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Getting involved

Your role in developing solidarity work with the struggles of the Iranian working class is crucial. Whether it is through giving a brief talk at your branch meeting, passing a resolution (check our website for the latest version), organising a collection (check our site for fundraising details), or action that involves bigger numbers like petitions, pickets or public meetings, increasing the pressure on the Iranian regime will limit its scope for repression and boost morale within the labour movement inside Iran.

Twenty-five or even twenty years ago calls for solidarity action were sometimes met by questions about whether the regime was at all bothered about the concerns of the international labour movement or even public opinion in the west.

Now, however, given the general perspective that the Iranian regime will re-establish and normalise diplomatic relations with the United States during Barack Obama's presidency, and that links with the European Union and international organisations will continue to improve, activities of the international labour movement in solidarity with the struggles of the Iranian working class are bound to have more of an effect on the behaviour of the Iranian regime.

The regime's expected diplomatic rapprochement with the US will make the role of the labour movement in other countries, particularly Europe and the Americas, even more important than before.

In addition, given the worsening economic and political crisis of the regime, the inevitable increase in strikes and protests is going to

have a major effect on the stability of the regime. These disputes will provoke more attempts at repression, leading to the further erosion and demoralisation of the regime's social base and finally fragmentation of the repressive apparatus itself.

Once the petro-dollars become scarcer and the instruments of repression less effective, and when even the most devout people will not be prepared to defend the regime on the streets, then a radical mass movement involving millions of workers will take shape. At that time the calls for “general anti-capitalist united action”, taking over production and workers’ control will become the demands of the whole movement.

This perspective will give our future activities more scope and weight in helping the labour activists in Iran than our pickets in support of the Saghez Seven and the ‘Iranian Workers Are Not Alone’ campaign.

The main reason we have published this handbook is to make the Iranian workers’ movement more accessible and familiar to all those who want to defend it. We hope that it will enable you give a brief introduction to this issue to your workmates and comrades.

Help Iranian Workers’ Solidarity Network in its activities aimed at defending the struggles of workers for basic rights like the right to strike, the right to form a trade union and getting paid for their work. Raise the issue of Iranian workers’ struggles and affiliation to IWSN in your trade union branch, CLP or organisation.

In a world that is in the midst of a global crisis the victories of the Iranian workers are bound to help the struggles of workers in other countries.

Iranian workers are not alone!

Long live international workers’ solidarity!