

The WCPI's May Day balance sheet

Just a few days after the May Day celebrations in Iran, reports were received from workers involved in the May Day events recounting the destructive and domineering role of the Worker-Communist Party of Iran (WCPI) within workers' independent assemblies.

The first report, by the Iranian Revolutionary Socialist Youth League, on the May Day the celebrations in Tehran, the Karaj Special Road, was received on 1 May 2004. It contained the following:

"... At the end of the ceremony a number of opportunists from the Worker-Communist Party wanted to disrupt the ceremony by creating chaos in the hall. This was met by protests from the organisers and the audience."

The second report, by "a group of workers at the Khor-Chaloos road ceremony", was received on 4 May 2004. It mentioned that at the May Day picnic, in which more than 1200 workers and their families took part, the following took place:

"... At 14:45 during the ceremony, two people from the pressure group known as the Worker-Communist Party entered the audience carrying a green plastic bag. Without co-ordination with the organisers of the gathering, and without being part of the audience beforehand, or having had the smallest role or connection with the organisers, they started to move into the audience. They put pieces of paper, which looked like copies of an unsigned resolution, into people's pockets. Then after five minutes they left the proceedings in a Peykan [Iranian assembled Hillman Hunter, the most common car in Iran]. This act by them was again met by the collective protest of those present and the organisers of the gathering."

Following the publication of these two leaflets the WCPI produced its own bullying leaflet that was full of insults. The abusive language and accusations against the Iranian Revolutionary Socialists' League (IRSL) was published on 5 May 2004. In it the WCPI claims that "two successive leaflets with different signatures" have falsified the May Day reports and accused the IRSL of behaving like police informants.

A few days later, a letter by a worker in Iran (named Bahram Sobati) was published. In a part of the article it says:

"At the end of the ceremony a number of people wanted to read a resolution that was connected with a certain current, so the organisers of the meeting, to prevent any commotion in the hall, declared the meeting over.

"The previous day, Friday 30 April, some people attempted to distribute a resolution at the May Day ceremony of mountaineers in Khor (an area in Karaj) which did not please the organisers. Also in the mechanic metalworkers' ceremony the same individuals, using the excuse of reading a women's manifesto, grabbed the microphone from the presenter and read out their own resolution. Such behaviour at this ceremony by them was predictable.

"By being aware of the behaviour of this group it was natural that many of the workers present in three ceremonies would strongly oppose their action.

"The behaviour of these individuals tells us that if these few individuals could organise their own ceremony then they would have. But since they are unable to organise their own separate ceremony, they distribute the resolution of a particular tendency, which has the label of worker attached to it, by gate-crashing workers' meetings. Or as in one case, resorting to force (the mechanic metalworkers) and grabbing the microphone to read out that resolution.

These individuals like other groups that are angry at being ignored by people (in this case by workers), attempt to express their opinions by using undemocratic methods and force and pressure. Of course these individuals have become the puppets of this group, which, if it is not forced to, will not defend its tools. These individuals' lack of consciousness is a factor in making them listen to every order of the leadership of such sects.

"This non-worker-like behaviour is indicative of the viewpoints of sects that through adventurism want to use workers in reaching the aims of their."

And then in late May the spokesman of the workers' committee which organised the May Day ceremony pointed out:

"During the ceremony a few members of the audience insisted on getting on the platform and reading their article and resolution. Considering the fact that the above resolution and articles had not been adopted by the committee, and on the other hand because of time limitations, they were not allowed on the platform."

Following that, in the Paltalk¹ meeting of the Free Labour House on 3 June 2004, four of the May Day detainees were present: Jalal Hosseini, Mohsen Hakimi, Mahmood Salehi and Mohammad Abdipoor. At this meeting Mohsen Hakimi said:

"... This sectarian tendency which has labelled itself communist and worker has been sabotaging things in various ways ... We must ask them that if you really can why didn't you organise your own independent ceremony? You came and clung on [to workers' meetings]. You came into the metalworkers' union's and the mechanics' ceremonies and grabbed the microphone from the hand of the presenter and read out your own resolution.

"You came to Khor and in a sneaky way distributed your resolution and put it into the pockets of the audience. You came into the Special Road and when it was said that the ceremony has ended, you blocked people's path and said 'Don't leave, don't leave' as we want to read a resolution. They won't let us read out our resolution! Why should they give you permission? The ceremony belongs to other people, other people have organised it and in fact want to read their own adopted resolution. You can go and read out your own adopted resolution in your very own ceremony. If anyone stops you then you can say that 'Yes, you are against the freedom of speech.'"

Or in Saghez itself, there were individuals from this tendency in the committee itself. They had arranged to meet before the ceremony, that they would be present and gather together in the park. But these people did not turn up. This means that they abandoned the other workers in front of the police and the intelligence service. These are examples. That [is why] I say that they came to respond to this [May Day] action with total hate and total vengeance..."

As it is clear from reports received from Iran, the WCPI intended to use force to enter independent workers' gatherings through a planned policy and then to pass them off as its own gatherings! It was oblivious to the fact that the vanguard workers of Iran are sharper, more aware, and more politically conscious than the WCPI imagined! This, the first attempt by this petty bourgeois tendency to steal the gains of the workers has met with a total defeat.

It is in the context of such a scandal that the WCPI has compared the workers' condemnation as the act of police informants. Whereas it is the WCPI itself which has been acting like police informants. Filming the workers, without their permission, for use in television networks and as a result making their faces known to the police; and distributing an unsigned resolution by the known activists of WCPI (a resolution that

¹ Software for holding virtual meetings on the Internet.

was at the same time published on various websites signed by the WCPI) and by linking all those present with the WCPI and endangering their lives, and so on, are all indicative of this method of activity. In the meeting where the Saghez May Day detainees spoke, in protest against Mohsen Hakimi's denunciation of the "leaders" of the WCPI, they in turn made these allegations against Mohsen Hakimi. Hakimi's response was:

"The tendency which accuses me of endangering anyone's security, has in fact acted as police and intelligence service informants itself. There was a draft document on independent workers' organisations and the author had thought it prudent not to publish it publicly. But this draft found its way into the hands of this tendency and they made it public by publishing it.² Doesn't this endanger the author of the draft in Iran?

- 1- Those who claim that such acts should not happen must answer me this.
- 2- The same draft document was censored and this is very nasty act. The section dealing with the party, article ten, has been censored. Why? So that it can be proved that the author of the charter is against parties, is against a workers' party. That is, they first censor it so that they can then say it is hostile to parties, or that the author is antagonistic towards building parties ... Somewhere in there it has been said that Hakimi, in an anti-capitalist charter that he has written, has supported the separation of the state and religion. So that they have openly said to the intelligence service and police (hey police, hey intelligence service) the author of this draft and charter is Mohsen Hakimi. Is this not the act of intelligence service informants? Is this not the act of police informants?

Those who have such claims must, first of all, before accusing me, pay attention to this tendency:

- 1- Why did you really publish this charter which [you know] is an internal draft?
- 2- Why did you censor it and clearly say that its author is so-and-so?"

The verdict on the WCPI's sorrowful May Day 2004 balance sheet is up to the workers of Iran. This exposure by the vanguard workers is a warning to the WCPI and other domineering currents who entertain the idea of imposing themselves on the workers' movement in their heads. The workers' leaders and organisers are present in Iran itself and they will confront these petty bourgeois tendencies which will eventually be at the service of the bourgeoisie.

Finally, we would like to have a word with the exiled 'socialist' and 'workers' organisations. It is expected that they take a position in condemning these unprincipled acts by the WCPI. Silence or approval of these anti-working class acts, or adopting any intermediate positions, are starkly against the interests of Iranian workers. We should not remain silent in the face of the WCPI's intimidation and blackmail and, in opposition to it, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the vanguard workers!

Iranian Revolutionary Socialists' League
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Iranian Revolutionary Socialists' League
fi@kargar.org - <http://www.kargar.org/english.htm> - BM KARGAR, London WC1N 3XX, United Kingdom.

² Hakimi is referring to the WCPI publishing a draft internal resolution of a group of labour activists on independent workers' organisations in one of its papers and making that issue available on the Internet.