



## THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES REMAIN UNSOLVED

During the last week, Europe has been the arena for meetings, sessions and dialogs between the leaders of Super powers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

George Bush, President of USA, on his political journey to Europe, attended the periodical meeting of the European Union's heads of state and met separately with the leaders of the most powerful European countries.



He attempted to improve relations between US and Europe that have been darkened due to the military invasion of Iraq.

Bush attempted to make new agreements on the issues that

have been hotly disputed between the US and Europe.

To the extent that is reflected in the press, it seems these negotiations have considered a wide variety of world issues and also the disputed issues.

The main issues dealt with at meetings, negotiations and disagreements are not disclosed as usual. Press conferences and faked smiles of rivals in front of press cameras could not reveal the issues behind the screens.

... 3

## IS IT TRUE THAT USA IS PREPARING ANOTHER IRAQ?

Murder of Hariri, in an amazing way influenced the events in the region. This event, the political situation in Lebanon and Syria and the future of governments ruling these countries, became the center of attention in the media all over the world. The event also weakened the position of the Ba'ath regime of Syria and its president Bashar Asad who inherited the presidency from his father Hafez Asad. In comparison to different events that happen around the world daily, the murder of Hariri was not really a great incident that caused the glitch we observed in the region.

The event caused such a reflection and result. Only due to the current political situation and other related facts in the region after the invasion of Iraq.

Hariri, a Lebanese capitalist, was for a long time citizen of Saudi Arabia and had a close relationship with them. He acted for a time as Lebanon's Prime Minister until September last year. Due to the conflicts and deepening of crises being faced by the regime which was partly influenced by political crises in the region, he resigned and refused to make a new cabinet.

The tendency that Hariri was representing was mainly in favour of US policy concerning the departure of Syrian forces from Lebanon and "liberalisation" of the country's political and economical structure. Omar Karami and his new cabinet came to power

...2

Volume 11

Issue 38

April 2005

In this issue

**News from Iran**

(..5)

**Leaflets of the month of March**

(..6)

**Is it true ....**

when this tendency intensified under the pressure from USA in issuing resolution 1559 demanding immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, supported by USA and France and allowed by the UN Security Council.

The tendency was strengthened by US and France's support and after some months resulted in a potentially powerful opposition. The opposition got the opportunity then to present its demands. By murdering Hariri, the lucky bird set on the shoulder of the opposition and its supporters.

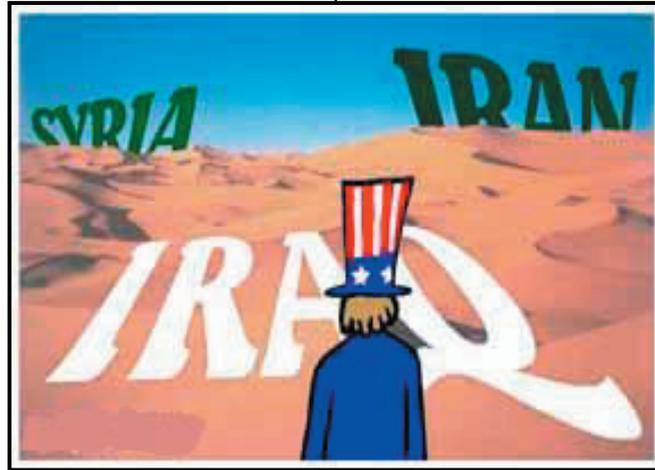
The funeral ceremony was an occasion for the opposition to announce its demands widely. After demonstrations and street meetings in the following days and announcement of disgrace in respect of the Syrian government, such circumstances caused the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and immediate resignation of the Lebanese government due to the demand from the opposition.

USA and France always wanted the withdrawal of Syrian forces and disarming of Hezbollah.

They stressed the need to act upon the resolution, putting pressure on Syria to stop supporting the Hezbollah.

But these are not all the facts and the whole truth.

In the years between 1975 and 1990, Lebanon was



Germany, Saudi Arabia and Qatar joined this camp. Israel's Foreign Minister demanded replacement of Syrian army with international forces in Lebanon.

The suspicion about murder of Hariri, all over, pointed at Syria.

This along with wide spread propaganda against Syria caused a huge pressure on the Syrian government and its head Bashar Asad. It caused confusion for the Syrian leadership. The issues, "Velvet revolution", "Orange revolution" and the model of development in Ukraine and Georgia were not formed fully yet in the minds of the analytical journalists when Omar Karami resigned and his cabinet failed.

a field for civil war and invasion of Israeli army. In 1982, Israel occupied the southern part of Lebanon.

The Syrian Army on the other hand, had the experience of losing Golan Heights in 1967 and therefore entered Lebanon in 1976.

They played an important role in supporting anti-Israeli groups involved in the Civil war and fighting against Israel. In 1989, in city of Taef located in Saudi Arabia, there was a conference which resulted in the "Taef Agreement".

According to the agreement, Israel should withdraw its forces from Southern part of Lebanon. The withdrawal which started in 1985 lasted to year 2000. According to the agreement,

Syrian forces too were to move their troops to Beka Valley and for a total withdrawal should negotiate with the Lebanese government. On 18<sup>th</sup> January, at an urgent meeting between Bashar Asad and Amil Lahoud, the president of Lebanon, they made an agreement for the immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces to the Beka Valley; but there was no negotiation on the final date for the total withdrawal, at least there is no mentioned of it anywhere.

George Bush, on the other hand, was not satisfied with partially agreed withdrawal and along with stressing upon disarming the Hezbollah forces, demanded an immediate and total withdrawal of the Syrian army and intelligent forces from Lebanon by the end of March this year.

While Syrian and Lebanese governments were confused about the outcomes, tens of groups supporting Syria arranged a broad demonstration on 19<sup>th</sup> January in Beirut in favour of Syria.

In that unique demonstration, it was Hezbollah that took the initiative to organise it.

It is said that one million and six hundred thousand participated

## The most ....

The ruling principle of relations among capitalist governments and their foreign policies is the principle of secrecy. Capitalist governments, whose aims, intentions and policies have always been against the interests of working masses, conduct all negotiations and discussions behind closed doors and away from the public eye. What they reveal in resolutions and press conferences is not the same as what really is agreed upon.

Working masses are not informed of agreements, negotiations and the main issues are always covered up.

Thus what is discussed at these types of meetings is not the whole truth. There are many small issues that are enlarged by the press, such as nuclear issue in Iran or Korea, disagreement on military boycott of China, environmental issues and even the particular issue of Iraq.

These issues are not the main points of discussions and decisions made at the world super powers' meetings.

Small issues such as above are determined by policies which are made at ministerial level

and diplomatic organs. Main issues considered at imperialist leaders meetings are: major world and regional policies and the role and share of each rival power in the world market.

Thus, apart from what is agreed upon concerning a particular issue at their meetings

or what is disagreed, the main issue discussed is the role, share and policy of each imperialist power in the market.

As the European powers have stated before, they consider all the agreements that were made during the Cold War, by which they were compelled to accept the leadership of USA over the Imperialist Camp in order to create equilibrium, is no longer relevant.

According to Europe's leaders, after collapse of the Eastern Block and strengthening of European Block day after day in the fields of politics, economy and military, there is a new international equilibrium and USA should therefore determine its new policy accordingly. In other words, USA should

negotiate with Europe as an equal partner.

US imperialism tried to compel France and Russia withdraw from the Iraqi market by invading Iraq.

In order to achieve greater power than before, USA has tried to establish a strategy of monopoly over all markets in the Middle



East, the so called "Greater Middle East".

But instead, USA's weaknesses are proven in Iraq and this has made the position of European powers much stronger in their conflicts with USA.

The conflict in Iraq in particular and Middle East in general, has a pivotal importance concerning economy and, at present, political issues for the European and American powers. The disagreement among the superpowers is much deeper than that.

Disagreements of European powers about invasion of Iraq, the conflict about how to solve the problem between Arabs and Israel- specially now Lebanon and Syria, NATO crises and establishment of a

parallel European military power and changes in political structure of United Nations, in order to weaken USA's position and strengthen Europe's position, are all reflections of this reality. Even when they say the rival superpowers have a common aim on a particular issue such as preventing Islamic regime in Iran getting nuclear weapons, their methods differ from one another.

The difference is due to policies conducted by the two rival imperialist groups which weaken the position of one and strengthen the other, both politically and economically.

Thus the conflicts and disagreements between USA and Europe cannot be solved simply at meetings of the leaders of these superpowers. The recent meeting of Bush with leaders of European countries can be analysed in that way and therefore cannot lead to a solution.

This is the reason why the USA's president went to Europe receiving so much attention from the world press and returned quietly to USA without any agreement on the most important issues at conflict.

### Is it true ....

in the demonstration. They propounded slogans against USA, Israel and foreigner's involvement in the internal affairs of the country. Sayed Hassan Nasroulah, Chairman of Hezbollah, declared the UN resolution as an invalid document and reclaimed Hezbollah would not lay down its weapons; and suggested establishing a "National Unity" Cabinet as the only solution for survival of Lebanon through the present crises.

It seems that the number of participants is an exaggeration but it is a fact the number was much higher than the number which the opposition could master. Through the action taken by Hezbollah, which was underlined by support from the Islamic regime of Iran, the Syrian and Lebanese governments could take a breath. Tashrin, official newspaper of the Syrian regime, considered Hezbollah's demonstration as a form of "referendum". Omar Karami, the resigned Prime Minister of Lebanon, who stepped aside under pressure from the opposition, once again took charge of building a new cabinet.

Even though, USA and France are stressing

upon total withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon, the wide presence of Lebanese Hezbollah, has caused some worries among the supporters of disarming the Hezbollah due to the vacuum it creates



and the circumstances. For instance, Kofi Annan is talking about counting Hezbollah in political calculations in Lebanon. The coming events, very soon, will show how much USA wants and is able to be involved in these matters or continuing to stress its demands. At present, Syria has withdrawn some of its forces from Lebanon and on 13<sup>th</sup> March, Rond Larsson, the UN representative arrived in Lebanon in order to evaluate the possibility of executing the UN resolution. According to BBC, Bashar Asad, in a meeting with the UN representative agreed upon a total withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Syria has no other way than accepting

the Security Council's resolution. Such an acceptance, first of all, will influence the position of Hezbollah. By announcing the resolution as invalid to Hezbollah, there will be a new era of

tensions in Lebanon and it has already started. Intensification of political pressure or even attacking Hezbollah's camps in Lebanon can be one of the solutions for US Imperialism. It should be considered that at present the ally of USA, the Israelis are in the country and they can take on some tasks that the US army would.

But in a way, it does not seem possible for USA to like any involvement in order to make Lebanon and Syria a new Iraq and Afghanistan, though its tasks in those countries are not yet over. What seems possible is, the USA as Kofi Annan said, would be considering Hezbollah in its calculations in Lebanon's affairs and

political directions in favor of USA's own interests. As they did with Iraqi Shias.

Any way, two points are clear. First, developments in "peace" negotiations between Israel and Palestine, specially the flexibility shown by Hamas in its policy and even preparing itself for participating in the Palestine Parliamentary Election, isolating Syria and Lebanon's Hezbollah and they will not have any other way than withdrawing and leaving some points to the rivals.

Second, which was obvious even before, is that the aims of USA are further than just invading Iraq and taking over the oil sources. From the very first day, it was so clear that USA does not want to limit itself to Iraq and Afghanistan but would attempt to get more of the regional market and take the full control over it. George Bush or any other representative of US Imperialism is ready to use any means and excuse to achieve their goal. US Imperialism is an armed rubber whose life is dependant on slaughter, corruption and assaults. According to its nature of being imperialist, USA does not hesitate to make one or more Iraqs.



## Workers Strike at Kanaf Kar

250 Workers at Rasht based Kanaf Kar went on strike On January 1<sup>st</sup>. Strikers demanded payment of delayed wages. Kanaf Kar has recently been privatized and wages haven't been paid afterwards. Workers demanded their wages and benefits again.

## People of Kamal Shahr Blocked the Main Road

People of city of Kamal Shahr were discontent with their unanswered demands and they blocked city's main road for 3 hours on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. People in this city are deprived of all urban necessities like gas, sport facilities and maintenance of roads and buildings. MPs from the Karaj province had promised to be there and answer demonstrators' questions. But no MPs showed up at all.

## Workers demonstrate at Yazd

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, more than 80 municipal workers at City of Yazd picketed in front of city hall demanding payment of 2 months delayed wages and bargaining. These workers have been employed by a sub-contractor and wages couldn't be paid because of some problems with municipal authorities.

The action lasted 3 hours and workers were promised payment of wages, 300 workers to bargain first and later the remaining 400.

## Wages Are Not Paid

- Under the pretence of management being changed and economical problems, workers of Moghan Kesht va Sanat have not been paid for the last 4 months.

- After workers of Zarsab plant in city of Saveh complained to Labor authorities regarding payment of 4 months delayed wages and courts decision to pay the wages, there is no sign of wages being paid. Factory owners have threatened workers with dismissal and demanded that workers have to certify they have received their wages.

## Workers of Khoram Safe Boxes Protest

On Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, the workers of Khoram held a protest gathering in front of Majles (Parliament). They demanded retroactive payments of salary and other subsidiaries. The employer has not paid any thing to the workers for the last four months and has decided to dismiss them and therefore has shut down the factory.

## Workers of Pars Mino Strike

On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, workers of Pars Mino organized a strike in protest against the anti-worker policy adopted by the employer and for higher wages and other subsidiaries. The employer not only rejected the demand for higher wages but also has cut subsidiaries, the excuse being the execution of the new law: Reconstruction and Rebuilding of Industry.

In the past, in addition to non-cash subsidiaries, it paid an annual payment of 70,000 Tomans for Health and Dental Care and 250,000 Tomans as annual profit sharing. The employer has not paid any of those sums for 3 years and announced there will be no payment for the next 5 years. The employer used to also pay a sum for the experience years of retired workers, 2, 3 and 5 months wages for each year. The employer has stated it would only pay equivalent of one month's wages for each year. Workers have tried to negotiate for the past 3 months with the employer but the employer has rejected all proposals. Therefore the workers commenced strike action after a few days. There is no news about the out-come of the strike.

## Workers of Sina Company Protest Rally

On 21<sup>st</sup> January, the workers of Sina Company in the city of Saveh, gathered in front of Labour House and demanded their rights. The company shut down in the middle of last year and the employed workers were dismissed without any rights and payments. Since then, the workers rapidly protested to different offices and responsible bodies. Finally, 3 months ago, the employer accepted to pay for experience years and arrange unemployment insurance. The workers since then have not received any payment yet.

## Protest gathering of workers of Pooshesh (clothing) Industry

The workers of Pooshesh Industry in Ghilan province, gathered at the factory yard in protest to non payment of

their wages on 25<sup>th</sup> January. These workers have not received any payment during the last 3 months. Other production units in the province have the same problem. In Iran Bark, Kenf Kar, Mokhtar, Parsan, Iran Pars and other factories, workers have not received any payment during the last 3- 15 months.

## 40,000 workers with wages up to 70,000 Tomans (70 Euros) a month

Even though the minimum wage for workers has been set at 106,000 Tomans ( 106 Euros), four thousands of contracted workers of Abadan Oil are paid only 70,000 Tomans in wage. These workers are employees of contracted companies. Contractors do not even care about the regime's Labor Law and pay less. In addition, the workers have no access to Social Security Insurance.

Abadan Oil Company, in order to extract more profit and bear fewer costs, has given contracts to these companies and therefore the workers have no rights. If they protest, they would be dismissed.

## Dismissals and unemployment

- Workers of Shiroye Company located in city of Ghom, have been dismissed for more than one year and no one has yet given them any response about their future. The company burned down last year. The employer opened a new company called Barzin Motor, employed only 80 of the workers and dismissed the rest.

## News from Iran ....

- There is a risk of Gham Shoe becoming bankrupt and therefore 200 workers could be made unemployed. The workers want work guarantee and demand the company continue production, but the executive director has declared the company bankrupt.

### Brief News from Iran

- Management at Permit Plant has stopped one of the productions lines due to economic problems.

Eighty workers will lose their jobs due to stoppage.

- Workers in province of Kurdistan would be facing dismissal and uncertainty once again. This time workers of Shin Baft plant would have to say farewell to 75 co-workers and 75 workers at Gaveshan Dam have also lost their jobs.

## Organisation of Fedaian (Minority) issued the following leaflets during March 2005

- In support of the protest rallies of workers of Bahman, Naghsh Baf and Pars Iran factories demanding a stop to dismissals, payment of delayed salaries and benefits.
- In support of Sangrood Coal Miners of state of Gillun march demanding payment of delayed salaries and benefits to miners. The miners had staged the march in protest to the employers lack of response to their demands and threatened a march to Tehran should their demands not be met. The leaflet also supported the second protest rally of workers of Bahman Plastics in front of the Labour ministry. The Organisation demanded immediate measures to improve working and living conditions of miners and payment of delayed salaries and benefits of Iranian workers.
- Addressing the disaster stricken people of Zarand town which was devastated once again with an earth quake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale that killed hundreds and injured thousands. The Organisation expressed its deepest sympathy to the people and considered the reactionary Islamic republic regime responsible for the death of thousands and destruction that follows every earth quake.
- A Spring and New Year (Norooz) message to the toiling and oppressed people of Iran asking for intensification of struggle to overthrow the reactionary Islamic republic and establish a Soviet State.
- Greeting women's struggle for abolition of sex discrimination, inequality and sexual oppression on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, the International Women's Day and wishing victory for women. While greeting the oppressed women workers and toilers, the leaflet also greeted all the fighters that are struggling for the realisation of social and political equality of women and men.

## Our @ddresses

**M . A . M**  
**Postbox 1144**  
**75141 Uppsala**  
**Sweden**

**I . S . F**  
**P . B . 398**  
**1500 Copenhagen V**  
**Denmark**

**KZ**  
**P.O.Box 2488**  
**Vancouver B.C**  
**V6B 3W7**  
**Canada**

**Sepehry**  
**Postlagernd**  
**3052 Zollikofen**  
**Switzerland**

**A . A . A**  
**MBE 265**  
**23 , rue lecourbe**  
**75015 Paris**  
**France**

**K . A . R**  
**Postfach 160531**  
**60068 Frankfurt**  
**Germany**

**Fax :**  
**(+44 - 84 52 80 21 99**  
**(+44 - 87 01 68 82 71**  
**(+44 - 87 01 38 25 72**

**Homepage :**  
**[www.fedaian-minority.org](http://www.fedaian-minority.org)**

**E-mail :**  
**[info@fedaian-minority.org](mailto:info@fedaian-minority.org)**