

# HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPRESSED IN IRAN

## An Appeal to the American People



Iran is a country of more than 32 million inhabitants, with vast oil reserves and other minerals. The oil revenues alone amount to \$20 billion annually. But despite of all this wealth, the majority of the Iranian people live at the bare level of subsistence and are deprived of the most basic human needs such as food, housing health care centers, and education. A few examples of these miserable conditions are: a 50% infant mortality rate, a 25% inflation rate, a 70% rate of illiteracy and the fact that there are only 9500 practicing physicians in the country, or one for every 3300 people. This shortage is intensified by the fact that nearly half of the doctors live in Tehran, and a great percentage of these cater only to the rich. In the rural areas where 45% of all the Iranian population lives the situation is even worse. The poor peasants whom the Shah had claimed to have liberated from their landlords are only liberated from their lands. Uprooted from their villages, they constitute the urban army of unemployed, offering their labour power for meager wages which average between \$2 and \$3 a day. Disease poverty and outright starvation takes an annual toll of thousands among them a year. The Shah's regime is largely responsible for the existing state of affairs in Iran, for this continued and gradual death of a nation.

The miserable economic situation of the vast majority of the Iranian people makes much more sense when coupled by the existing political conditions.

Since his coming to power by a C.I.A. engineered and financed Coup d'e tat, the Shah has committed a chain of crimes, including the 1963 massacre in which 10,000 unarmed Iranian people who broke out into the streets were machine-gunned, and the direct murder of thousands more in scores of large and small resistance movements and uprisings in Iran. There is a total lack of any freedom in Iran, such as freedom of assembly, press, speech, etc. The Shah has outlawed all the political parties and has made his own party which every Iranian is forced to be a member of or else she/he must leave the country or face imprisonment. This is a clear manifestation of the era of open fascism in Iran.

The number of political prisoners at best estimates stands at 40,000. Many Iranian patriots are killed by the Shah's firing squads. Many more have been murdered by the order of secret military tribunals. Still hundreds of patriots are murdered under torture. And finally there are those heroic freedom fighters who have been killed in street battles in Tehran and other major cities. Only last month, the international news media reported that 23 Iranian freedom fighters were killed in street battles in Tehran, Gasvin, Rasht and Mashad, among them two women, Fatmeh Rezai and Masomeh Kermani.

No matter how the alleged crimes of these patriots is presented to the world public, no matter what they are called "terrorist" "Saboteurs" or anything else- their real crime is that they have dared to fight back the tyranny and oppression of a regime which is headed by a blood thirsty lunatic. They fight to gain their rights.

Right now in Europe the concerned friends of the Iranian people of different nationalities are preparing themselves and the public for the setting up of a tribunal to denounce Shah's fascism and to expose his many crimes. We need the care and active support of all those Americans who are concerned with the issue of human rights to voice their opposition and display their wrath against the Shah's regime.

Those of you who would like more information in this regard, or are willing to help us in our struggle, (even as little as it may be), should not hesitate to write us at this address.

I.S.A. at M.S.U.

P.O. Box 48  
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Iranian Students Association

6-30-76

# OPPOSE SHAH'S VISIT

And now, with the blood of the 9 still unwashed from his hands, the Shah of Iran is coming to the U.S. The trip is quite significant for it is taking place when the U.S. defeat in Vietnam and all of Indochina, and the outright failure of Kissinger's attempts to impose U.S. 's will on the people of Middle East "step by step", the American foreign policy has been dealt a severe blow. This is clearly manifested in the oft-repeated 'assurances' by the Ford administration that they will 'honor their commitments to and will continue their support of U.S. government (who brought him to power in Aug. 1953, through a CIA-led coup, Newsweek, Oct. 14, 1974) in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean region, will be assuming a very important role in implementing U.S. policies in the area. Hence in this period, characterized by Ford as that of 'overall reassessment of U.S. Mideast policy,' Shah's trip will provide a chance for the servant to find out first-hand how best to serve and protect plunderous U.S. interests in Iran and the region as a whole.

Iran is one of the most important U.S. puppet states still remaining under its control. This stems from the fact that besides abounding in oil itself, Iran is so located that through its reactionary regime the United States can, and does control the jugular vein of the advanced industrial states (Europe, and Japan). Hence holding-on to Iran -- and more -- turning it into the main bastion defending U.S. interests. It is for that reason that the U.S. picked Iran as its Gendarme of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean region ever since Nixon Doctrine of 'Asians fighting Asians' was put into practice in the late 60's.

For this reason U.S. government began to massively arm the regime of the Shah. \$2, \$3, \$4 billions were spent by the Iranian regime in the years 72 to 74 respectively, to purchase arms from the U.S. Of the \$8 billion in arms the U.S. sold to the world in 1974, the regime alone bought \$4 billion. Moreover in March 1975, U.S. and Iran announced the signing of a \$22 billion 'economic' agreement out of which \$5 billion were set aside for fresh purchases of weaponry.

In these years the regime's huge military machine has not been idle. On the contrary, in fulfilling the tasks set forth by the Nixon Doctrine, the regime began in Dec. 1973 an invasion into Oman so as to crush the peoples attempts to free their country from U.S. British domination. To date more than 30,000-Iranian troops have been sent to Oman's western province (Dhofar) on the southern part of Persian Gulf region.

Although it is the Iranian troops that have invaded Oman, the American people must be made aware that it is their government that is becoming involved in what is going to be the next Indochina, with Iran as its new Vietnam. As is evident in the recent \$100 million U.S. arms deal with Oman, and the fact that the U.S. asked, and was granted permission to use the British airforce base facilities at Masira (an island off the coast of Oman), the U.S. government is taking preparatory measures for direct aggression in the area.

## VOICE YOUR PROTEST

### DEMAND:

- 1) END ALL TORTURE OF IRANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS
- 2) ALLOW INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AND MEDICAL TEAMS TO VISIT THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND TO INSPECT THEIR PRISON CONDITIONS.

SHAH IS A U.S. PUPPET

STOP ARMING SHAH'S REGIME

SHAH'S TROOPS OUT OF OMAN

ISAUS  
P. O. BOX A3575  
Chicago, Ill. 60690

# —SHAH MURDERS 9— BEFORE U.S. VISIT

According to news released by the Confederation of Iranian Students (National Union) - - CIS-NU - - (Le Monde, April, 22, 1975; Amnesty International), the regime of the Shah of Iran has recently tortured to death 9 Iranian progressive intellectuals at the hands of its notorious secret police: SAVAK. Seven of the 9 murdered had been imprisoned since 1968, the others were arrested in 1973. They had all been under continuous torture since the time of their arrests. The 9 were: 1) B. JAZANI 2) M. CHOOPANZADEH 3) A.J. AFSHAR 4) H.Z. SARIFI 5) A. SARMADI 6) K. ZOLNAVAR 7) M.J. SHOSHDEL 8) M. KALANTARI 9) A. SOORAKI

## Who Were The 9 ?

Of the 9 intellectuals, seven belonged to a group known as the "Jazani Group", 14 of whose members were arrested in 1968 as a result of their leading role in organizing a massive demonstration of approximately 500,000 people. The protest movement was launched in order to air the intense anger of the public generated as a result of the vicious murder of a famous champion wrestler, Gholam Reza Takhti. Takhti who had gained massive popular support for his opposition to Shah's rule, was murdered by SAVAK who in a futile propaganda effort had tried to portray the death as being a "suicide".

Since their arrests in 1968, the group and particularly their leader B. Jazani, were subjected to the most inhumane tortures. The regime did this in order to accomplish its two-fold aim of extracting 'incriminating confessions' from the patriots, and to force them to succumb to the wishes of the regime in publicity renouncing the groups participation in the progressive movement of these and other prisoners were thoroughly exposed when CIS-NU, along with several humanitarian organizations like Amnesty International, sponsored three separate delegations (Wilson, a member of British Parliament; Cavalieri, an Iranian Lawyer; and Guarido, a French lawyer), who were able to travel to Iran to confirm use of savage torture methods by the regime.

## Political Prisoners... And Torture

Inside the prisons, the prisoners are subjected to the most inhumane treatment. As late as February 18, 1975, the London Sunday Times reported:

"Prisoners also claim to have been subjected to psychological torture. This includes being forced to watch their children savagely mistreated. 'I found it so unbearable,' one man reported, 'that I wished I had a knife so that I could kill my son myself, rather than see him suffer like that'.

"SAVAK also has the grim distinction of having invented an instrument of torture which victims call the HOY TABLE -- an iron frame, rather like a bed-frame, covered with wire mesh which is electrically heated like a toaster. Prisoners would, it is alleged, be strapped to the table while it was heated until it became red hot".

Other torture methods include "the sustained flogging of the soles of the feet, extraction of finger and toe nails, electric shock treatment to sexual organs, and the thrusting of a broken bottle into the anus of prisoners suspended by their wrists from a beam," the Sunday Times article said.

Aside from the inhumane torture and the bestial murder of the 9, the fact remains that the regime of the Shah is still holding thousands more in captivity under the most ruthless repression unward of elsewhere. As reported by international organizations, as well as those in Iran indicate the LIVES OF MANY IRANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS LIKE S. PAKNEZHAD AND OTHERS ARE IN GREAT DANGER, WHERE ONLY MASSIVE PROTEST BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION CAN DETER THE REGIME FROM RESORTING TO SUCH DEPLORABLE ACTS SO BLATENTLY MANIFESTED IN THE OUTRIGHT MURDER OF THE 9 IRANIAN PATRIOTS !



**SUPPORT THE**  
***HUNGER STRIKE***

**OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN**

**IRANIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

in East Lansing

Member of the Confederation of Iranian Students (National Union)

March 24, 1978

As the Iranian people were welcoming the beginning of The Iranian New Year, struggling to gain their rights and fighting the fascist regime of the Shah, Iranian political prisoners were on a massive hunger strike to protest prison conditions and the treatment of prison officials toward the prisoners. As of today, the hunger strike is in its 9th day. The Shah's regime has maintained a complete news blackout and the Western news media has not reported this heroic action of thousands of vigilant prisoners. The demands of the prisoners are as follows:

1. The harassment of and the assault on the prisoners by police commandos and SAVAK agents be completely stopped.
2. The prisoners be allowed to communicate with the outside world.
3. Families and friends of political prisoners be allowed to visit.
4. Prison conditions be improved.

The political prisoners of Iran have staged the hunger strike for these fundamental rights. One could wonder what Jimmy Carter has to say about the inhumane treatment of these prisoners and their rights. For sure he does not want to embarrass the <sup>Shah</sup> for this "minor problem"! But indeed, the U.S. Government is not only aware of the Shah's regime's brutality and savagery but is also helping him to crush any opposition, in this case, the resistance of political prisoners, which potentially might endanger the interests of U.S. monopolies

in Iran. It is the U.S. government's intelligence that trains the Iranian secret police (SAVAK) how to torture.

It is over a year after Carter's inauguration that the State Department claims there has been improvement in Iran's prison conditions to gain credit for the White House "concern" for human rights. The facts and especially the recent heroic struggle of Iranian political prisoners show that this is pure propaganda for the benefit of U.S. government and its puppet, the Shah.

Nevertheless, the Iranian people's struggle against repression and injustice of the Shah's fascist dictatorship is growing rapidly. The recent militant mass demonstrations have shown the growing pattern of dissatisfaction of the people. The people whose basic demands have not been met came to the streets of Iranian cities and attacked government establishments to show their anger of the Shah's regime and U.S imperialism.

The workers' strikes, the students' demonstrations and the struggle of progressive clergy along with the struggle of Iranian revolutionary organizations, the OIPFG and the OMPI, is a reflection of our people's determination to fight for their just rights. If the U.S. government is keeping the Shah in power by helping his regime, building his military machinery, training his terrorist secret police, the Iranian <sup>people,</sup> on the other hand, are struggling, sacrificing and shedding their blood to fight his regime and all those who support him in order to bring democracy to Iran.



The Iranian Students Association in the U.S. has staged many hunger strikes throughout the U.S., in support of the demands of the 100,000 political prisoners and in solidarity with their heroic resistance in the Shah's dungeons. We support wholeheartedly the prisoners' just demands and also demand that:

1. The news blackout of this action be lifted immediately to let the world know what is going on in the prisons of Iran.

2. A team of international observers be allowed to inspect Iran's prison conditions. We ask all human loving and progressive people in the U.S. to join us in our struggle in support of the Iranian political prisoners. Letters of protest and inquiry should be sent to: The Embassy of Iran, 3005 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**LONG LIVE THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE 100,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN!**

**FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN!**

**DOWN WITH THE SHAH!**

**DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM!**