

# INTERNATIONAL KAAR (LABOUR)



*Fadaian Organization (aghaliyat)*

**August 2026**

## **Intensification of Repression under the Pretext of “Combating Infiltration”**

On Sunday, 16 August 2026, the Iranian parliament approved, by 183 votes in favour, the general outlines of a bill entitled “Combating Infiltration by Intelligence Services and Foreign States and Institutions in the Country.” The bill consists of 19 articles with numerous clauses and goes far beyond combating espionage in the conventional sense.

The bill introduces restrictions and, in certain cases, criminal penalties for a broad range of scientific, media, professional and social contacts with institutions and individuals abroad. For example, contacts with certain foreign media outlets, cooperation with foreign scientific and academic institutions, and certain forms of contact with international organisations

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## **The Dispute over Continuing the War or Pursuing Negotiations and a Compromise**

While the regime in Iran has adopted an offensive strategy through the recent orders and appointments issued by Mojtaba Khamenei, it now faces the greatest challenge of its existence, both domestically and internationally.

The appointment decree for the new Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps explicitly called for the “continuous and comprehensive enhancement of capabilities for maximum deterrence and intelligent preparedness for powerful offensive operations against the enemy.”

But the situation has now fundamentally changed.

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## Intensification of Repression...

could become subject to action by the security authorities.

However, what was approved on 16 August was only the general framework of the bill. This does not mean that it has already become law. The bill must go through further stages of deliberation and voting. Therefore, not all provisions of the current text can be regarded as final and legally binding.

Nevertheless, analysing this bill and its general political direction is important for understanding the political intentions underlying it.

The fundamental question is: Why has the Islamic Republic chosen to pursue such a bill at this particular moment?

The regime's official justification is that it seeks to combat infiltration by intelligence services, foreign states and institutions. Undoubtedly, the blows suffered by the regime's military, political and security apparatuses in Iran during the recent war and as a result of the activities of Mossad networks are among the pretexts for introducing such a bill.

Yet reducing the issue to the regime's security failures and the activities of espionage networks explains only a small part of the reality. The real answer must be sought in the context of the cur-

rent political and social situation in Iran.

Iranian society is undergoing profound transformation and is increasingly characterised by the potential for new social upheavals. A multitude of economic, social and political demands have remained unanswered for years. War, the deepening economic crisis, inflation, declining purchasing power, unemployment, poverty, political repression, distrust of the state and profound dissatisfaction, increasingly turning into anger towards the government, are converging.

Even if the regime were to attempt, through limited economic and social reforms, to alleviate some of the pressure created by the chronic and far-reaching crises, there is no clear prospect of doing so. The combination of these conditions has brought society to a point where new political and social upheavals and protest movements may emerge. Protests can erupt at different moments and in different forms, mobilising various sections of society, particularly workers and other working people.

From this perspective, the problem facing the Islamic Republic is not merely an external threat or espionage networks. The far more fundamental problem is a society in which unresolved demands have accumulated and the potential for protest has grown. Under these conditions, the government is seeking to strengthen the legal and security instruments necessary to control society before any possible expan-



**Long live the class autonomy of the working class!**

## Intensification of Repression...

sion of protests.

In such a process, the boundaries between actual espionage, political activity, journalism, reporting, professional contacts and opposition to the government become increasingly blurred.

This policy is of even greater significance for social movements. No social movement can remain indefinitely confined to scattered and locally isolated protests. The circulation of information about strikes and protests, the dissemination of images and demands, links between workers in different workplaces, the sharing of experiences of struggle, and the building of connections between workers, teachers, pensioners, students and other sections of the working population all depend on the free exchange of information and independent channels of communication.

The criminalisation of such contacts can therefore, in practice, target one of the material preconditions for the organisation and expansion of social protest movements.

From a class perspective, this development cannot be viewed merely as a legal dispute over the limits of state authority. In the face of a comprehensive crisis, the regime is increasingly relying, alongside economic instruments, on coercion and repression against workers and working people.

When a government is unable to meet social

demands and the gulf between it and large sections of society continues to deepen, controlling information, restricting communication and preventing the emergence of independent social networks become components of the mechanism for maintaining political power.

In this sense, the invocation of “national security” ultimately serves as a cover for the political security of the ruling power. The issue is no longer simply the prevention of espionage. Rather, the aim is to create conditions in which independent communication, the development of political consciousness, the dissemination of information and independent organisation carry increasingly high political and legal costs for ordinary people.

There is, however, a considerable gap between the adoption of a bill and its full implementation in society. The bill is still at the stage of deliberation and approval of its general framework and must pass through further procedures.

Yet even if the bill is adopted, any attempt to enforce its provisions on a wide scale will fail.

For the working class and other working people, the issue is therefore not merely opposition to one particular security bill. It is about defending the possibility of developing and disseminating political consciousness, communicating with one another and organising independently in order to struggle against those social conditions that continually reproduce poverty, exploitation, war and repression.

### **The Dispute over Continuing...**

Trump's naval blockade and economic sanctions are producing devastating consequences. The state's financial insolvency can no longer be concealed. The economy is largely in disarray. Inflation is spiraling out of control.

The burden of war, blockade, sanctions and inflation is being placed on the shoulders of working people. It has become unbearable. Even some senior officials and leading figures of the regime are no longer concealing their fear of an eruption of mass protest and popular anger.

Once again, voices calling for negotiations and a compromise with the United States are growing louder. They stand against those advocating the continuation of the war and further military action. There are now open calls for a return to negotiations, a new agreement and an end to the war.

The Situation Is Turning Against the Islamic Republic

The situation has now turned against the regime. There appears to be little indication that Trump is prepared to accept the framework of the previous agreement.

The significance of the Strait of Hormuz and its temporary closure by the Iranian regime has also changed. The oil-rich states of the Persian ►

Gulf have found alternative routes for transporting part of their oil exports.

Some oil tankers have resumed passage along the southern side of the Strait of Hormuz under the protection of the US Navy.

This has placed the Iranian regime itself in an increasingly difficult position. Under the conditions of the naval blockade, it can no longer export and sell sufficient quantities of oil on the world market. Even in this short period, it has already lost billions of dollars in revenue.

The naval blockade has also made the transportation of goods through land corridors more difficult. Under these conditions, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic has once again intensified contacts with Pakistan and other political intermediaries. The aim may be to find a way to resume negotiations before Trump's secondary sanctions come into force.

The Regime's International Isolation

The decisive question, however, is this: Can the US government really force all the states of the world to comply with its secondary sanctions?

Here, it is not simply the political and economic power of US imperialism that is decisive. More important is Iran's international isolation. This is what enables the US government to pursue ►

**The Islamic Republic must be overthrown with a general political strike and an armed uprising!**

### The Dispute over Continuing...

such a policy.

Even Iran's relations with its neighbor states are at an extremely low point. Turkey and Pakistan could open their land borders to Iranian imports and exports. However, they will probably support the US position in accordance with their own interests.

Despite these pressures, Russia will probably be the only country that refuses to comply with the sanctions imposed by the US government. However, the volume of trade between Russia and the Islamic Republic is very small. It cannot fundamentally alter the situation of the Iranian regime.

Of the Islamic Republic's total trade volume of 110 billion US dollars last year, only 4.7 billion US dollars was accounted for by trade with Russia.

China also has extensive trade relations with the Islamic Republic. However, if its much larger economic relations with the United States come under threat, China will ultimately reduce the scale of its economic trade with Iran as well.

In 2024, the value of Iranian imports from China amounted to 18 billion US dollars, while Iranian exports to China were worth approximately 14.5 billion US dollars.



At the same time, the United Arab Emirates has now also suspended its relations with the Islamic Republic. With a trade volume of around 28 billion US dollars, the UAE had been Iran's most important trading and financial partner.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated last week:

"All trade, commercial exchanges and financial transactions with Iran are suspended until further notice."

### The Economic Crisis Deepens

Under these conditions, the economic situation of the Islamic Republic, already severely disrupted by the naval blockade, will deteriorate dramatically once Trump's new sanctions come into force. These sanctions will effectively amount to a land blockade.

Of course, the Islamic Republic has faced sanctions in the past as well. But the situation today is fundamentally different.

In the past, Iran was never under a comprehensive blockade. The regime was therefore able to export and sell its oil through various channels.

Today, this is no longer possible.

The survival of any oil-based rentier state depends on its oil revenues. When these revenues dry up, the very existence of such a regime is



## Work, bread, freedom – council government

## The Dispute over Continuing...

placed in jeopardy.

The regime in Iran therefore faces a fundamental dilemma. On the one hand, it is losing its main source of revenue and, with it, a crucial foundation of its political existence. On the other hand, internal conflicts within the ruling class have become increasingly acute.

Under these conditions, the regime essentially has two options:

Either it will try to escape, at least temporarily, from the trap of sanctions and blockade by making further concessions to the US government, or it will embark on a military adventure following an internal purge and consolidation of power. Under the present conditions of economic and financial crisis, political isolation and growing mass discontent, however, such a move would inevitably turn against the regime. ►

What Does This Situation Mean for Working People in Iran?

Two reactionary and war-mongering states have shifted the costs of war and sanctions onto the shoulders of working people. Standing by helplessly while this process unfolds would be disastrous.

The way out lies in a revolution that sweeps away the rule of the Islamic Republic, brings the war to an end, and enables the working and oppressed masses, organised in councils, to take control of their own destiny.

This task falls above all to the Iranian working class.

It is the class capable of building an organised struggle. It can organise a general strike and lead the organised masses towards a social revolution.



### Selected Labor News...

On Saturday, 15 August 2026, employees of the Bandar Mahshahr municipal administration gathered in front of the municipal offices to protest against outstanding wage payments and their difficult economic circumstances.

#### **Demands for Better Working Conditions and Higher Wages**

- On Thursday, 20 August 2026, nurses and healthcare workers in Nishapur held a protest rally in front of the city's Medical Sciences University. Chanting "University president – resign! Resign!", they protested their low wages and incomes and against what they considered unfair remuneration for medical services, performance-based payments and overtime. They demanded the resignation of the president of Nishapur University of Medical Sciences.



On the morning of Tuesday, 18 August 2026, a group of healthcare workers gathered in front of the Hamadan provincial administration. They protested against their difficult economic situation, the non-payment of outstanding claims and the low level of their wages.

#### **Protests Against Unemployment**

A group of young people seeking employment from the Garmsir region of Boyer-Ahmad protested on Saturday, 1 August 2026, against the procedures for recruiting new workers. They first gathered in front of the Lishtar Refinery and then in front of the Gachsaran municipal administration.

The protesters demanded fair and equal treatment in recruitment, transparency in the hiring process, and an end to discrimination. They also asserted the right of young people in the region to employment and a secure livelihood.



### Selected Labor News...

Workers employed by a subcontractor at Gohar Zamin Mine No. 3 in Sirjan protested against the threat of dismissal and possible unemployment. The 115 workers at the mine, some of whom have been working there for as long as eleven years, were recently informed that once the project is completed by the end of the month, they would either have to be transferred to new projects in other regions or be dismissed and settled with. All of the workers come from the Sirjan region. Their employment contracts had previously been renewed annually with the subcontractor. They reported: "On 22 July, our one-year employment contract was suddenly reduced to one month. We were given until the end of this contract to decide whether to stay or leave."

In their efforts to clarify their employment situation, the workers held a protest gathering in front of the Sirjan municipal administration.

On Sunday, 23 August 2026, a group of dismissed workers from Shadgan Steel gathered at the entrance to the steel complex. They protested against the continuing dismissals and their ongoing employment insecurity.

The wave of dismissals at the plant had begun



ten months earlier. As sections of the industrial project were completed, an estimated 100 workers were gradually dismissed. After months, and in some cases years, of working on the project, they now face unemployment without job security or any clear prospect of being rehired.

### Protests Over Unpaid Wages

- Around 30 workers responsible for guarding railway lines along the Sarkhehuran–Bezpeiran route reported that they had not received their wages for five months. They protested against their difficult social and economic situation as well as their harsh working conditions.



**Long live the international solidarity of the working class!**

## Selected Struggles of Workers and Working People in August 2026

### Protests by Pensioners

In August, pensioners from various sectors, including former telecommunications workers, steel workers and workers from the Isfahan steel and ironworks, as well as Social Security pensioners in Shush, held numerous protest actions in different cities. Their main demands included the payment of outstanding claims, the implementation of previously approved regulations, and opposition to the inadequate provision of healthcare through the health insurance system.

One of the slogans raised by Social Security pensioners in Shush was:

*“Enough with warmongering – our tables are empty!”*

### Protests against Job Insecurity and Dismissals

- A group of workers at the Salman Farsi petrochemical plant gathered on Saturday, 15 August 2026, in the city of Mahshahr. In particular, they protested against the conversion of their previous direct employment contracts into employment through subcontractors and stated that they continued to face job insecurity and uncertainty about their future employment.

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The Organisation of Fadaian (aghaliyat) is a communist organisation that fights for overthrowing of capitalist order and establishing of a communist society.

Our Organisation fights for establishing a society without classes where every sort of exploitation, oppression, discrimination, social inequality and suppression are abolished. All the society's free and equal members live in happiness, welfare and their abilities are thrived.

The immediate goal of the our Organisation is overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran and establishing the Soviet State of Workers and Toilers. Soviet State, which is the manifestation of the most consequent and complete form of democracy, will establish the broadest and most complete form of political freedoms, and with fulfillment the democratic, social and welfare demands the socialistic changes will begin.

**Long live Socialism!**

### Kontakt

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