



**'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*

## The Bali Terrorist Atrocity is Unequivocally Condemned

15 October 2002

Once again humanity has witnessed a terrorist atrocity in the tourist resort of Bali, Indonesia that has at once killed and injured hundreds of innocent people. This massacre is unequivocally condemned. According to all indications, Islamic groups have again sacrificed innocent people to achieve their anti-human and reactionary objectives.

The Bali catastrophe is yet another heinous expression of this reality that the two

poles of international terrorism are striving to impose insecurity, terror and fear on the lives of the world's people with all their destructive might. The USA and its allies on the one side and reactionary Islamic groups and regimes on the other are busy making terrorism and mass killings into a standard norm in the world via

their terrorist race. Humanity, which is daily the victim of this battle between these two reactionary poles of ter-



rorism must stand up in unity and forcefully against this bloody terrorist race and

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## WPI Actions against Recent Executions in Iran

On 19 October 2002, the streets of nine European cities including Berlin, London, Stockholm, Gutenberg, Malmo, Boden,

and Oslo were witness to the Worker-communist Party of Iran's demonstrations against execution and the

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## Those that Condemned Taslima Nasreen are Condemned!

Fateh Sheikh



Recently, Shah Alam, a judge in an unknown city in Bangladesh, has sentenced

Taslima Nasreen in absentia to imprisonment based on a complaint by a mullah named Dabir al-Deen for the 'crime' of insulting Islam and causing 'injury' to the 'people's' feelings. Taslima Nasreen is now in Europe. Several years ago, the Islamic state and groups forced her to flee Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi 'judicial authorities' have said that if Nasreen wants to appeal, she must return and surrender to the

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## Those that Condemned Taslima Nasreen are Condemned, Cont. from Page 1



authorities! Every aspect of this news is repulsive and ludicrous. She is not guilty. It is the Islamic state, institutions and groups that are guilty. Judge Shah Alam and Mullah Dabir al-Deen are guilty. She is an advocate of freedom and equality. Society and civilised humanity must condemn her prosecutors. She has committed no crime; she has rather risen against crimes committed against tens of millions of women who are more than half the population and all the children in the Islam-stricken country of Bangladesh and similar countries. For even the slightest improvements in the lives of the majority of people of that part of the world in which the bloody rule of Islam is still in force, people like Taslima Nasreen have no choice but to attack all forms of Islam and naturally injure the feelings of people like Shah Alam and Mullah Dabir al-Deen. This is a necessity of radical

struggle.

Taslima Nasreen's crime was that she was not prepared to submit to the fate written for her as a girl by giving her an Islamic name (Taslima means surrender in Arabic). She changed her destiny, did not surrender to Islam, but rather severed and liberated herself from it when she saw Islam in her way like a human of today's world. As a progressive person and defender of women's right she went further and attacked Islam bravely, criticised it and became one of the spokespersons for the modern section of the society, a society where Islamic reaction is still active and intervenes in the state, courts and people's lives. In 1994, when a BBC reporter in Bangladesh asked her: 'Do you attack Islam?' she replied: 'Yes, directly.' Yes, her crime is this very progressive and civil courage against Islam.

If Taslima Nasreen has become internationally well-known in the past seven or eight years, it is because she is a progressive human being, a defender of women's right in that Islamic-stricken country. She is a medical doctor by profession; her means of struggle is writing. She stood up against the disgraceful oppression, constant humiliation and untold misery imposed on women in her environment on a daily basis and bravely stood against Islam, the Koran and Islamic Sharia laws, decrees and traditions dominant in society. She is, however, a lot more than a doctor or a writer. Whatever the civilised world did in defence of Salman Rushdie, freedom of expression and his right to life vis-à-vis Islamic threats and attacks was still not enough. It was inadequate. It should have been and must be a lot more and more resolute. However, Taslima Nasreen's case is different from even

that of Salman Rushdie. The defence of Taslima Nasreen is not only a defence of a writer and freedom of expression. More than a writer, she is directly a fighter for women's liberation, society's freedom from the dirt and grime of religion, and freedom from Islam as a centre of active infectious religion in our era in an important part of the world.

In defence of Taslima Nasreen, Salman Rushdie and any other similar case, one must defend the freedom of

atheism and criticising of religion as a universal right anywhere in today's world. Currently, Yunis Sheikh, another doctor in Pakistan has been sentenced to death and is in prison at risk of execution. Apparently, his 'crime' is that in response to the decree that according to Islam 'anyone who is not Muslim is unclean' he made a comment in jest that: 'Mohammad too was not a Muslim until he was forty.' (Note that 54 years ago during Indian independence the fate of sections inhabited by Muslims was decided and separated from the rest of the Indian sub-continent by the Islamic group led by Mohamed Ali Jinnah clearly for the reason that Muslims are clean and non-Muslims unclean. Pakistan means the land of the clean.) Another fighter in Egypt called Salaheddin Mohsen has been

## Those that Condemned Taslima Nasreen are Condemned, Cont. from Page 2

imprisoned for 3 years forced labour for the 'crime' of calling Islam the source of backwardness of society; he is currently in prison.

Without freedom of atheism, without freedom to criticise religion, without freedom to blaspheme, without freedom of humanity to say, write and perform anything it wants without national or religious

sanctities to prevent the right to freedom of expression and thought, one cannot proclaim that humanity had broken away from the Middle Ages. The contradiction that in more advanced sections of the world such as Europe and the West such freedoms have been established for several decades, but in the world under the yoke of Islam one is still killed or imprisoned in

the manner of the inquisition only proves this truth that progressive humanity must enter an urgent, decisive and fundamental battle to remove the hands of religion from people's lives. This barbarity must all the sooner be eradicated. The freedom of atheism, to criticise religion as well as the right to any religion or non-religious belief is part of the universal

right of all human beings in the world. This is the message of radical defenders of such as Taslima Nasreen, Yunis Sheikh, Salah-e-ddin Mohsen and millions of people who want to rid themselves of the shackles of Islam, from intellectual and physiological and physical slavery of religion.

## The Bali Terrorist Atrocity is Unequivocally Condemned, Cont. from Page 1

raise an independent banner, the banner of the civilised world.

The Bali atrocity, the daily killing of the defenceless people of Iraq via economic sanctions and the threat of a widespread massacre in light of the USA attack on Iraq must alert every human being to the situation's urgency and the necessity of building

an extensive and powerful international movement against them. This atrocity is also another serious warning to the 'anti-war movement', to clearly and decisively resist both poles of international terrorism in any shape and form. The widespread movement, which has been joined by progressive and humanitarian people throughout the world in opposition to the

USA's warmongering against Iraq, must stand up against Islamic terrorism just as resolutely. If it does not want to shoot itself in the foot, it must not allow Islamic groups to justify their Islamic murders by entering the anti-war movement's ranks.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran unequivocally condemns the Bali terrorist

atrocities and reiterates its insistence on the necessity of raising an independent banner of civilised humanity against both poles of international terrorism, ousting Islamic regimes and defeating reactionary Islamic movements in every corner of the world.

## WPI Actions against Recent Executions in Iran, Cont. from Page 1

Islamic Republic of Iran. Waving red flags and pictures of Marx and Mansoor Hekmat, as well as carrying placards condemning the crimes of the Islamic regime, the demonstrations were able to gain the attention of passer-bys and their opposition to such brutality.

In these demonstrations, cadres of the WPI gave speeches about the recent executions in Iran, the weakened situation of the regime and the necessity for international opposition against this brutality.

People's solidarity for these actions was considerable. Hundreds signed the WPI petition against execution in Iran and in condemnation of the Islamic regime.

The WPI will continue its international campaign against executions and the crimes of the Islamic regime and calls on people and groups to participate actively in the demonstrations and or send letters of protest. For more information, contact WPI International Relations Office.

Read  
**Mansoor  
 Hekmat's**  
 Works on  
[www.wpiran.org/  
 english.](http://www.wpiran.org/english)

# On Jack Straw's Visit to Tehran

## Kazem Nikkhah

Jack Straw, the British Foreign Secretary ended his two-day visit to Iran in which he met with the heads of the Islamic Republic on 10 October. His visit to Tehran coincided precisely with reports of the hanging of five people in Tehran and earlier hangings of another six people. Mr. Straw travelled to Iran at the same time that the Islamic regime was busy performing the savage act of Islamic stoning to death of a man and woman in the city of Naghadeh. The Foreign Secretary was rushing to visit the leaders of the Islamic regime while two political prisoners were executed in the northern city of Orumieh two days before his arrival. According to some reports, the brutal execution machinery was in operation and a number were executed while he was in Tehran itself. This is merely a fraction of the Islamic regime's criminal record in less than a week. The timing of the British Foreign Secretary and the wave of killings are not

coincidences though. The Islamic Republic has always done so and has for years enjoyed the support and friendship of the British government and other western democracies. There is not even the slightest discrepancy between the aims and objectives of Jack Straw's visit and the wave of killings in Tehran. He has travelled to Tehran as the messenger of the Bush administration's policy to organise a wave of killings in Iraq. He has travelled to use

his and Britain's old friendship to keep the Islamic Republic neutral when bombs are dropped on the people of Iraq.

The timing of his visit with the Islamic regime's show of barbarity from the Middle Ages, however, is an extremely telling sign of the unlimited hypocrisy of Western states when it comes to their statements on humanity and human rights and their fight against terrorism and dictatorship.

The UK and all other states that extend a hand of friendship to the Islamic regime because of their inhuman interests are doing so in opposition to the masses of people determined to put an end to this system of criminality and barbarity once and for all. Undoubtedly, the progressive people of the Britain and the world will not forget this hypocrisy.

*The above is a translation from an article published in International Weekly 127 on 11 October 2002 in Persian.*



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