

New Anti-Capitalist Party of France: `With the people and workers of Iran!`

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Statement by the Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste (NPA, New Anti-Capitalist Party of France), translated by Carmel McGlinchey, Luke Weyland and Annolies Truman for *Links International Journal of Socialist Renewal*.

Since June 13, the day after the rigged presidential election, millions of Iranians have gone into the streets with cries of "Down with the dictatorship!". The ferocious repression has already caused tens if not hundreds of deaths. Young people, women and the residents of the poorer areas who comprise the majority of the demonstrators have now been joined by the trade union movement. The union of bus workers declared its solidarity, in asserting: "As long as the principle of free organisation and elections is not applied, all talk of social liberation and the rights of the workers is only a joke". The workers of Iran Khodro, the first car manufacturer in the country (with 60,000 employees), engaged in a strike while adding their demands for salary increases and the right to strike to the demands raised in the streets.

For democratic freedoms and the demands of the workplace

The aspirations of Iranian society to lift the stifling weight of the Mullahs and to end the daily oppression of youth and women who are fighting for their rights, increasingly combines with the demands of the workers who, in Iran also, refuse to pay for the economic crisis. As the idea of a general strike spreads, the possessing classes and the profiteers begin to dread the spectre of a new revolution.

The criminal demagoguery of Ahmadinejad and of his guardian, the "supreme guide" Khamenei, who claim to represent the "disinherited" in opposing the imperialism of the western powers, must not fool people. But Moussavi, the "reformer" is not any more reputable. He was the prime minister of the Islamic Republic between 1981 and 1989, at a time where tens of thousands of opponents, in particular militant workers, left activists and campaigners for the rights of women and national minorities, were slaughtered in the regime's prisons.

Faced with growing economical difficulties, corruption and nepotism have become increasingly untenable, which has exacerbated the competition between rival clans of the regime, to the point of creating a crisis at the highest echelons of the state. The workers and the people have surged into the breach. And thus even a non-democratic election has escaped all control.

Their fight is ours!

All our support goes to the women, the workers, the youth and all the demonstrators who are defying repression at the risk of their lives.

On June 26, international day of solidarity with the workers of Iran, the [French] trade union organisations (CGT, CFDT, FO, CFTC, UNSA, Solidaires) will participate in a protest in front of the Iranian embassy in Paris (12 h 30), in particular to demand the release of the workers imprisoned for demonstrating on May 1 in Tehran.

The New Anti-Capitalist Party (NPA), which naturally supports this protest, calls for the development of solidarity initiatives with the struggle of the Iranian people, in workplaces, the city and communities for the overthrow of the dictatorship, freedom and workers' rights.