



How Iran will survive new 'draconian sanctions'

Sara Flounders discusses how Iran will survive the latest round of what the White House calls "draconian sanctions" that promise to be the most extreme strangulation ever imposed. Read online at workers.org/?p=94414



Iranian trade has alternate routes through the countries shown on its borders, through its ports on the Sea of Oman and to Russia via the Caspian Sea.

Response to Guardian letter on Iran

Which side are you on?

In Workers World's opinion, the task of progressive activists and organizations, especially those in the imperialist countries, is to promote, in both theory and in practice, united strategies to weaken and defeat imperialism. ... (See editorial, page 3)



WW PHOTO: JEN KANTER

New York City protest, Feb. 28, 2026

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oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
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No social problems can be solved under
capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the
world, yet no one has a guaranteed right
to shelter, food, water, health care, edu-
cation or anything else — unless they can
pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth
are saddled with seemingly insurmount-
able student debt, if they even make it
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by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks
to wipe out decades of gains and benefits
won by hard-fought struggles by people's
movements. The super-rich and their
political representatives have intensified
their attacks on the multinational, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

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Response to Guardian letter on Iran

Which side are you on?

In Workers World's opinion, the task of progressive activists and organizations, especially those in the imperialist countries, is to promote, in both theory and in practice, united strategies to weaken and defeat imperialism. The enemy is the ruling class of the U.S. or the other imperialist countries in the Global North. That task should exclude positions hostile to any country fighting for its very life and independence from foreign imperialist domination.

We state this opinion, because a British publication, The Guardian, posted an open letter on Aug. 20 entitled, "To Iran's political prisoners, trapped 'between two blades of a scissors.'" The first subhead under the title states, "On one side, you face the domination of the Islamic Republic; on the other, the imperialist forces that republic claims to stand against."

In this editorial, we express in the strongest terms why Workers World newspaper and the organization it represents, Workers World Party, condemn and refuse to sign this open letter and also urge other forces who consider themselves anti-imperialist not to add their names.

We are already witnessing that some who signed the open letter are now publicly rescinding their signatures — a good sign. This letter is misusing the issue of justice for "political prisoners" in an attempt to undermine the Iranian government when that government is in a life-and-death struggle to push back imperialist aggression, plain and simple.

First of all, let's be clear about the role of The Guardian. Its editors claim to represent "independent" journalism. And The Guardian does sometimes take mildly progressive stances on certain issues. But it is still part of the corporate media that comes down on the side of imperialism on major questions of war and peace.

These occasional progressive stances can cause confusion in understanding who are our real allies and who are our real enemies in the class struggle against imperialism. This is especially true where a war is concerned, like the one that the U.S. and Israel have been carrying out against Iran

since Feb. 28. Imperialism is imperialism, whether carried out with a soft line or a hard line.

This open letter accuses the Iranian government of using the U.S.-Israeli war to hold on to power and at the same time charges it with repressing political prisoners (or dissension) in Iran. The letter even has the audacity to compare these prisoners historically to U.S. Black political prisoners at the time of the early 1970s known as Black August, a period in U.S. history sparked by the plight and righteous resistance of Black incarcerated revolutionaries like George Jackson demanding national liberation.

We point out here that imperialist forces have never supported or defended U.S. political prisoners. Never!

Which side are you on?

When it comes to an imperialist war imposed on a country that has in the past century been a virtual possession of the British Empire and then a client state of U.S. imperialism, the most important question to answer is: Which side are you on?

From the beginning of the 20th century until 1951, Iran's rich oil reserves were controlled by the then Anglo-Iranian Oil company (now British Petroleum or BP). This meant big profits for the British oil barons but extreme poverty and repression among the Iranian masses.

Once Mohammad Mosaddegh was democratically elected as Iran's first prime minister in 1951, for the next two years his government sought to nationalize the country's resources to help uplift the living standards of the people. However, a CIA-British-led, right-wing coup violently overturned the Mossaddegh government and installed the monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as Shah of Iran in 1953.

Twenty-six years later, the Iranian Revolution in 1979, led by Islamic forces, overturned the brutal rule of Shah Pahlavi, a willing puppet of U.S. imperialism.

For the next 47 years, the U.S. has used war-like measures, especially sanctions, in an effort to overturn the Iranian government and replace it with an accommodating

pro-imperialist government, which would do the bidding of the corporate interests of the billionaire ruling class in the U.S. and their junior partners in Iran.

Despite the damaging U.S.-imposed economic sanctions, despite the assassinations of its leaders like Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei and despite the military targeting of Iran's infrastructure, including its nuclear energy program, Iran is winning the war against the U.S. and the Zionist State of Israel. This Iranian resistance is a huge setback for an already declining imperialist system.

The Iranian masses have come out in the streets in the millions since Feb. 28 to defend their leaders, who represent their sovereignty and independence. The Iranian people understand who their rightful enemies are — U.S. imperialism and its allies.

And frankly, the antiwar movements located in the Global North, especially inside the U.S., should take a lesson from the Iranian people. And that lesson is to prioritize which side you are on when imperialism is the main culprit. Pro-imperialist publications like The Guardian should not be allowed to dictate or sidetrack the independent perspective of any left organization and movement.

Countries in the Global South have suffered materially and historically from all forms of inequality within their societies caused by economic underdevelopment due to capitalist oppression. There is no better way to show solidarity with their people than to take their side in their heroic and righteous battle against imperialism. □

MUNDO OBRERO
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Beneficios, catástrofes climáticas y la guerra contra Irán

Una vez más, el presidente n.º 47 puso de manifiesto su absoluto desprecio por la población estadounidense al señalar, durante un mitin celebrado en Garden City (Nueva York) el 15 de agosto, que pagar «un poquito más por la gasolina» merece la pena para garantizar que «un país muy malvado» no pueda disponer de un arma nuclear, uno de los argumentos que esgrimió para justificar la guerra [contra Irán]. (Huffington Post, 15 de agosto)

Y, con su típico estilo intimidatorio, prosiguió diciendo: «Cuando hayamos acabado de derrotar a Irán... muy pronto declararé el estrecho de Ormuz territorio de los Estados Unidos».

La guerra contra Irán comenzó el 28 de febrero, cuando Estados Unidos e Israel asesinaron al querido líder iraní, el ayatolá Ali Hosseini Jamenei, junto con miembros de su familia, y masacraron al menos a 168 escolares iraníes.

En respuesta a este ataque terrorista, Irán bloqueó, con toda razón, el estrecho de Ormuz, en el golfo Pérsico. Una quinta parte del petróleo y el gas del mundo pasa por dicho estrecho. Antes de esta guerra no provocada, más de 130 buques utilizaban a diario esta vía navegable vital. A fecha de 15 de agosto, según se informa, solo se permitió el paso por el estrecho a dos buques.

Como consecuencia de la guerra, se estima que los precios de la energía se han disparado un 29 % desde el 28 de febrero. El precio medio de la gasolina en las gasolineras, a fecha de 16 de agosto, es de 4,09 dólares. Que el n.º 47 afirme que llevar a cabo esta guerra ilegal merece la pena a cambio de pagar precios más altos por la gasolina pone de manifiesto, una vez más, su total desprecio por el sufrimiento y el sacrificio que los trabajadores —incluidos aquellos que votaron por él— se ven obligados a soportar.

Y por si esta muestra de arrogancia no fuera suficiente, ocho de los mayores conglomerados petroleros del mundo —Aramco, BP, Shell, Equinor, TotalEnergies, Eni, Chevron y ExxonMobil— obtuvieron unos beneficios conjuntos de 93.000 millones de dólares en tan solo tres meses, desde abril hasta finales de junio, gracias a la guerra. Esta cifra casi duplica los beneficios obtenidos por estas empresas en el mismo periodo de 2025.

El n.º 47 ha criticado públicamente a estas empresas multimillonarias por la especulación con los precios y, por lo tanto, les ha exigido que los reduzcan. Pero sus bravuconadas no son más que una fachada. Como él mismo es un directivo empresarial, sabe mejor que nadie cómo funcionan estas corporaciones.

También se ha informado de que estas mismas ocho empresas se encuentran entre otras corporaciones impulsadas por los combustibles fósiles que están provocando un enorme aumento de las emisiones de carbono, las cuales están causando estragos en el medio ambiente. Las emisiones de carbono están provocando desastres climáticos continuos, como los devastadores incendios que asolan toda Europa. Estos desastres han causado miles de muertes y han provocado una destrucción económica a lo largo de la última década.

Pero esto no debería sorprender a nadie, especialmente a los

activistas revolucionarios que comprenden los fundamentos del capitalismo. Durante las protestas masivas contra la guerra de Vietnam en la década de 1970, un eslogan popular era «Las grandes empresas se enriquecen, los soldados mueren». Este eslogan era un llamamiento a las tropas de clase trabajadora para que se negaran a luchar en una guerra imperialista contra el pueblo vietnamita, en la que no tenían ningún interés. El eslogan también ponía de manifiesto cómo las empresas obtienen lucrativos beneficios a costa de millones de vidas, si se incluye al pueblo vietnamita que fue masacrado.

Este lema podría ampliarse hoy para decir: «Las empresas petroleras se enriquecen mientras el mundo entero sufre».

Esta realidad no ha cambiado décadas después. La propia existencia de las empresas capitalistas depende de que obtengan beneficios, independientemente de cuánto sufran las personas y el medio ambiente. Bajo el capitalismo, todas las formas de vida son prescindibles, ya sea en el Sur Global o en el Norte Global.

Por eso, la gran mayoría de la población debería tomar mayor conciencia de que forma parte de la clase trabajadora mundial. Deben unirse entre sí para ayudar a derrotar un sistema global de explotación, saqueo y guerra imperialista. El n.º 47 no es más que una pequeña parte de un problema global que solo la revolución socialista puede resolver. □



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