

In This Special Issue:

- **Current conditions of workers in Iran**
- **CUPE International Solidarity Report 2011-2012 (Report on Iran)**
- **Send a protest letter to the IRI: Demand the release of detained labour activists**
- **Amnesty International's Campaign: Iran's workers need your support**
- **A summary of "A Statistical Review of Workers' Strikes and Protests in Iran for 1389" (2010)ⁱ**

Current conditions of workers in Iran*

By Ayob Rahmani

I would like to begin with some data about the present condition of working class in Iran. According to the Statistics Centre of Iran, from the total population of 75 million people, around 23 million are “economically active”. By this term, the Statistics Centre of Iran includes all employees, employers, self employed and also all unemployed who are looking for a job. From this 23 million, 7.5 millions are industrial workers, working in factories and production units. If we add other workers such as those working in transport, building and construction and other manual workers, the total is approximately 10 million. In the data published by the Statistics Centre of Iran, teachers, nurses and other office workers are not considered as part of the working class. Clearly, they should be counted as members of the working class. Taking them into account, the working class in Iran totals around 16 million people. These 16 million workers and their families form a big majority in Iran. Here I have to say we should treat this data with a great deal of caution as official statistics in Iran are not quite accurate. In what follows I would concentrate more on working conditions of that 10 million manual workers, who are working in factories, construction, and transport and so on.

As a result of neoliberal economic policies which was implemented by government of Rafsanjani after the war with Iraq in 1988, and continued during the presidency of Khatemi and Ahmadinejad, around 80 % to 90% workers are currently employed as temporary workers with written or verbal contract, or working with so called white signature (Meaning workers sign a blank paper so that employers can later write the term of contract). For all these workers job insecurity and the prospect of losing their job is a constant threat, especially when the rate of unemployment is very high, meaning millions of people are ready to take any job available. According to official figures the rate of unemployment is 12%. But this rate is based on false calculations where anybody who works even just one hour per week is considered as employed. This official rate therefore is false. According to independent research, the real unemployment rate is around 20%. Based on semi official reports 40 to 50 percent of university graduates are unemployed. So the rate of unemployment in Iran is similar to that of crises hit economies like Greece and Spain. The only difference is that while the Spanish and Greek economies have been contracting by rate of around 5% annually during past few years, Iran is not officially in recession, but growing around 1%. This is due to around hundred billions of dollars of annual revenue obtained by oil and gas export.

The minimum wage set for current year is about 389,000 Toman which equates to 230 dollars per month. This wage is one quarter of the poverty line which stands around 900 dollars per month. Worse still, many workers, especially women, work for wages less than the minimum wage. ILNA, a semi official news agency, quoted Farmarz Tofighi, a member of an official organisation called Tehran Wage Committee, saying that “60 % workers received minimum wage, therefore 60% of workers who work lawfully are living below the absolute poverty line”. Another data

indicates that more than 10 million Iranians are below absolute poverty, while another 30 million are below the relative poverty line. All this is happening in an oil and gas rich country with large amount of annual revenue from exporting these natural resources.

The gap between the rich and poor under the Islamic regime is huge and widening. Only last year, 400 Porsche cars were imported for the super rich. Corruption at the high level of the regime is endemic. Just to give you an example, a few months ago it was officially announced that 3 billion dollar has been stolen through the banking system. Some officials with ministerial position have been involved. The case is in the court and rival factions in the regime accusing each other for being involved. The truth is both factions are equally guilty. This case so far is the biggest but still only one of many.

The other issue which Iranian workers are facing is delayed or non payment of wages. In hundreds of cases, workers have not been paid for many months and in some cases for more than two years. Just to give you an example, workers at three textile plants call Mahnakh, Farnakh, and Naznakh, in the city of Qazvin, the province which I come from, are owed three years in non payment of wages. The plants have been closed and despite dozens of mass protests by these workers nobody has answered to their legitimate demands. Indeed during the last few years there has not been a single day without workers in different parts of Iran protesting against delayed or non payment of wages.

Factory closure and sacking of workers is a common feature of life for many workers. A recent and highly publicised case is that of Shahap Khodro plant in Tehran, which produces heavy vehicles and buses. When 650 workers returned for work after the Iranian New Year holiday, they found themselves behind closed gates and simply were told that the factory has been shutdown and their service no longer required. The same thing has happened to hundreds of metal workers in Tehran.

Factories' closure has accelerated following imposition of economic sanctions against Iran. Most of Iran's factories are dependent on import of spare parts and raw materials from abroad. With sanctions in place, it has become very hard if not impossible to import parts and raw materials required. Therefore many companies are forced to close or are operating on much less than their full capacity, and are sacking their labour forces. Some officials are reported to have said that tsunami of the factory closures as a result of sanctions is approaching very fast.

Last year, Ahmadinejad's government implemented the neoliberal policy of elimination of all state subsidies to basic consumer goods such as bread, rice, water, electricity, fuels and so on. The plan is called "target subsidising". In practice instead of subsidising these consumer goods the government has paid every individual 44 000 Toman (23 Dollars) every month. As a result of implementation of this policy rate of inflation and especially price of food and utility bills went up rapidly and therefore majority of people have become worse off. Official rate of inflation is 22 percent but according to some estimation, the actual rate of inflation is running around 40 percent. Of course, economic sanctions against Iran have contributed to the rise of inflation and if not lifted people would face even more acceleration of prices. Sanctions therefore are accelerating the pace of factory closures and rate of inflation, and causing more hardship for the working class and ordinary people. Economic sanctions and threat of military attack against Iran are reactionary policies of western capitalist powers and has nothing to do with the workers or human rights; therefore these policies must be condemned and opposed by socialists, trade unions and progressive forces.

Given this state of affairs, it is obvious that the working class in Iran are mostly on the defensive. Workers are mainly struggling to maintain their wages and working conditions rather than improving them.

The protests against factory closures, redundancies and delayed wage payments, although wide spread, are not coordinated nationally or at the provincial level. This is due to state repression which does not tolerate setting up any independent workers' organisations. There have been two exceptional cases during the last decade and that is Tehran bus workers' syndicate, and Haft Tapeh sugarcane workers syndicate.

Bus workers' syndicate was set up in a long battle by workers in 2005, and when workers decided to hold a strike for better wages and working conditions, security forces invaded the homes of hundreds of bus drivers in the early morning and arrested many active syndicate members, and in some cases, members of their families. Strike was put down and many members including members of the board of directors were sacked and then sentenced to imprisonment. As you are aware, Mansour Osanloo president of the syndicate spent five years in prison and was released last year. Ebrahim Maddai, the vice president, was released last month after serving his 3.5 years in jail. Two weeks ago, Reza Shahabi, the treasurer of the syndicate, after two years of incarceration, was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and five years of silence (meaning no activities whatsoever for five years).

Workers of Haft Tapeh syndicate received similar treatment. In 2007- 8 around five thousand workers at Haft Tapeh fought a long battle against plant closure to save their jobs. In the process they managed to set up their syndicate in 2008 and saved the plant from being closed. But workers activists were severely punished; all members of the board of directors were sacked and sentenced to imprisonment, including Reza Rakhshan and Ali Nejati who is currently serving second prison sentence lasting six months.

At present, both syndicates are prevented by the regime to function. They are considered unlawful and do not have their own office.

The main obstacle faced by Iranian workers to set up their own independent organisations as I mentioned is brutal repression used by the Islamic regime against any attempt to set up such organisations. All labour activists are constantly targeted and persecuted and many have been sacked, charged and sentenced to prisons, fines and so on. The regime is well aware of the fact that independent workers organisation is its Achilles Heel.

There are other obstacles too. One is the fragmentation of many plants in different sectors. Many large industries such as oil and gas have been divided into different sections and work being contracted out to private contractors which hire workers on different terms. Therefore, the workforces are fragmented and in many plants they do not see each other. Another obstacle is that the vast majority of industrial workers are working in factories with less than 10 workers who have no protections according to various anti-worker legislations. This makes it very hard to set up not only an umbrella organisation but also any types of worker organization to include all these workers.

Non manufacturing sections of work force such as teachers and nurses or bus drivers are relatively in a better position to organise themselves. But they have not been able to do so, due to severe repression. Dozens of teacher activists have been prosecuted and sentenced to imprisonment.

In spite of all these obstacles, demand for setting up independent workers organisations among Iranian workers class is strong. More workers have realised that to defend their livelihood they have to organise themselves and fight collectively. It is not difficult to predict that in case of any crack in the political system and weakening force of repression we would be able to see hundreds of independent working class organisations being established by workers. Such was the case during the Iranian revolution of 1979. During the revolution, workers' councils (Shora) were set up everywhere in large and small workplaces. As a matter of fact, it was the oil workers strike which broke the backbone of the shah's regime. During their strike, oil workers managed to set up their own workers' council. The Islamic regime upon taking power, in order to establish itself brutally suppressed and rooted out all these workers' councils and other independent workers organisations. Worker's activists were sacked, imprisoned, exiled and some were executed.

This brings me to the final point. Any real and progressive political and social change, let alone the revolution, is dependent on the rise of the working class movement against the Islamic regime. We saw this during Iranian revolution and saw it again recently during the revolutions in Tunisia and especially in Egypt. It was the wave of strikes by Egyptian workers which contributed significantly to downfall of Mubarak.

In Iran, one of the reasons for fast defeat and disappearance of mass protests which erupted following the 2009

presidential election was the absence of an organised working class in that protest. Of course, many workers as individuals participated in the protests. The point is that workers did not play any role as a collective body, as a class, in that protests.

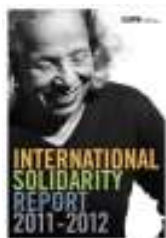
But to stand for and to make real change in society, the Iranian working class in their struggle needs to articulate and put forward their demands and play a leading role in a mass movements to implement their demands. To do so, the working class must address demands of other social movements such as women and students movements.

There are signs that indicate this is happening: during the last few years, workers' organisations and workers' activists in their joint statements for May Day have called not only for immediate implementation of better wages and working conditions, but also addressing large social and political issues such as gender equality, abolishment of capital punishment, freedom of expression, decent pensions, free health care for all and so on. This is an important step forward to make a real change, towards an equal society beyond capitalism.

*This is the complete text of the speech by Ayob Rahmani of the IASWI at the May Day Seminar in London, UK on May 4, 2012,

See the report of the May Day Seminar: IASWI Newsletter Workers' Struggles in Iran, Vol 2, Number 1, May 16, 2012 (pdf)

CUPE International Solidarity Report 2011-2012



Source: <http://cupe.ca/global-justice/international-solidarity-report-2011>

From Greece to Burma, Wisconsin to Iran, social, economic and climate justice are what connects us. Millions of people continue to stand up for justice and a better future. The global village connects us all, and CUPE stands shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers around the globe.

Support for CUPE's international work took a step forward when convention delegates adopted a resolution to ensure sustainable and stable funding for the Global Justice Fund. A robust Global Justice Fund will ensure consistent funding for important international project work.

We invite you to review the progress we have made with our global justice projects and our international work over the past year. <http://cupe.ca/global-justice/international-solidarity-report-2011>

Report on Iran:

Despite ongoing efforts by the CUPE Ontario Global Justice committee to bring prominent Iranian labour activist Mahmoud Salehi to Canada, the government refused him entry. Salehi was to speak to CUPE members and the public in Ontario on a provincial speaking tour.

The political situation in Iran is very volatile. Despite severe state repression, workers, women and students continue to struggle for their rights. This ongoing struggle for rights coupled with the economic sanctions imposed by the US government and its allies on Iran have resulted in ever-increasing poverty and unemployment levels in the country. The economic sanctions' main victims have been the working class and poor in Iran, rather than the regime of the Islamic Republic. In fact, the regime uses the economic sanctions and threats of war by the US and its allies as a

pretext to expand its repression of dissent or of any social justice initiatives in Iran. Labour activists and worker organizations in Iran strongly oppose the economic sanctions and the threat of war. For more information about the situation of labour movement and imprisoned workers in Iran, please contact info@workers-iran.org/www.workers-iran.org.

Send a protest letter to the IRI: Demand the release of detained labour activists

Sample Protest letter (updated as of August 4, 2012):

I (we) are writing to protest the continued persecution of labour activist and the gross violation of workers' rights in Iran. We continue to witness many labour activists brutally persecuted and unjustly imprisoned in Iran:

- Reza Shahabi, the executive board member and treasurer of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran Bus Workers' Company, has been incarcerated for more than two years. He has recently been sentenced to 6 year imprisonment and five year ban on all union activities; the appeal court has confirmed his sentence without giving him due process. Shahabi was severely beaten during his interrogation in detention. As a result, he underwent cervical spine operation on July 24, 2012. Medical doctors are recommending operations on his back as well. There is also a strong recommendation for Shahabi to rest fully in order to recover. He cannot be returned to prison.
- Alireza Asgari and Jalil Mohammadi, both labour activists and members of the Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers' Organizations, were arrested after security forces raided the annual general membership of the Coordinating Committee on June 15, 2012. In total about 60 labour activists were brutally beaten by the security forces and transferred to Rajai Shahr prison in Karaj. The majority of detainees, after going through serious interrogations, beatings and insults, were released, some on bail; however, Alireza Asgari and Jalil Mohammadi have been held unjustifiably since their arrest. In addition to the above workers, well-known and veteran labour activists such as Mahmoud Salehi, Khaled Hosseini, Ghaleb Hosseini, Mohammad Abdipour and Jalal Hosseini were among the approximately sixty people who were arrested and severely beaten. Many of the arrestees sustained serious injuries. Mahmoud Salehi suffered a broken pelvis from the beatings and Khaled Hosseini's hearing has been severely damaged. There are serious concerns about safety and well being of Alireza Asgari and Jalil Mohammadi.
- Shahrokh Zamani and Mohammad Jarahi, both from Tabriz and members of the Committee to Pursue the Establishment of Workers Organizations, a group campaigning for the establishment of independent trade unions in Iran, are currently serving 11- and five-year prison sentences in Tabriz prison, north-west Iran. Shahrokh Zamani, Mohammad Jarahi and three other labour rights activists – Nima Pour Yaghoub, Sassan Vahevivash, and Sayed Boyuk Sayedlar – were all initially arrested in June 2011. Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court in Tabriz later sentenced Shahrokh Zamani to 11 years, Nima Pour Yaghoub to six years, Mohammad Jarahi to five years and Sassan Vahevivash to six months in prison after conviction of charges including “acting against national security by establishing or membership of groups opposed to the system” and “spreading propaganda against the system”. Only Sayed Boyuk Sayedlar was acquitted. The sentences were upheld on appeal in November 2011. Shahrokh Zamani and Mohammad Jarahi were both arrested in mid-January 2012 to begin serving their sentences (Source Amnesty International)
- Behnam Ebrahimzadeh, member of The Committee to Pursue the Establishment of Workers' Organizations, and a Children's Rights advocate has been incarcerated in Evin prison since June 2010. Behnam Ebrahimzadeh was initially sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in December 2010 on national security charges. This was overturned by the Supreme Court, and after a retrial he was sentenced to five years in prison after conviction of “gathering and colluding with intent to harm state security”, apparently in connection with his labour activities on behalf of The Committee to Pursue the Establishment of Workers' Organizations. This sentence was upheld on appeal in October 2011 (Sources: Amnesty International and IASWI).

- Ali Nejati has been incarcerated in Dezful's Fajr prison since November 12, 2011. Mr. Nejati, a board member of the Haft Tapeh Sugar Cane Workers' Syndicate, had already spent six months in jail based on the same bogus charges. While imprisoned, new charges were brought up against him, and although he was cleared of all charges in the preliminary court proceedings, subsequently he was sentenced to spend another year in prison. Mr. Nejati is currently on medical furlough for treatment of his worsening heart problems. Due to his deteriorating health condition he has to follow a certain daily diet, accompanied by medications, plus monthly check up by his physician. Nejati cannot be kept in prison.

- Rasoul Bodaghi, a member of the Tehran Iran Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA), which is affiliated to Education International (EI), an international union representing education workers, was arrested in September 2009. A teacher for 20 years, he was later sentenced to six years in prison for the vaguely worded charges of "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding against national security" in connection with his activities for the association. In January 2011, an appeals court confirmed Rasoul Bodaghi's sentence and banned him from taking part in any civil society activities for five years. According to reports, he was severely beaten by two prison officers in May 2010 (Source: A.I.).

- Ali Akhavan, a member of the Centre for Workers Rights Defenders, was first arrested on 4 June 2010, after which he was released on bail on 29 June 2010. He was later tried and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to one-and-a-half-years' imprisonment apparently in connection with his labour rights activities on behalf of the Centre for Workers Rights Defenders. Ali Akhavan began serving his sentence on 28 January 2012 (Source: A.I.) .

- Fariborz Raisdana, economist and academic, a member of both the unregistered Iranian Writers' Association (IWA) and the Centre for Workers' Rights Defenders, is currently serving a one-year sentence in Section 350 of Evin Prison. He was arrested on 19 December 2010 after speaking about the government-led subsidy programme changes in Iran on BBC Persian – the BBC's Persian language news service – and was released on bail one month later. Branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court sentenced Fariborz Raisdana to one year's imprisonment on charges related to his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association through interviews he gave to the BBC in which he criticized the government subsidies programme (he criticized government's cuts to subsidies to people's basic needs- IASWI), as well as his membership in the IWA. (Sources: A.I. and IASWI).

I (we) strongly condemn the unjust arrests and sentences against these labour activists. I (we) also denounce ongoing persecution and arrests of labour activists in Iran the recent raid on workers' meeting in Karaj. I (we) demand the immediate and unconditional freedom of all detained labour activists in Iran.

Name:

Organization/Position

Please send your protests letters to:

info@leader.ir, info@judiciary.ir, dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir; iran@un.int; ijpr@iranjudiciary.org, info@dadiran.ir, office@justice.ir, support@irimlsa.ir; info@humanrights-iran.ir; avaei@Dadgostary-tehran.ir; bia.judi@yahoo.com; info@mlsa.ir;
CC: info@workers-iran.org

Amnesty International's Campaign:

Iran: Iran's workers need your support

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/032/2012/en>

A summary of

" A Statistical Review of Workers' Strikes and Protests in Iran for 1389" (2010)ⁱⁱ

By *Ahmad Rasti, Reza Raisdana, Amir Javaheri Langerodi*

Translated by IASWI

This review is a comprehensive report in Farsi consisting of eight sections:

- 1) General assessment
- 2) Major obstacles facing workers:
 - a- Delayed payment of wages,
 - b- Low wages in year 1389,
 - c- Closing down of factories and expansion of workers' poverty in Iran,
 - d- Temporary work contracts,
 - e- Expansion of sanctions, and elimination of subsidies, and their effects,
 - f- Teachers, Nurses and Retirees and their demands,
 - g- Extensive unemployment of Women workers, Women's house work,...
- 3) Obstacles in creation of independent workers organizations
- 4) Forms and frequencies of workers' protests
- 5) Persecution of workers in the past year
- 6) Successful actions and the height of repression
- 7) Industrial accidents at work
- 8) Conclusion: strengths and weaknesses

Below is a condensed version translated to English from the original Farsi version by IASWI.

The writers start by citing the limitations of their data, pointing out that all the data used here are based on reports from mid-size and large factories, and major industries. However, in Iran almost 90% of industrial production is carried out by small industrial units, which employ ten or less workers. These small units employ about seven million out of the seven and a half million industrial workers in Iran (ILNA).ⁱⁱⁱ Based on such statistical limitations, writers contend that the actual level of workers protests is perhaps higher than one presented by the data in here.

1) **General assessment:**

Iranian workers are in a defensive position. Despite some advances and offensive moves, such defensive posture remains the dominant mode. Many labor activists, women activists, teachers have been incarcerated by the governments various security forces. Bus drivers and Sugarcane workers are on top of the list amongst the imprisoned labor activists.

2) **Major obstacles facing workers:**

a- ***Delayed or non-payment of wages:*** in some cases workers have not been paid up to 30 months. This year there are a total of 268 cases of delayed payment of the wages.

b- ***Low wages:*** The official minimum wage of 300,000 Tomans/month (approx \$300.00) is only a third of the official poverty level income. According to Islamic Republic's own Labor Dept. the official level for a family of four is 1,000,000 Tomans (approx \$1,000).

c- ***Factories closures and expulsion of workers:*** There have been 168 cases of workers expelled, totaling some 22,934 unemployed workers. According to Mr. Adel Azar, director of Statistics Center of Iran, more than 10,000,000 million Iranians live below the absolute poverty line, while another 30,000,000

live below the relative line of poverty. (Translator's note: total population of Iran is around 78,000,000).

d- **Expansion of temporary work contracts:** Various forms of these types of employment includes: day-laborers, hourly workers, verbal contracts, working with no contract, signature less ("white signature") contracts,... Approximately 80% of workers in Iran are currently employed as temporary workers. Furthermore based on the *Article 44* for expansion of privatizing of national industries, in the Oil sector all support services and Human Resources have been sub-contracted and privatized. Another outstanding factor in maintaining such temporary work status for Iranian workers is the all powerful *Islamic Revolutions' Guardians Corps.*- also referred to in the international press as "*Revolutionary Guards*". This ultra-violent, Para-military wing of the ruling Clerical Caste through its vast ownership of various national institutions, and service and industrial conglomerates (often acquired through no bid contracts) plays a leading role in imposition of low-wages and temporary work contracts to its workforce.

e- **Expansion of sanctions, elimination of subsidies and growth of inflation:** While recent economic sanctions have lead to further and widespread scarcity of basic goods, especially for working class families, they come in the heel of the much anticipated elimination of all government subsidies,- amid promises of harsh retaliation for any criticism of this policy by the *Guardians Corps.* For instance, Professor.

Fariborz Reais'dana was incarcerated, right after his interview with international media, for just pointing out the economic consequences of subsidies elimination for the poor and workers in Iran. (Translators note: various estimates for the current national rate of inflation in Iran stands at 20% to 30% (ILNA).^{iv}

f- **Teachers, Nurse and Retirees:** Each of these sectors has also been hit hard due to three economic factors cited above (sanctions, elimination of subsidies and inflation). Many protesting teachers have been incarcerated while some amongst the imprisoned teachers have been sentenced to death. Back in 2010 a teacher of Kurdish decent *Farzad Kamangar* was executed along with four other political-prisoners; this vile act of repression led to a province wide General Strike throughout Iranian Kurdistan and brought the entire region to a halt.

g- **Women workers in Iran:** The female workforce in Iran experiences multiple layers of oppression and difficulty, not only as workers, but also as women in a Theocracy based on Gender-Apartheid. While women compose a large percentage of graduates in higher education, due to the dysfunctional national economy they also compose highest rates of unemployment, from 50% to 80% depending on urban or rural settings.

3) **Obstacles in creation of independent workers organizations:**

Autonomous workers' organizations, mainly in the form of Workers Councils (Shura), were an outstanding feature and component of the popular 1979 Revolution against Monarchy. However Islamic Republic since its inception has been consistently determined to root out any and all forms and expression of independent workers' organizations, and thus its history has been synonymous with violent destruction of autonomous workers' formations and replacing it with its own state-sponsored so called "Islamic Workers' Council." The Rentier nature of Islamic Republic, with its reliance on export of Oil, enables the state to promote its allies (*Guardians Corps.*...) through generous financial assistance. Since 1979 Islamic Republic has not allowed any independent organizations or formations within Iranian society, and has used all means to destroy any autonomous initiative in Iran. All existing independent workers' organizations in Iran: *Tehran Bus Drivers Syndicate, Haft Tapeh Sugarcane Workers' Syndicate, Iran Khodro Auto Workers Assembly, Society in Defense of Workers Rights, Coordinating Committee to Help Form Workers Organizations,*... have all been formed despite bloody, violent state repression. Thus, consistent and relentless state repression remains the biggest obstacle towards formation of independent workers' organizations in Iran. In addition, sectarian tendencies within certain forces in Iranian labor movement (mainly abroad and more outside of Iran than inside the country) and their adamant and systematic opposition to independent workers' organizations is an added factor as well (This is the opinion of the report's authors and not that of IASWI)

4) **Forms and frequencies of Workers protests:**

a- Forms:

- Demonstrations in front of state agencies 30 instances
- Blocking of traffic in the street 48 instances
- Strikes 85 instances

b- Demands:

- Payment of delayed wages 75 instances
- Opposing expulsions 32 instances
- Opposing factory closures 1 instance
- Protesting temporary work contracts 8 instances
- Protesting privatizations 2 instances
- Protesting lack of benefits and demanding wage raises 2 instances
- Sending letters to officials from workers 7 instances
- Strike support 7 instances
- Letters to International Labor Organizations 8 instances
- Letters from outside of Iran in support of workers in Iran 46 instances

5) **Workers persecution in the past year:** During year 1389, there were a total of 23 instances of arrests, court sentences and floggings, a partial breakdown of these cases:

- Arrests due to organizing for May 1st events 5
- Arrests due to organizing for independent workers formations 5
- Arrests due to general organizing 4
- Arrests due to March 8th events 4

6) **Successful actions and the height of repression:** Amongst successful actions of the year: Kian Tyre (Rubber workers)

- Iran Khodro (Auto workers)
- Petro chemical complex of Tabriz
- Natural gas complex of Abadan

7) **Industrial accidents at work:** Mine workers of Ashkili, (death to lack of protective gears) at least 3 reported, Mine workers of Hajtak in Kerman, 50 deaths, Auto workers of Iran Khodro, 8 deaths.

8) **Conclusion: strengths and weaknesses:** After the protests over the 2009 electoral coup there has been hardly a single day without protests from workers. Points of strength:

- 1- Increasing number and volume of protests.
- 2- Initiatives for workers' self-organization on the shop floor level.
- 3- Presence of a vast number of independent labor activists.
- 4- Emergence of trusted, national labor leaders.
- 5- Establishment of strong connections between labor activists in Iran and abroad

Points of weakness:

- 1- Lack of coordinated nation-wide protests.
- 2- Lack of direct offensive protests against the government and employers. ^v

ⁱ Iranian New Year starts every year on the Spring Equinox March 21. The year 1389 was from March/21/2010 to March/20/2011

ⁱⁱ Iranian New Year starts every year on the Spring Equinox March 21. The year 1389 was from March/21/2010 to March/20/2011

ⁱⁱⁱ Statistical source on number of Industrial workers in Iran:

According to *Markz Amar Iran*, <http://www.amar.org.ir/> occupations in the industrial sector for last year 1390 is 6,864,846. This report puts the number for industrial workers as 7.5 millions.

^{iv} Rate of inflation in Iran:

Since a few months ago with the increase on economic sanctions and resulting devaluation of Rial against dollar, almost all daily items have seen a double increase in prices. It would be difficult to determine the actual rate since we have a concurrent devaluation of the currency, and a scarcity of basic food and consumer items. The 20 to 30% rate would be very conservative estimate.

^v This was a summary of a larger report in Farsi. Some analysis are based on the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the translator; however, the overall report is factual and informative.