



**'The basis of socialism is the human being... Socialism is the movement to restore human being's conscious will.'**

**- Mansoor Hekmat**

*The great Marxist thinker and leader of the Worker-communist Party and worker-communist movement, 1951-2002*

## On the Islamic Terrorists' Hostage-taking in Moscow

### Interview with Azar Majedi



*Question: Last week, Chechen Islamic terrorists took more than seven hundred people hostage in a Moscow theatre demanding withdrawal of the Rus-*

*sian military from Chechnya. What is your view on this?*

**Azar Majedi:** This is terrorism and must be condemned by all progressive and humanitarian people. Terrorism can never be justified or condoned. To take 700 innocent people hostage and subject them to death threats is absolutely inhuman. It's pure terrorism. No goal or objective diminishes the despicability and shamelessness of this action. Hostage taking is

related to Islamic groups like the Taliban and the Islamic Republic of Iran that have a dark record in the oppression of people. The hostage taking in Moscow shows the inhuman capacity of political Islam once more. Those who try to justify this action by referring to the Russian Army's atrocities in Chechnya are siding in practice with these inhuman criminal gangs and nurturing political Islam and Islamic terrorists.

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## USA, Iraq and Kurdistan

### The Western Media's Task is to Generate War Propaganda

#### 1999 Interview with Koorosh Modaresi



*Porsesh: Air strikes against Iraq are continuing with varied frequency. William Roe, the former USA ambassador in the*

*Gulf has stated that the objective of these attacks is not the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime but to ensure the implementation of the UN resolution on the eradication of its weapons of mass destruction, which the Iraqi government has not complied with. In your view, what is the USA objective?*

**Koorosh Modaresi:** The claim that these attacks are for an implementation of the UN resolution is false. This

is merely war propaganda not political analysis. USA official analysts themselves speak of a lack of strategy and plan on Iraq. However, war journalism, led by the CNN, BBC and SKY, as a component of the military machinery of these countries, are portraying war propaganda as fact and serious analysis. If we want to see how this claim lacks credibility, we must take a step away from the propaganda machinery and pose deeper questions. One

must ask how many other UN resolutions have been implemented via bombardment and even military threats. Can the Palestinians believe such assertions? Do they do the same to Israel for violating UN resolutions? Why is not China subject to such attacks for undermining the most basic rights? Why not subject Croatia and Slovenia for the ethnic 'cleansing' of nearly 700 thousand Serbs, Germany for its practical and

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sidered at two levels. It is clear that the Russian government had to strive to free the hostages and defeat the hostage takers' plan. Obviously, from what we know of the history of Islamic terrorists and their being akin to the Taliban, Islamic Republic of Iran and Al-Qaeda is that they will carry

out their threats and blow people up; in fact they had already started killing.

There are, however, serious and reasonable questions about the Russian government's approach, that is, could not the Russian government have used other less dangerous methods to save the hostages with fewer casualties and been quicker in providing medical aid to the victims? These are the

issues that must be considered. When we take into account that the Russian government's fundamental nature is brutal and oppressive, these questions become all the more relevant.

*Question: There is an old history in the conflict between the Russians and Chechens. In the last few years, particularly with the civil war, bombardments and suppression by the Russian army and the role of the Islamic groups, life for the Chechen people has been turned into hell. In your opinion, what is the way out of this situation and how is it possible to prevent even more devastation in people's lives?*

**Azar Majedi:** The Chechen people are the victims of an imposed battle. The ultra-reactionary Islamic groups akin to the Taliban on the one hand and the oppressive and nationalist policies

of the Russian government on the other hand, which have no respect for human beings and humanity, have created this hell.

In my opinion the only way out of this situation is the complete prevailing over Islamic groups and impelling the Russian government to respect the fundamental rights of the Chechen people, such as the right to elections, political expression and organisation, separation of religion from the state, as well as respect for the sanctify of life and the right of people to protection from police and army interference. In final analysis conditions must be established for the people to choose freely. This condition does not currently exist.

*The above is a translation of an article first published in International Weekly in Persian on November 1, 2002.*

*Question: To free the hostages, the Russian army used an incapacitating gas. Apart from killing fifty hostage takers, it has up to now also resulted in the loss of life of 118 hostages due to gas inhalation. What is your view on the Russian government's response?*

**Azar Majedi:** In my opinion this issue must be con-

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## USA, Iraq and Kurdistan, from page 1

political support for this policy and the USA itself for bullying a huge section of humanity over the last fifty years, to such attacks? What is the reason for singling out Iraq? They say Iraq is despotic and has used weapons of mass destruction and that this is the moral basis for singling out Iraq and the reason for Western governments and its media's fury. This can only be taken as jest. All the world's dictators have gained power and remained in power with the support of these governments. This is a fact that they censor. The Iraqi Ba'ath regime is most definitely a despotic and criminal regime. However, the West's select countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Indonesia and the majority of others supported by them, if not worse, are no better than Iraq. For many years, Western governments have brought these governments to power and been the supporters and architects of the majority of the world's despotic governments - Pinochet in Chile, the Shah in Iran, the counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua, hand-picked governments in Vietnam and all of Latin America, etc. As I've said, if these governments are not worse than Iraq, they were and are definitely not any better. Even the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot directly or indirectly received assistance from the USA and the West. On weapons of mass destruction, the issue is even more clear-cut. The USA is the only state to have used the most

destructive weapon of mass destruction, i.e. the nuclear bomb, against the defenceless people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even now, the effects of the chemical and biological weapons used by the USA against the people of Vietnam are visible. They are also the ones who used depleted uranium in Iraq, which is daily causing the death of tens of adults and children. If the issue is the eradication of weapons of mass destruction, then surely these governments that maintain the most extensive stockpile of these chemical and atomic weapons and have used them a lot more than Iraq should become the subjects of such attacks. The West is currently using the most outrageous weapon of mass destruction against the people of Iraq. Economic sanctions, hunger, unemployment, lack of medicine and sanitation are the most dreadful weapons of mass destruction, which incidentally primarily victimise children and the elderly. If a conscientious court could be found in this world, it would have to prosecute the heads of Western governments and their lackey journalists for their part in the mass killings of the people of Iraq. If the justification for the use of weapons of mass destruction is correct, then the International Monetary Fund (IMF) must be bombarded for its policies of social cutbacks that have led to the physical and mental destruction and hunger of a large majority of the people of the world. An even greater

reality is that right when the Iraqi government was using such weapons, it was in fact being supported by the West. I remember when we were in our bases in Iraq and were subject to that regime's chemical bombardments, this very media wouldn't broadcast direct and live reports we were giving them. They even censored their own journalists' reports from the field. Instead, we witnessed our bombardment by Iraqi forces using Austrian heavy guns, British communications systems and also relying on a communications exchange system with the USA.

Therefore, reference to the UN resolution and weapons of mass destruction lacks any analytical basis. Iraq was the West's darling until it hadn't attacked Kuwait. The stated position of Western governments and its media lacks any constancy and continuity. They themselves know this is not an analysis. It is itself part of the war that is taking place. It is war propaganda.

That their aim is not to overthrow Saddam Hussein is a joke and mustn't be taken seriously. They want to overthrow Saddam. They have planned for it, are spending funds on its opposition and have intervened on many occasions to do so. Remember that the last Iraqi incursion into Northern Iraqi Kurdistan with the help of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq (known as the Barazani group) was to wipe out the CIA units, which it did.

Anyhow, in my view there is no doubt that the aim of the West is to overthrow Saddam and only this. Saddam but not the Ba'ath rule, Saddam but not an ethnic Arabic government. That is why they are trying to achieve this through the Ba'ath party and the Ba'ath army generals. The West, of course with the support of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, do not want, for example, a leftist and non-ethnic government to come to power. Any civilised government in the region will first come to heads with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. They want Saddam to go and the situation in the region and the country to remain the same. Consequently, he must go after a scenario that either bypasses the people or makes them into extras and brings them on to the scene for groups that can play such a role. Of course, the Iraqi army is the favourite candidate for this. This scenario however has turned out to be wrong. A Ba'ath government and army that see their demise in the downfall of Saddam will not agree to this. On the other hand, the Iraqi opposition supported by the West is more insignificant than to be able to do anything. The nationalist Kurdish opposition groups are fighting amongst themselves before having their quarrel with Saddam. Their character is a lot more limited, more ethnic and weak than to be able to challenge a government or stand up to it. They have always lived amongst the rifts between regional governments and this

## Execution and stoning continues in Iran

**29 October 2002:** In the early hours of Sunday 27 October 2002, Hashem Anbarniya and Farhad Rahmanipour were publicly hanged in Jamshid Park and Javadiyeh Bridge in Tehran respectively. According to the International Committee against Stoning, Nosrat Abouie who had managed to pull herself out of the stoning pit and escape was again arrested and returned to prison. Furthermore, according to the WPI Kurdistan Committee Salam Abdulhazadeh and Tofiq Maraghani from Sardasht were hanged on 23 October 2002, Esmail Karimzadeh, a prisoner from Bukan, was executed and Ali Bilyardi, a prisoner who has been in prison for five years, has been given a death sentence. The WPI called on all groups and people to intensify their protests against executions and stonings.

## Support WPI Campaign against Execution

Recently, tens of people have been hanged from cranes and stoned to death in public by the Islamic regime in Iran. Join the Worker-communist Party of Iran in demanding an end to executions in Iran. You can support the campaign by sending the following to the Islamic regime's president, Mohammad Khatami at e-mail:

khatami@president.ir:

'I strongly condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran for its recent executions, stonings, torture and suppression and demand an immediate end to all forms of execution, torture and suppression.' Send a copy of your protest letter to wpi@ukonline.co.uk.

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has become a part of their being and vision. They have turned this into an innate characteristic. The non-Kurd opposition supported by the West is also generally nothing. It is an empty drum, full of frauds who are more interested in lining their own pockets. The West and the USA knows this very well. This reality is the basis of the impasse in the USA strategy

on the Iraq question. In any case, whatever this impasse may be about, the victims will be the innocent people of Iraq who will suffer because of this situation.

To be continued.

*The above is a translation of an interview first published in Porsesh in Persian in summer 1999.*



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