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Tudeh Party of Iran condemns crimes against women

By Tudeh Party of Iran

According to media reports, peoples' anger boiled over on October 16 after the serial acid attacks on women in the city of Esfahan, the capital of Esfahan Province in Iran.

Protesters gathered in front of the Esfahan's Prosecutor's Office, but as usual the prosecutor and other officials at the provincial and national level tried to hide the connection between these crimes and their own reactionary social-cultural policies. They promised immediate investigation of these criminal activities. Cries of "catch them" and "lock them up" were raised from the mouthpiece of every state institute and official, in order to perhaps pour cold water on peoples' blazing anger.

An Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) report on October 18, entitled "Fall of Security in Half the World" and in interviews with victims of these crimes, the significant point is that all four female victims were in their own vehicles, had "modest Islamic covers," were speaking on their cell phones and were employed. In terms of appearance, these are all signs that are contrary to the reactionaries' model of a woman. In addition, none of these girls and women who were victims of this barbarism had any specific enmity in their personal lives, and all were targeted by "motor-



cyclists."

The practical silence of President Hassan Rouhani's government of "prudence and hope" and the widespread media campaign of the ruling reactionaries against those who protested these inhumane actions (including arresting several people at the protest gatherings in Tehran and other cities), once again confirms the fact that in the theocratic regime of Iran the principle of oppression and trampling the basic rights of citizens

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is an inseparable and institutionalized nature of a regime which is willing and prepared to commit any crime in order to safeguard its survival.

On October 19, in line with this media blitz, Raja-News [an ultra-conservative, religious, pro-government news site] wrote that just as Ayatol-

Intimidating and forcing women to surrender to the medieval ideas of backward-thinking criminals is a plot to attack their rights.

lah Larijani (the head of the Judiciary) last week spoke of his special instruction to the prosecutor to deal with those media which are trying to spread “provocative” news about economic corruption in the society, the Judiciary must also get involved in the “acid attack matter” to prevent the suspicious media from “disturbing society’s psychological security and spreading the counter revolution’s unfounded claims against the revolutionary forces and Islamic veil (hijab) in this regard.”

The barbaric attack on the rights of the women of our country, women who have been, and will be a militant and relentless part of the social forces in the struggle against reaction and for freedom and reforms in our country is by no means an accidental matter. Intimidating and forcing women to stay at home and surrender to the medieval ideas of a bunch of backward-thinking criminals who are controlling our country’s fate is one of the aims of such plots. In the minds of the regime, the refusal to submit to its medieval models for women is one of the “sins” of these women and girls.

It is the Iranian mothers, wives and sisters who are paying the price for factional fighting inside the theocratic regime.

In spite of all the malicious ploys specific to this reactionary regime, the women movement in our country will continue its struggle for achieving the true rights of the brave women and girls of Iran, including freedom and social safety.

Tudeh Party of Iran condemns these criminal acts and demands the prosecution and punishment of the primary organizers and perpetrators of the acid attacks on the nation’s women in recent days. Only with a widespread protest across the country and around the world can such inhumane acts of the security apparatus of the regime and its beneficiaries be stopped.



Tudeh Party of Iran is a left-wing people’s party.

A special prosecutor a must in Michael Brown case

PW Editorial

Demands for a special prosecutor to investigate the killing of Michael Brown by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson have been ongoing. With last week’s leaks of testimony given by Wilson to the grand jury investigating the case, the calls for a special prosecutor have grown louder.

The leaks, along with analysis by “experts” close to the case published in the Washington Post, the New York Times and the St. Louis Post Dispatch, favor Officer Wilson’s version of the events leading up to Brown’s tragic death.

Attorney General Eric Holder expressed “exasperation” with this selective leaking of information, the goal of which seems to be to influence public opinion, prior to the completion of the grand jury’s work.

Local activists are understandably angered by these actions, adding to a growing distrust of the legal process led by prosecutor Robert McCulloch, who has close ties to local police. The

family’s repeated call for a special prosecutor so far has fallen on deaf ears. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon instead has called for a commission to investigate the social and economic causes underlying the protests. The commission, however, is not empowered to address the legal case.

In addition the NAACP demands that Nixon’s pending commission “must first advocate for justice for Michael Brown, for ending racial profiling, and for desperately needed reviews of police practices.”

Given the national prominence of the case, we think it’s no accident that these issues are coming to the fore in the days before the election. They will no doubt have a direct bearing on what happens next Tuesday.

What we do between now and then therefore is extremely important. We call on our readers and supporters to tweet, phone and petition in support of the demands for a special prosecutor. And equally as important, make sure you vote.

We call on our readers and supporters to tweet, phone and petition to demand for a special prosecutor.

Labor Secretary praises new organizing models

By Mark Gruenberg



For Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, unions represent what's right with the U.S. In a stem-winding speech at the National Press Club on Oct. 22, Perez, who grew up in a working-class family in Buffalo, declared unions are responsible for creating and sustaining the middle class. And the decline in unions is bad for the nation, he added.

Perez' remarks are notable because they represent one of the Obama administration's few full-throated instances of advocacy of unions before a non-union audience. While Obama himself says people should join unions, he restricted those remarks to appearances before union and/or partisan Democratic crowds.

They're also notable because Perez has been backing words with enforcement actions. But Perez' DOL has been backing the words by acting on a wide range of labor law enforcement issues, unveiling job health and safety rules and cracking down on worker misclassification, for example.

"We're on pace for 2014 to be the best year for private sector job growth in 16 years.

The principal unfinished business of this recovery is to ensure that prosperity is broadly shared, and that we build an economy that works for every-

one."

That means building a "stairway to shared prosperity" for all, Perez declared. Its steps include raising the minimum wage, building infrastructure, paid sick leave, empowering and equally paying woman workers, comprehensive immigration reform - and unionization.

"Worker voice can take many forms, one of the most important being membership in a union," he said. "The Obama administration is resolute when it comes to protecting the collective bargaining rights of workers across America, rights that have come under withering attack in recent years. Because it's clear to me, throughout our history, there is a direct relationship between the health of the middle class and the vitality of the labor movement.

He lauded the mass movement of low-wage workers for a living wage, decent conditions and benefits and the right to organize without employer interference.

"We need to create space in America for new forms of collaboration between workers and their employers," he explained. And building the stairway to prosperity should be bipartisan, Perez stated.

Unions are responsible for creating and sustaining the middle class.

Venezuelan YCL attacked, right wingers blamed

By W. T. Whitney Jr.

Members of the Communist Youth of Venezuela (JCV) had just finished publicity work at 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 21 when incendiary devices, launched from different points, struck the façade of their headquarters building in Caracas.

The building under firebomb attack, in the Artigas section of Caracas, serves as both JCV headquarters and offices of a local branch of the Communist Party of Venezuela. The reference is to street protests prevailing from February through June, 2014 at the hands of well-funded, well-prepared right-wing youths opposed to the socialist government of President Nicolas Maduro. An estimated 50 people were killed. The Political Bureau demanded a "speedy investigation and clarification of this deed, and identification and punishment of those who are materially and intellectually responsible."

The PCV and JCV received messages of solidarity from communist parties in Chile, Spain, Greece, Mexico, and the United States. In its communication, the CPUSA cited, "horror and indignation" at the incident. The CPUSA expressed concern that "individuals and organizations in our country have been working to demonize the Bolivarian Movement in Venezuela and other nations in the Hemisphere with a view to facilitating the destabilization of these countries and effectuating 'regime change.'" "We demand that all these activities cease," the letter added.

Llaman en ONU a erradicar racismo del deporte

Por Prensa Latina

NACIONES UNIDAS (PL) El relator especial de Naciones Unidas para las Formas Contemporáneas del Racismo, Mutuma Ruteere, urgió 4 nov a todos los estados a tomar las medidas necesarias para eliminar la discriminación en el deporte.

Erradicar el racismo del deporte debe ser una preocupación imposterizable y un objetivo que demanda acciones colectivas, afirmó aquí en un pronunciamiento el activista de Kenya, quien en 2011 fue nombrado para el puesto por el Consejo de Derechos Humanos.

Según Ruteere, las organizaciones internacionales, las federaciones deportivas, los gobiernos y la sociedad civil tienen que movilizarse de conjunto para expulsar los discursos de superioridad racial y discriminación, en aras de reemplazarlos por mensajes de equidad en los escenarios competitivos.

En su más reciente reporte sobre el tema, el relator especial de la ONU recordó que el deporte es un instrumento de paz, solidaridad y entendimiento entre los seres humanos.

A través de la historia, las competencias individuales y colectivas no se han basado en los logros por el color de la piel, las etnias o las religiones de los participantes, dijo.

Para el diplomático, el deporte es un símbolo positivo de aceptación y convivencia, y por tanto una herramienta de combate contra el racismo. Lamentablemente, en la actualidad vemos incidentes que atentan contra eso, como los insultos y la violencia raciales, dentro y fuera de las canchas en el fútbol, el baloncesto, el rugby, el

tenis y el golf, entre otras disciplinas, advirtió.

Ruteera también se refirió a la cuestión de la falta de oportunidades para las minorías étnicas en deportes conocidos como "blancos" o "elitistas", en particular el tenis, el golf, la natación, el ciclismo y la equitación.

Vemos como esas actividades se ven afectadas por la falta de recursos económicos de algunos sectores, que las convierten en menos diversas desde el punto de vista étnico en los eventos nacionales e internacionales, expuso.

La víspera, la Tercera Comisión de la Asamblea General de la ONU, encargada de asuntos sociales, humanitarios y culturales, abordó la marcha del cumplimiento de la Declaración y el Programa de Acción acordados en Durban hace 13 años, durante la Conferencia Mundial contra el Racismo, la Xenofobia y la Discriminación.

Varios oradores llamaron la atención sobre formas modernas de esos flagelos, e instaron a los gobiernos a enfrentarlas en todas las esferas de la sociedad.

ONU también pidió a la comunidad de donantes 173 millones de dólares para atender de inmediato a un millón 260 mil iraquíes necesitados de ayuda humanitaria ante la llegada del invierno.

Gran parte de los desplazados carecen de alimentos, ropa y calzados adecuados para el frío, mientras que la mitad requieren atención médica.

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