



'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 Islamic Republic of Iran is a killing machine

Hamid Taghvaie



The Islamic Republic of Iran has begun a new round of executions. These executions are the last chapters in the thick volume of atrocities

committed by the regime. In any system, capital punishment is a crime. It is a crime even in a system, which condemns people to death based on the law and the judiciary. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, capital punishment is a crime to the power of two. It is an open and naked crime. Up to now, the Islamic Republic has executed tens of thousands without any trial and courts; where it has put together a kind of 'court' for the sake of legal face-saving, the crime, law, judge, defence lawyer and the sentences have all been Islamic, i.e. these 'courts' have been devoid of any humane standards

or rights. The condemned are the victims of these crimes and those who hand down the sentences are the real villains.

Ever since it came to power, executions in the Islamic Republic have always been political even where the case and the 'crime' had nothing to do with politics. During all the periods of its disgraceful existence, this regime has survived with the aid of executions. The Islamic Republic executed people to suppress the 1979 revolution, to crush the worker's movement, to wipe out the coun-

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Against stoning and religion's role in it

Azar Majedi's letter to the editor

November 17, 2002

Dear Ms. Natasha Walter:

As a veteran activist for women's equality, as one who has been the subject of political Islam's brutality and has devoted her life to combat it, and as a member of the Committee against Stoning, I would like to address what I see as shortcomings in your

article published in The Independent, Thursday 7 November 2002.

It seems that the boycott of the Miss World contest in Nigeria by some contestants has drawn your attention to the brutal and dehumanizing act of stoning to death which takes place in some countries under Islamic rule. However,

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The aims of Mansoor Hekmat Foundation

Interview with Azar Majedi



At the Mansoor Hekmat's memorial ceremony you announced the establishment of the Mansoor Hekmat Foundation. Would you explain the purpose for establishing this Foundation and what you have planned?

Azar Majedi: While he was ill, Mansoor Hekmat asked me to publish all his works,

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cils and to smash the communists; it executed people to impose fear during and after the war with Iraq. It executed people in order to maintain itself vis-à-vis people's hatred and scorn. The Islamic regime is a manifestation of this fact that execution in any society is a class and political issue contrary to the claims that portray it to be a legal and judicial issue. By relying on religion and its Middle Ages ideology, the Islamic Republic does not even require any pretence.

The recent executions too are particularly a political tactic and device to terrify and coerce the people to retreat. Contrary to previous occasions, this time, however, the executions stem from the regime's weakness and desperation. The recent waves of executions are in fact the response of ruling criminals who are themselves terrified of a people determined to smash and uproot the regime. They execute to terrify the protesting people. These executions are the last

shiver of a dying Islamic Republic. It will not be long before the people bring down these criminals and get rid of this repulsive regime.

The people's duties will not come to an end with the Islamic regime's overthrow. The Islamic Republic is one of the most criminal and brutal dictatorships of the contemporary era, which must have its crimes exposed and accounted for to the people of Iran and the world. This is a regime that carried out two-minute executions in Sanandaj and Paveh, killed students and shot at worker's demonstrations; this is the regime that has poured acid on the faces of women and it's a regime that has mass murdered tens of thousands of political prisoners and concealed their bodies in unmarked mass graves. It is a regime that has assassinated tens of its political opponents in Europe and Iran. It's a regime of serial killings, killings of women in Mashhad, a regime of floggings, stonings and amputa-

tions. The people of Iran are not facing a political dictatorship alone; they are also facing a bloody and gigantic criminal machine whose leaders are not only hated by international public opinion, but they are also, by definition of international norms and legal and criminal codes, murderers and professional killers. Hence the Islamic Republic is on par with regimes like that of Hitler's fascism in Germany, Franco's dictatorship in Spain and Pinochet's military Junta in Chile. The leaders of the Islamic Republic like Hess and other Nazi leaders or Pinochet must be put on trial. The Islamic Republic is the religious version of the regimes of Hitler and Pinochet.

The criminal case against the leaders of this regime, such as Khomeini, Khamenei, Rafsanjani, and Khatami to Khalkhali, Lajvardi, and similar beasts is apparent to all. This huge case file is open; with the downfall of the regime it will not only remain open but will also be investi-

gated by the people's courts. The people of Iran will not forget these crimes. The families who do not even know the whereabouts of the graves of their loved ones, hundreds of thousands of innocent people who have been the victims of floggings, torture and other inhumane Islamic laws and generally all the people of Iran, millions of men and women, old and young, who have been captives of the brutality of the Islamic Republic, have witnessed many forms of abuses, injustices, insults and humiliations. All of these victims will be petitioners, judges, prosecutors and juries of the courts which will be set up after the overthrow of the regime in Iran. The people of Iran have long since declared their case against the ruling criminals with their protests, struggles and their hatred for the regime. The crimes, offences and the evidence are clear to all. The criminals at the helm of the regime must be brought down and handed over to the people's courts.



* In Commemoration of the 11 Anniversary of the Worker-communist Party of Iran

London, 30 November 2002, 3:00pm, O'Neill's, 291-293 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10. For more information, please contact Tel: +44 (0) 07719166731, wpi.international.office@ukonline.co.uk.

* In Commemoration of Mansoor Hekmat, the Contemporary Marxist thinker and the founding member of the Marx Society

London, 1 December 2002, 10:00am, Acland School, Dartmouth Park Hill, N19 (Tube: Tufnell Park). Three speeches regarding Mansoor Hekmat's contribution to the theory of Marxism (in Persian): Marxist Theory of Revolution, by Hamid Taghvaie; Marxism and the National Question, by Fateh Sheikh; The Lessons of the Russian Revolution, by Koorosh Modaresi. For more information please contact 0044 (0) 7730264611. Entrance fee £5.00. www.marxsociety.com.

The aims of Mansoor Hekmat Foundation, from page 1

including published and unpublished and political and non-political works as well as his correspondences, etc. He asked me to take charge of preparing, editing and publishing his works. This request, which is very dear and gratifying for me, has placed an important task and commitment before me. It was in response to this vital task that I decided to establish the Mansoor Hekmat Foundation. With the help of many friends who have offered their support for this vital project, we will be publishing all of Mansoor Hekmat's works not only in Persian, but in other languages as well, in addition to his biography. By means of this foundation, a web site has been established to introduce him to the world and keep his supporters in contact with one another.

It is now four months since the Foundation commenced its work; what has the Foundation done and what has been planned for the near future?

Azar Majedi: One important and valuable achievement of the Foundation is the establishment of Mansoor Hekmat's site which has been set up and is headed and managed by Xosrow Davar. The site is being further developed. Up to now, this site

has been a significant resource in introducing Mansoor Hekmat and the worker-communist movement. This site will be further developed to include all of Mansoor Hekmat's works over the last quarter of a century and will be accessible to Persian speakers. The English web site will be in operation soon. All his translated works in Arabic, German, Swedish, Turkish, Kurdish, Italian, etc. will be available on the site. Furthermore, via this site, supporters of Mansoor Hekmat will not only be acquainted with him as a political leader and a theoretician but will also have the opportunity to know him on a personal level. His photographs and his personal biography will be eventually published on the site. Mansoor Hekmat was very much fond of music and played the guitar and the flute. I will try to publish and add some of the music he had composed and played on the site. This site will be a window to a great and unforgettable man, which has been opened to his supporters by the tireless work of Xosrow Davar.

Another activity of the Foundation has been to commission his bust and memorial. As we announced in the commemoration ceremony,

his tomb will be opposite of Marx's memorial at Highgate Cemetery in London. Up to now the Foundation has published a short biography written by Hamid Taghvaie, a volume of his selected works in English and several posters. Volume 6 of his works in Persian, which Mansoor Hekmat himself had begun editing has now been completed and is currently with the printers. This volume will be available on the 11th anniversary of the Worker-communist Party of Iran at the end of November. It can either be bought at the 11th anniversary of the Party or ordered directly through the Foundation. We are in the process of preparing volume 7 and then volumes 9 and 1 respectively. Downloading, editing and publishing Mansoor Hekmat's speeches are part of our immediate action plan. Mansoor Hekmat's works are being translated in English, Arabic and German. In the next few months, volume 2 of his selected works in English, a selected works in German and Arabic will also be published. Videos of Mansoor Hekmat's speeches in Marx Society are being prepared for publication. We are working hard to do all this. Mansoor Hekmat, however, was such a highly productive person that to

prepare and provide all of his works to the public will require much time and resources.

What expectations do you have from his supporters in achieving what you have set out above; what kind of support and assistance would you like to have?

Azar Majedi: This Foundation needs all the support and help it can get from Mansoor Hekmat's supporters. I have received many offers of support from friends who want to work with the Foundation. One of the most basic and pressing needs is financial support. The above-mentioned projects require serious resources and an immediate and important duty of the Foundation is to raise the required funds. The Foundation needs many sponsors in order to achieve its aims. I would like to use this opportunity to invite all those interested in this project and Mansoor Hekmat to support this Foundation. The sponsorship forms are available on the Mansoor Hekmat web site. Complete these forms and send them to us.

www.m.hekmat.com
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**Read Mansoor Hekmat's Works on
www.wpiran.org/english.**

Support WPI Campaign against Execution

Join the Worker-communist Party of Iran's international campaign against the new wave of executions and support the people of Iran against Islamic rule. We must defeat this new policy of the Islamic regime. With the defeat of this policy, the Islamic Republic will find itself in a much more vulnerable position in the face of the people's movement for its overthrow.

Send this sample protest letter to the Islamic Republic president Mohammad Khatami at: khatami@president.ir

I / We:

- Strongly condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran for its recent wave of executions, stonings, torture of political prisoners and public flogging of youth; I / we demand an immediate end to all forms of execution, torture and persecution.
- Call for the immediate release of all political prisoners, and unconditional freedom of expression and of political activity and opinion.

Please send a copy to: wpi.international.office@ukonline.co.uk

Against stoning and religion's role in it, from page 1

the tone of your article in indeed patronizing towards these brave young women, who apparently - against all the stereotypes and condescending attitudes of the feminist world - have decided to throw away their great hopes of making it in this competitive, money grabbing, beauty fixated world, to protest against this cruel act and to defend women's rights. They certainly must be applauded for their decent and compassionate action. I wonder why your condemnation has not appeared before. The Committee against Stoning has been campaigning relentlessly for nearly two years to mobilize the world to condemn this act and the states that practice it. We have been received warmly by official bodies and the media behind closed doors

but open actions have been short of a categorical condemnation. I do not believe it necessary to point out that without their boycott, your article would not have been written, and the Independent would not have given any space to expose this outrageous practice. Why is it necessary then to remark more than once that 'it is hard to give serious attention to anything to do with Miss World'? Is it perhaps embarrassing for a distinguished feminist to appear to have been enlightened on an issue regarding women's oppression by certain Miss World contestants? I must add that I am sorry to see that such a boycott was necessary to attract some serious attention to the plight of women under Islamic rule, albeit only to one of the most

brutal sides of their oppression.

I was pleased to read, however, that you are not one of those feminists who adhere to the concept of 'cultural relativism', and rightly call this practice absurd but your article comes short of exposing political Islam and the humiliation, oppression, and deprivation it imposes on millions of women in the world, including in Iran, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and so on.

I believe we must in fact emphasize the role of religion contrary to Ms. Ibrahim, Amina Lawal's lawyer, a 'devout Muslim' who says that if women in these regions became literate they would 'not allow Islam to be used as

a tool against them... The focus is not religion. The focus is the rule of law'. We must unequivocally call for the separation of religion from the state and for a secular state in these societies. As long as religion is permitted to intervene in the rule of law, the state and the educational system, talk about 'rule of law' will not safeguard any woman from the tyranny of backward and reactionary ideas and traditions dominant in the society. In a society ruled by Islam, the rule of law is bound to be oppressive, misogynist and dehumanizing.

Yours truly,

Azar Majedi
Chairperson, Middle East
Centre for Women's Rights

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