour and the provision of suitable conditions and financial resources for children to continue their education.
- Respect for the rights of migrant workers and an end to their deprivation of rights, discrimination, and intensified exploitation.
- Free internet access for all people as one of the essential economic, social, and cultural infrastructures.

**National Committee for Organising the Protest Gathering in Geneva  
June 2026**