



‘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

In Commemoration of the WPI’s 11th Anniversary in Tehran and other cities

In commemoration of the Worker-communist Party of Iran’s (WPI) eleventh anniversary on 20 November 2002, there have been celebrations, public meetings and commemorations in various Iranian, European and North American cities including: Tehran, Sanandaj, Mahabad, Sardasht, Bukan, Naghadeh, Stockholm, Oslo, Los Angeles, London, Guttenberg, Köln, Helsinki, Toronto and Malmo. In all the meetings outside Iran, there was a screening of Mansoor Hekmat speech entitled: ‘Can communism be victorious in

Iran’.

Despite the fact that there is no right to organisation in Iran and the activities of the WPI and parties not associated or in opposition to the Islamic regime in Iran are banned, celebrations and commemorations were nonetheless carried out successfully. Some examples of celebrations include:

Tehran: On Friday 29 November, big posters reading ‘Congratulations on the 11th Anniversary of the Worker-communist Party of Iran!’ were put on display in various parts

of Tehran including en route to Evin Prison, Arya Shahr Square, Ashrafi Esfahani Motorway and Vanak Motorway. Also, huge celebratory fires were lit at Shemiran Mount. On Friday and Saturday 29 and 30 November, Mansoor Hekmat’s posters were distributed on the way to Evin Prison. WPI supporters distributed leaflets and cards for these occasions in various parts of Tehran including Tehran University, Tabatabai University and Amir Kabir and Tabatabai University

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On the WCPI’s Second Congress: *Forward* Interview with Rebwar Ahmad, Secretary of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq



Question: Let’s start with the issue of participation in the Worker-communist Party of Iraq’s second congress. The

politburo statement says that participation in the congress is open to the public. Everyone can attend as an observer. This is very interesting. What is the basis of this decision?

Rebwar Ahmad: The decision to hold the WCPI’s second congress was taken by the 11th plenum of the central committee which was held at the end of May this year. Its details were left to the politburo.

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This world is truly inverted: Firefighters, the media and the state

Fariborz Pooya



The 48-hour strike, followed by an eight-day strike, which began on the morning of 22 November 2002 by 55,000

Professional Firefighters and Emergency Fire Control staff from all over the United Kingdom demanding a 40% pay rise (to bring their pay to £30,000) has been met with anger from employers, the government and media on the one hand and huge public support on the other.

On the one hand, firefighters who save lives every day at great personal risk have seen

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Dormitories. In a separate action, a series of fliers entitled 'Freedom and Equality', 'Equality of men and women', 'Provision of subsistence and income according to inflation', '30-hour working week' was widely distributed.

Kurdistan: According to a press release issued by the WPI Kurdistan Committee, many activities have taken place from a week before the anniversary by supporters and friends of worker-communism. As expected many unconnected groups and cells organised various actions to celebrate the WPI anniversary.

Sanandaj: More than 2000 commemorative cards were distributed and thousands of e-mails were sent to various cities in Iran. Slogans were spray painted on the walls of the city, including: 'Long Live a Socialist Republic', 'Long Live Mansoor Hekmat', 'Congratulations on the WPI's 11th anniversary', 'Freedom, Equality, Workers' Rule', 'Free all Political Prisoners', 'Join WPI' and so on. On Friday evening two big fires were lit on the summit of mount Abidar which could be seen from the entire city. Also posters of Mansoor Hekmat were put up in the city centre

where people congregated around the poster; security forces had to intervene to disperse the crowd.

Mahabad: In the last week prior to 29 November 2002 Mansoor Hekmat's poster and the WPI leaflet on the anniversary were distributed in many parts of the city of Marivan such as Malajon and Ard Squares. WPI slogans were spray-painted. Also in many university and colleges, the WPI programme: 'For a better world' was distributed.

Sardasht: On Friday, WPI leaflets and cards on the WPI's 11th anniversary and a message from Koorosh Modaresi were distributed in many parts of the city. A big fire was lit on the mount Gardah Soor.

Bukan: A huge fire was lit on Friday 29 November on the mount Bardashrash.

Naghadeh: In many parts of the city, WPI slogans were spray painted on the walls.

In many other cities of Iran, including **Tabriz, Hamadan, Orumieh, Saez, Kermanshah** and **Khoramabad**, WPI supporters widely distributed anniversary leaflets and cards.

On the WCPI from page 1

In a politburo meeting at the beginning of October, it was decided that the congress would be held in Kurdistan and that it would be open to the public. This decision is seen as an important and forward step.

Actually, a political party's secrecy should be questioned and attract attention not the opposite. Mainly because of the political suppression which forces especially communists to work clandestinely and partially due to a culture held by the traditional left that has yielded to this pressure, stayed in the periphery of society and turned underground political activity into a norm, however, a step like this attracts attention. If not so, why should a political party's conference of activists concerned with society and its issues and a congress that is to discuss the fate of society, provide alternative solutions for its problems and make decisions in relation to the future of the masses be held secretly away from the eyes of ordinary people and other political forces? This congress is not a meeting of a group of intellectuals who discuss a number of issues related to their own minds among themselves; it is supposed to be a congress of a serious political party connected to the masses. Therefore, people should be able to access it, be aware of its discussions and resolutions and even be able to participate in these discussions. At the same time, it is a step for us to emerge as a mass and powerful party and movement. It is also a step to distance and separate ourselves from all the restrictions and traditions that distance communism from the masses and their daily issues and from decisions made on the fate of society and the working class. By using oppression, torture,

execution, and all resources available, the ruling class tries to keep the activity of communists underground so as to deprive people from choosing communism as an alternative for a better future. This is a vital issue for a political party and movement that regard seizing political power and bringing about a radical change in the lives of the masses as its main concern.

Breaking these restrictions, creating suitable conditions for a public political activity and making the party accessible to ordinary people are important issues for a party that wants to become an influential, powerful and mass force. We know that there are some subjective conditions, which impose secrecy on the political activity of communists, however we do not want to succumb to these conditions. We shared this wrong tradition for a long time, which is often presented as a fundamental feature of communism itself. Worker-communism has always tried to get over this feature and culture of the traditional left and this congress is a huge step in this regard in order to turn our party into a powerful political party.

Question: *In addition to the fact that the congress is public, a large number of political parties, organisations and personalities have been invited to attend as observers. What is the purpose behind this?*

Rebwar Ahmad: The purpose behind this is to substantiate the same objectives that I mentioned above. We are not only allowing people to attend but we are also inviting them. We want to put our congress in the hands of every individual, movement and political party and to conduct it under the observation of others. On their part, if they

**Read Mansoor Hekmat's
Works on
www.wpiran.org/English**

want, they can come and closely observe the congress and even participate in it. This enables them to assess our party more precisely and accurately and to know us better. Consequently they can determine their policies towards us on the bases of a better and clearer understanding. At the same time, this is an attempt to establish a new, modern, distinctive and superior political culture than the culture that prevails among political parties. It is tradition-breaking and an initiative that communism has started in society. We give other parties and individuals the right to come and observe a sensitive and important action of our party. Parallel with this, we regard it as our own right to face a modern political culture via other political parties. The more a communist, progressive, freedom-loving and egalitarian movement is known, and a superior political culture prevails among political parties, the interests of the masses, and consequently the interests of communism itself, will be observed. All political and intellectual personalities, political parties and mass organisations in Iraq and Kurdistan are welcome regardless of any political differences, except those organisations and personalities that have any connection to the Iraqi Ba'ath regime, the Islamic current which has proved it is against humanity and does not believe in political dialogue and the puppets of the USA which have been killing the ordinary people of Iraq over the past ten years, destroying this society and still planning for more anti-human acts against the Iraqis. We hope and will be pleased if all attend our congress.

Question: What are the issues to be discussed in this congress? What is its agenda?

Is everyone able to pass suggestions or resolution proposals at the congress? Please clarify this.

Rebwar Ahmad: Undoubtedly, according to the principles of the congress itself, in the beginning it will decide on the discussions and the agenda. The politburo has prepared a proposed agenda, which contains few documents and topics but all suggestions that we receive will be placed before the congress to decide on them. Prior to the congress, the proposed topics and documents will be passed to all representatives and those who will present the topics of the congress will be announced. This will help the representatives to be aware and better prepared to decide on the agenda of the congress and to participate in the discussions. According to the principles of the congress, in the beginning it will determine the committee which will run the congress and will give legitimacy to the representatives, then the congress will decide on the agenda of its meeting and the way it will be conducted. Later, apart from the opening speech and the report of the central committee according to the proposed agenda that I mentioned, there will be discussions and resolutions in regard to: thirty years of the Ba'ath regime's rule, the way to end this rule and establish a socialist republic; the policies and role of the USA in Iraq; the situation of Kurdistan over the last 11 years; the necessity of the struggle against political Islam; the condition of the Arab world after September 11 and our role, in addition to resolutions, documents and suggestions that will be presented to the congress. Finally, a new central committee will be elected for the party. Whether everyone will be able

to present a resolution proposal, a document or any suggestions to the congress is a simple issue. When we render the congress public and invite people it means they will be allowed to pass their suggestions and comments to the congress and draw attention to them. However as we announced previously, 25 November is the last date for any suggestions in order to be able to put all resolutions and documents in the hands of the representatives beforehand. Therefore, no suggestion will be received after this date.

Question: What do you expect from this congress; what effect will it have on the activities of the Worker Communist Party and what changes will it bring?

Rebwar Ahmad: I think, before anything else, the congress can be a huge step towards changing the party to a mass, powerful political party. It can be another step forward to scraping the remnants of the restrictive culture of the traditional left. It can be a huge step toward strengthening the relation of the party with the society, working class and toilers. At the same time, another important issue is the fact that this congress is held during a very sensitive political situation that has put this society on the verge of a huge change. In particular, I mean the policies of the USA and its threats of attacking Iraq. That will have significant political and social effects. It also puts huge and sensitive tasks on the shoulders of our party. This congress must in particular pay attention to this issue, must determine the tasks and policies of the party and most importantly must push the readiness of the party to a new level necessary for confronting these coming challenges. I cannot say the coming changes and

situation will create a new opportunity for communism because the USA policies toward this society are strongly against humanity and communism and they will by all means cause more destruction and encourage reaction. More than ever, this will require active and effective involvement from the Worker-communist party because this party is the only light in this dark tunnel. If a force is supposed to end this darkness and give hope to this society it will be our party. Therefore, this party has to be more ready than ever. It needs to be up to its tasks and historical role. This is an essential condition to successfully and effectively confront and stop the coming disaster and the dark future that is planned by the USA and its allies for society. Ensuring a better future is totally connected to the role that this party will assume. This is an important standard to gauge the successfulness of the congress, i.e. how much it will be able to increase the readiness of the party. If I add another factor, it is the situation of the region especially the movement for overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran, the involvement of the masses and the role of the Worker-communist Party of Iran in these events. If these two parties act correctly and precisely alongside each other, and carry out their tasks, this region will be radically change in favour of more freedom and equality. If this congress is going to make the party more prominent and is going to be a huge step toward creating the kind of party which knows clearly what it has to do, how to advance, how to win, then undoubtedly the political and social activity of the party will totally change.

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Firefighters, the media and the state, from page 1

the true value that employers and the government place on their lives and skills. The government has met the firefighters demand for a modest pay rise with horror. In a world run by capitalists, a strike is portrayed as a major crime. It's as if it is a crime to defend one's basic livelihood. It's as if it is a crime to use the most peaceful and civil way of withdrawing one's labour to achieve a most basic human need, a decent standard of living. Of course in the world of Mr Blair, Prescott and Edie George, it is perfectly reasonable to throw people out of employment, make them redundant and close down factories, mines and workplaces. In their world, not only is it a normal practice but a 'necessary' one to sustain the 'confidence' of the finance houses and the 'only' means and solution that the capitalists present to deal with any economic problem and crisis. These acts of brutality occur on a daily basis; the whole system of government has been designed to facilitate, justify and enforce making people unemployed, depriving people of basic human activity, cutting their pay which we know results in hunger and

destitution in order to keep profits up. In fact, it should be a crime to make people unemployed, impose a low standard of living, or reduce peoples' means of survival, such as reducing wages and other social benefits. This, however, is the inverted world of Mr. Blair and Prescott.

Once again, in the firefighters strike, we see that when it comes to the livelihood of working people, the employers have plenty of ready-made arguments, statistics and studies to show that the demand for a living wage is 'inflationary', 'unacceptable', 'bad for the economy' and 'results in higher unemployment and higher mortgage payments'. When they make payments of millions of pounds to failing companies, when as the result of stock market gambles, hundreds of billions of pounds are wiped out in a stroke, however, none of these honourable gentlemen even raise an eyebrow. Billions of pounds are being spent on preparing to drop bombs of the innocent people of Iraq in pursuit of a regional plan that will consolidate USA hegemony in the Middle East yet when it suits them, neither the 'prudent'

chancellor nor his 'experts' talk about the cost of war and its effects on the 'economy'. No, they are not concerned with these concepts anymore and are happy to spend billions on their war machine and war plans. When it comes to the wages of working people, however, then the entire world become economic experts and start calculating the 'inflationary' effects of a pay rise.

Of course, this situation cannot be sustained without the unceasing service of lackey journalism. With the commencement of the firefighters' strike, the machinery of lackey journalism was set in motion, whipping up opposition against the firefighters and focusing on various issues to re-engineer a defeat for the firefighters. The media has truly become a tyrannical force of the state. Hundreds of articles, news bulletins, discussions, panels and analyses are produced hourly to justify the government refusal to meet the firefighters' just demand. The media has become the mouthpiece of the state and as such provides an invaluable service to employers. The

working class and progressive movement cannot ignore the destructive nature of the media and the role it plays against people's interests.

On the other hand, public support for the firefighters has been magnificent with abundant stories of pensioners and others giving their weekly pay to the firefighters. The moral support offered by the public has been so immense that even the media has been unable to ignore these acts of solidarity and generosity. The firefighters' demands are striking a deep cord with the millions of working people who see the strikers' victory as their own. The firefighters' strike has declared a new round in the struggle by the British working class; they are not prepared to swallow the age-old feeble excuse of 'can't afford the pay increase'. By demanding equal pay for control staff, the firefighters have also shown that they cannot be set against other sections of the working class. Up to now, this strike has already introduced a new balance of forces between the government and the working class in Britain and has set the scene for the future. **Victory to the firefighters!**

The second congress of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq will be held in December 2002 in Kurdistan. It is open to the public. Those wishing to participate must register in advance. Those who are registered will be notified about the agenda, venue and exact time of the congress. To register and for more information, please contact the following: Abroad: Tel: 0044951433386 or 00447796257020. E-mail: moayad@ahmad.demon.co.uk or saya@pathcom.com. Kurdistan, Soleimaniyeh: The office of The Referendum Magazine, Rezgari St. Soleimaniyeh, Tel: 7531032 or 7521852. Kurdistan, Erbil: Office of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq, Aras St. Tayrawa, Erbil.

WPI, Office of International Relations, BM Box 8927, London WC1N 3XX, England.
Tel: +44 (0) 07719166731. Fax: +44 (0) 870 1351338. www.wpiran.org/English. www.wpibriefing.com.
wpi.international.office@ukonline.co.uk. wpi@ukonline.co.uk.