

Despite waves of state repression, millions of citizens have taken to the streets across Iran to protest the rigged Presidential election which took place on June 12th. The Communist Party of Canada stands in solidarity with Iranian workers and people in their efforts to expose and overturn these fraudulent elections, and with their demand for new, fair and democratic elections, for the release of all those wrongly arrested and detained, and for the prosecution of all those responsible for the crude attempt to falsify the outcome and for the subsequent state violence.

Not only is the current round of elections at issue; the entire electoral process in Iran is a mockery, designed by the theocratic regime to thwart the people's will and to maintain control by the religious leadership at any cost. All parties and individual candidates must be pre-approved by the ruling clique, and secular and other forces critical of the Ahmadinejad regime and the governing religious order are banned, and subject to repression, imprisonment, and even execution.

Immediately following the June 12 vote, the "Council of Guardians" and its "Supreme Religious Leader" Ali Khamenei declared the elections "fair and democratic", and announced the victory for the incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. When this sham 'seal of approval' failed to dissuade the people for rising up in protest, Khamenei made a tactical retreat, pledging a limited vote re-count. At the same time, the ruling "traditionalist right" mobilized its supporters and launched numerous attacks on opposition forces, such as the bloody June 14 attack on the student residences of Teheran University which left dozens killed and many more injured and detained by the authorities.

Then the ruling "Council of Guardians" announced that 3 million more votes were "counted" than were actually cast by voters – three million! – and yet despite this admission, continued to uphold the bogus re-election of Ahmadinejad.



One of many instances of police violence in the streets of Teheran - June 14, 2009

The Tudeh Party (Iran's Communist Party) denounced the fraudulent elections and the vicious repression that followed. In its June 13 statement, Tudeh's Central Committee stated:

"The obvious poll rigging and fixing of millions of ballots... shows that the spiritual leader and

his armed militias are the organizers of the state sponsored violence against the will of millions of Iranians... All social and political forces of the country should declare the poll's results as void and use all means to voice their protests against this deception perpetrated by the Spiritual Leader and his armed cronies. Accepting these election results would be a betrayal of the people's vote and would be tantamount to collusion with a deceitful and backward regime."

Some in the peace and anti-imperialist movement internationally have wrongly concluded that because the Ahmadinejad regime has been targeted by U.S. imperialism and its regional gendarme, the Zionist state of Israel, and because certain bourgeois and pro-Western forces figure among the opposition, that they should remain silent, or worse, even support the reactionary regime. This simplistic arithmetic, based on the flawed notion that 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend', is fundamentally flawed.

The Ahmadinejad regime is not at all a progressive or "pro-worker" government, even if at times, it has sided with anti-imperialist forces internationally. It is a vicious, reactionary regime which has repeatedly attacked workers' organizations, students and secular forces, including imprisonment, torture and murder against its opponents over the past thirty years of its rule.

But its days are numbered. All out in support of the popular forces of Iran in their just struggle!

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Harper's Hypocrisy

People's Voice Editorial - July 1, 2009

PM Stephen Harper has voiced his government's deep displeasure with the repression of opposition forces in Iran – even while preventing Iranians from taking refuge in the Canadian embassy in Teheran. But perhaps Mr. Harper has finally awakened to the widespread abuses of human rights and democracy in our world. If so, we urge him to look at some of his close allies.

If the Conservatives truly abhor attacks on civilians, perhaps they will condemn the actions of the Israeli military, which has killed thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese people during Mr. Harper's time in office.

If the Prime Minister's new-found concerns include the lives of trade unionists, maybe he will cancel the free trade agreement reached with the Colombian regime, the number one murderer of labour activists across the planet. And if he genuinely

wants to reduce nuclear proliferation, he should check out the dangerous nuclear-armed menace on our southern border – the United States – or Israel, which also bristles with such weapons.

The Harper/Tory hypocrisy is truly endless. This government lectures others about the rule of



Omar Khadr

law, while routinely ignoring “unfavourable” court rulings. This pattern is so extreme that we were shocked when the PM recently agreed to accept the Federal Court order to allow Canadian Abousfian Abdelrazik to return home from Sudan. (Of course, Mr. Harper refuses to accept another ruling to repatriate child soldier Omar Khadr from the US Guantanamo Bay concentration camp!)

In truth, however, Mr. Harper is among the handful of far-right leaders who backs the idea of military-imposed “regime change” in Iran, and his words are calculated to stir up public support for this horrifying action. The people of Iran are quite capable of restoring democracy and human rights without the “help” of NATO bombs and bullets. Canadians can help by dumping the Harper Tories and electing a government which understands the need for a comprehensive global struggle for peace and social justice.

Communist Party of Canada

290A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, ON M4K 1N6
416-469-2446
info@cpc-pcc.ca
www.communist-party.ca



Young Communist League of Canada
<http://ycl-ljc.ca/>



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Mail to: People's Voice, 133 Herkimer St.,
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REPRESSION AND LIES WILL NOT STOP THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S JUST STRUGGLE!



*A message from the
Communist Party of Canada*