INTERNATIONAL KAAR (LABOUR)

Fadaian Organization (aghaliyat) **October 2026**

An Agreement or a New Phase of Escalating Military Confrontation?

The Islamic Republic of Iran is facing several complex, interrelated crises. Each of these crises, on its own, significantly undermines the regime's ability to govern the country. At the same time, military confrontation between Iran and the United States is intensifying, while international pressure continues to mount. These crises are reinforcing one another.

The regime is suffering from a crisis of political legitimacy and deep-seated social discontent. The population's purchasing power continues to decline. Exports and foreign-currency revenues have been disrupted. These problems are compounded by divisions within the political leadership, particularly following the death of Ali

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Class Struggle in Europe

The protests that began in the second half of September at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil, a suburb in southeastern Paris, have spread across large parts of Europe. On Saturday, 24 October, people once again took to the streets in France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Albania to protest against the policies of governments that defend the existing order and continue to make life increasingly difficult for workers, pensioners, university students and school students.

According to the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), despite obstacles imposed by the French government—including a change to the march route—more than 800,000 people took part in demonstrations across the country,

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An Agreement or a New Phase...

Khamenei. Negotiations with the United States are also proving difficult, and reaching an agreement acceptable to both sides remains a major challenge. As a result, the regime's room for maneuvers, both domestically and internationally, has narrowed considerably.

The central question is this: Can the regime extricate itself from this web of crises? Or will its insistence on continuing its existing policies drive the country into an even deeper economic collapse and pave the way for a new phase of military confrontation?

One of the most significant features of the regime's current situation is the division within its leadership over how to deal with the United States and the terms for ending the war.

On the one hand, there is an urgent need to ease economic pressure, lift the naval blockade, reopen trade routes and prevent further destruction of infrastructure. On the other hand, there are fears of political concessions, the loss of regional influence and the domestic repercussions of an agreement with the United States.

This conflict cannot simply be reduced to differences of opinion among individual government officials. Within the Islamic Republic's power structures, the various centers of power do not necessarily share the same assessment of the costs and benefits of negotiations and war. These centres include the supreme leadership, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the government under Pezeshkian and the security apparatus.

The government may need an agreement to avert economic collapse. Other sections of the power apparatus, however, regard an understanding with the United States as a threat to their ideological foundations or their regional influence. From this perspective, they may favour continuing the war with the United States and Israel.

Any potential agreement with the United States could also carry political costs for Iran's leadership. If the Islamic Republic abandons some of its demands, its domestic opponents may portray this as a defeat for its previous policies. If, on the other hand, it insists on all its demands, the blockade may continue, foreign-currency revenues may decline further and the conflict may intensify.

This is the strategic contradiction at the heart of Iran's political power structure: the regime needs an agreement to ease external pressure, yet it may be unwilling to pay the political and ideological price such an agreement would entail. Continuing the confrontation, however, comes at an even greater cost. Much of

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Down with The regime of Islamic Republik

An Agreement or a New Phase...

that cost is not borne by the political decision-makers themselves but is instead shifted onto the population.

The Islamic Republic's predicament is not confined to the United States and Israel. Developments across the region indicate that neighboring countries and major powers in the so-called Islamic world are reassessing their security calculations and strategies. This realignment could further restrict the Islamic Republic's already limited room for maneuvers.

Of particular significance is the so-called Mecca Pact on mutual defence between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. But developments did not end there. Following the signing of such an agreement, the foreign ministers of eight European and regional countries met in Istanbul on Friday, October 23. They discussed the war between Iran and the United States, security in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the crisis in Yemen and developments in Palestine. The meeting reflects the participating countries' concerns about the outbreak of another war in the region.

The harsh statements made by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu against the Islamic Republic, the continuing military confrontation, and disagreements over the terms for ending the war once again raise a serious question: Is the region heading towards a new phase of war and armed conflict?

A realistic assessment is that the risk of escalation is substantial. However, neither the timing nor the scale of a possible escalation can be predicted with certainty. Nevertheless, the mutual threats give cause for concern that a new war could be more extensive and cause even greater devastation than the previous one.

Amid this tense situation, France and the United Kingdom have also sided with Saudi Arabia and entered the war against the Houthis in Yemen. This development is undoubtedly not in the interests of the Iranian government, as it could place Iran's regional position under further pressure.

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Die islamische Republik muss mit einem politischen Generalstreik und einem bewaffneten Aufstand gestürzt werden!

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With every passing day that far-reaching political decisions are postponed and the costs of the crisis continue to rise, the danger grows that the fate of millions of people will be left at the mercy of decisions made by the warring parties, who are prepared to accept the risk of further escalation.

We must not forget that Iran's working class and the broader population have every right to oppose war and any military intervention while simultaneously challenging the domestic and foreign policies of the Islamic Republic. These positions are not contradictory. On the contrary, they can stem from a common principle: the defenses of people's right to life, freedom, security and self-determination.

War offers no way out for the people of Iran. Nor do the Islamic Republic's reactionary policies offer any solution. It is precisely these policies that have brought the country to the brink of war and destruction. Defending the genuine interests of the population therefore requires resolute opposition to this reactionary war, an unwavering defiance of people's rights and freedoms, an end to external confrontation and an end to the regime's destructive policies. The costs of these policies are borne by the working class and the toiling masses.

One point must be emphasized repeatedly: the Islamic Republic is the real enemy of the people. An end to these wretched conditions is inconceivable without the revolutionary overthrow of the regime and the establishment of workers' and working people's council power.

A Summary of the Article in Kaar, No. 1192

October 25, 2026



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including 250,000 in Paris. The demonstration itself was peaceful. Afterwards, clashes between police and demonstrators broke out in several areas. According to the interior minister, nearly 1,000 people were arrested and two were injured. Meanwhile, 26,000 people demonstrated in Orléans against the far right. The rally took place at the same time as the congress of the neofascist National Rally party.

Rather than responding to the demonstrators' demands, the French government is trying to escalate the protests and create a negative public image of the movement. Its aim is to block the protests from spreading further. Yet the leaders of left-wing parties and trade unions have called for the demonstrations to remain peaceful. Jean-Luc Mélenchon, leader of La France insoumise, urged participants in the Paris march to remain disciplined and follow the unions' guidance.

The trade unions CFDT, CGT, FO, UNSA and FSU have also jointly called for a nationwide day of strikes and demonstrations on Thursday, 5 November. The main demands are higher wages, better public services, employment and opposition to the government's budget policies. The day is expected to develop into a very large and broadly supported protest.

In Spain, where there have already been mass protests against the housing crisis in recent weeks, 50,000 people took to the streets in Madrid this time to defend the social security system and pensions against privatisation and benefit cuts. The demonstration was called by pensioners' organisations and networks, and several trade unions, including the CGT, supported and took part in it.

On Saturday, 17 October, around 800,000 people had already demonstrated in France, according to the organisers. That day, school students' protest against teacher shortages and deteriorating school buildings converged with the demands of wage-earners and pensioners. The Yellow Vests also took part. In Italy, on 17 October, more than 100,000 people took to the streets in Rome at the call of the CGIL trade union, alongside student protests and rallies against rising prices. The initiative "Italia in piazza" ("Italy in the Streets"), launched by young people on social media and said by its organisers to coordinate protests in 14 cities, organised a large demonstration in Milan on the same day. It eventually led to serious clashes between groups of young people and the police. In Spain, the struggle for affordable housing and against evictions has brought different social groups into the streets. On Saturday, 3 October, 500,000 people joined the protests in Madrid.

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They demanded lower and capped rents, an end to evictions, protection for tenants and action against speculation in housing.

In Portugal, too, tens of thousands took to the streets in Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra on 17 October at the call of the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP). They protested against the housing crisis and demanded higher wages and pensions, measures to tackle rising prices and better public services.

In Greece, tens of thousands joined demonstrations in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and other cities on 21 October, following calls by student and teachers' organisations. The primary school teachers' union announced a 24-hour strike. The demonstrators' demands included increased education funding, higher pay, free education, smaller classes and affordable student housing. They chanted: "Money for education, not for NATO's massacres!"

Protests also began in Albania on 13 October. Calls issued by school and university student groups and networks converged with protests by the "Flamingo Movement", an environmental movement opposing corruption. On 14 October, the Reuters news agency reported that more than 10,000 protesting students had gathered in Tirana.

In Brussels, Belgium, a major workers' demonstration involving 50,000 people took place on 9 October following a call by the FGTB trade union. Workers opposed the government's economic and social policies. School and university student protests are also under way in Belgium. Many other European countries are experiencing unrest as well, with strikes and street demonstrations taking place in numerous countries.

Europe's recent political and social crisis is the result of decades of neoliberal economic policies. These policies have undermined the prosperity and living standards of broad sections of the population. The current protests reflect this reality through demands concerning the housing crisis, the crisis in education and declining purchasing power.

From the 1980s onwards, so-called neoliberal policies took hold across European countries, albeit at different speeds. The constant justification was the need to curb budget deficits and public debt. Yet neither was ever durably reduced—and there are reasons for this. From

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the 1970s onwards, and particularly after the crisis of 1973–1975, intensified by the 1973 oil-price shock, capitalist countries entered a new phase of economic crises. Periods of stagnation grew longer while periods of recovery became shorter. Since the crisis of 2007, it has been difficult to speak of any sustained economic recovery. As far as they could, capitalist governments shifted the burden of these crises onto the wider population under the banner of "austerity".

At the same time, the wealth of a tiny minority in the capitalist world has grown at an unprecedented rate in recent years. This has not escaped the notice of the more alert sections of the population. Students in particular—often a driving force behind protest movements—are keenly aware of this contradiction.

The 2007 economic crisis, followed by the pandemic and continued economic stagnation, brought an even sharper intensification of austerity policies. Another factor was rising military expenditure, especially following the war in Ukraine, as well as NATO's decision to increase military and security spending under the pretext of the Russian threat. According to NATO figures, total defence spending by European member states and Canada rose from around 1.4 per cent of gross domestic product in 2014 to 2.3 per cent in 2025. At the summit in The Hague on 25 June 2025, they also committed to spending 5 per cent of GDP annually on defence and related security expenditure by 2035.

In a period of economic stagnation, rising military expenditure means further cuts to public services and shifting even more of the costs of healthcare and education onto the population. The demonstrators' slogans clearly express their anger over this. In Italy, for example, they



chanted: "Money for schools, not weapons" ("Soldi alla scuola, non alle armi"). In France, one slogan was: "Money for education, not war" ("Argent pour l'éducation, pas pour la guerre"). One placard read: "Money for secondary schools, not billionaires or war." In Portugal, the general secretary of the CGTP explicitly criticised, in his speech at the 17 October demonstration, the diversion of billions of euros away from the needs of workers, young people and the public to fund the arms race. He called for peace.

The Political Consequences of Neoliberal

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Economic Policies

One major political consequence of this process has been the rise of far-right movements with strong fascist tendencies. Over the years, they have become influential parties in several European countries.

The relative prosperity enjoyed by Europe's working class after the Second World War was the result of more than a century of workers' struggles, the existence of trade unions, favourable economic conditions and competition between the Eastern and Western blocs. Neoliberal policies, which involved cutting public services, put these gains at risk.

While large sections of the European left fell into crisis after the collapse of the Soviet Union and so-called "actually existing socialism", and their mass support weakened considerably, the far right succeeded in influencing parts of public opinion. Even among sections of the working class, it recast the contradiction between labour and capital as an alleged conflict between native -born people and foreigners. The far right blamed migrants for the housing crisis, refugees for cuts to social services and foreign workers for job insecurity. In the absence of a strong left, these racist ideas spread rapidly through sections of society.

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The damaging role of social-democratic parties must also be emphasised. These parties themselves implemented neoliberal economic policies and thereby contributed to the rise of neofascist forces in Europe. In some countries, they had considerable influence in trade unions and workers' organisations. Their policies fuelled distrust of the traditional parties. The far right exploited this vacuum and presented itself as an opponent of the established parties that had long held power. Yet its own economic programme also aimed to continue the policies of the past—sometimes in an even harsher form—and preserve the existing capitalist order.

In France, the National Front received around 11 per cent of the vote in the 1984 European Parliament election. Its influence continued to grow, and its successor, the National Rally, is now among the leading contenders in the race for the presidency. In Austria, the Freedom Party won around 27 per cent of the vote in 1999. In the Netherlands, the Party for Freedom (PVV) won the largest share of the vote in the 2023 election. In the 2025 election, despite losing votes, it tied with the Democrats 66 party for first place in terms of seats. In several European countries, the far right has moved beyond electoral growth: it has entered government in coalition with traditional right-wing parties or secured parliamentary majorities for

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Long live international solidarity!

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them, including in Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Estonia and Greece. In Italy, Giorgia Meloni, leader of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, has remained prime minister since 22 October 2022.

The Realignment of the European Left

Not so long ago, communist parties in several European countries had considerable influence and won substantial electoral support. The Italian Communist Party, once led by figures such as Antonio Gramsci, retained a strong base among Italian workers and other sections of the population into the 1980s. In the first French parliamentary elections after the Second World War, in 1946, the French Communist Party became the country's largest party, winning more than 28 per cent of the vote. From the 1980s onwards, however, its vote share and popularity declined. More broadly, after the 1970s, Europe's older left-wing parties increasingly lost their mass base; in some countries, including Italy, they eventually disappeared from the political scene altogether.

Following the 2007 economic crisis and the intensification of austerity, left-wing parties and organisations in Europe gradually began to re-emerge, although their growth was not comparable to that of the far right. In Greece, they even came to power in 2015. Ultimately, however, they submitted to austerity measures imposed on the country by European and international financial institutions, lost public support and suffered defeat.

Today, La France insoumise, led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon, is one of Europe's best-known new left-wing parties. However, its programme, like that of other European left parties, essentially consists of reforms benefiting lower-income groups within the existing capitalist order. The party's growing public support, especially among young people, and Mélenchon's prospects in the next presidential election have led right-wing politicians to accuse it of looting, arson and other acts of sabotage. The aim may be to prevent Mélenchon from standing in the upcoming election. Yet he has repeatedly spoken out against such actions. On 17 October, for example, he wrote on X: "Those who take part in our struggle must not take part in looting or destruction." He called on people to refrain from actions that, in his view, have no political meaning and contradict his movement's methods of struggle. He also stressed the government's responsibility and the role of police leadership in the emergence of violence.

The burning of cars and damage to public

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property undoubtedly serve above all to create a negative image of the protests and divert attention from the demands raised at the many large demonstrations by workers, students, teachers, school pupils and parents. Whatever forces may have been involved in these incidents, it should not be forgotten that recent political history contains numerous examples of police, security services and far-right groups attempting to discredit protest movements.

The FBI's COINTELPRO programme, which sought to infiltrate and discredit the Black civil rights movement and the protests against the Vietnam War, and the fabrication of evidence by police during the anti-globalisation protests in Genoa, Italy, in July 2001, are just two examples of the many ways in which capitalist institutions and parties have tried to sabotage protest movements challenging the prevailing relations of exploitation.

This practice also has a long history in France, where fascist tendencies within the police have even been established in court. It is no coincidence that the far-right National Rally has supported the police against demonstrators. During the recent protests, numerous videos were published showing black-clad, masked individuals among the police setting fires. Another notable incident was the attack by ▶ around 50 masked supporters of the neofascist National Rally on a peaceful demonstration in Nice on Saturday, 24 October.

The recent protest movement in Europe is increasingly taking on the character of a challenge to the unjust order: from housing and wages to healthcare and education. It is a struggle against capital and against the corruption of a system in which a tiny minority has seized control of society's wealth and the institutions of power, while the overwhelming majority are becoming ever poorer and more marginalised. It is the protest of exploited and disenfranchised people demanding a fundamental transformation of the existing order.

We conclude this article with an excerpt from a letter written by several people arrested during the recent protests in France. The letter was published by the French anti-fascist outlet Contre Attaque:

"What unites us is our shared anger and our passion for revolution. A revolution that will once again give us the chance to breathe and to hope, to participate and to share. A revolution that will finally allow us to decide for ourselves how we live. A revolution that will put an end to the humiliation inflicted by excessive luxury and wealth."

*A Summary of the Article in *Kaar*, No. 1192 / 25 October 2026*

Long live freedom! Long live socialism!

Selected Reports on Workers' Struggles...

On Sunday, 11 October (19 Mehr), healthcare workers from health centres in Tabriz gathered outside the provincial governor's office. They protested against their poor living conditions, unequal pay and compulsory overtime.

At the same time, on Monday, 12 October (20 Mehr), nurses from Urmia and Salmas walked out of the Nurses' Day celebration at Urmia University of Medical Sciences in protest against discrimination and the disregard for their professional and economic demands.

The protesters highlighted inflation, declining purchasing power and pay inequalities. They stressed the urgent need for their demands to be taken seriously and addressed.

Dismissed Workers of Khavar Spinning Factory in Rasht Protest

On Wednesday, 21 October (29 Mehr), dismissed workers from the Khavar Spinning Factory in Rasht held a protest gathering to demand payment of their outstanding entitlements.

Workers at Fouladsazan Amir Arvan Steel Plant in Qom Go on Strike

Three months' wages owed to workers at the Fouladsazan Amir Arvan steel plant in the Shokouhiyeh Industrial Estate in Qom have been withheld. Their social security contributions have also not been paid. In protest against this blatant wage theft, the workers have been on strike for a week.



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Selected Reports on Workers' Struggles and Protests in October

During the month of Mehr (September–October), at least 66 deaths resulting from inadequate workplace safety and 288 workplace injuries were recorded. In addition, 32 cases of unemployment, 50 cases of dismissals and workforce reductions, and 263 cases of employment uncertainty were reported. The figures also include outstanding wages amounting to 58 monthly wage payments and 31 cases in which workplaces were sealed by the authorities. During the same month, 53 workers' and trade-union gatherings and 13 strikes took place. Six arrests were also recorded, along with the administration of a total of 760 lashes to ten workers. These figures reveal the scale of violations of workers' rights. They range from insecure employment and severe economic hardship to state repression and judicial measures targeting workers and their trade-union protests.

Retirees' "Protest Sundays" Across the Country

On Sunday, 25 October 2026 (3 Aban 1405), the streets of numerous Iranian cities once again became the scene of large and militant protest gatherings by retirees from the Social Security Organisation, the steel industry, iron and steel plants, and the mining sector.

Nurses Protest in Tabriz and Boycott Nurses' Day Celebrations in Urmia

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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!