

Iranians arrested at consulate

Editor's note: The following commentary begins with portions of a statement released by the Iranian Students' Association supporting the 41 Iranian students recently arrested in San Francisco while protesting political repression by the Iranian government. The following ISA statement is a resolution passed by the Eugene People's Workshop Against U.S. Imperialism.

On June 26, 1970, 41 Iranian students from Northern California went to the Iranian Consulate in San Francisco to protest recent political arrest and to present a list of demands to the consulate.

Four months previously there had been a bus strike in Iran in which some ten thousand riders protested the fare-hike ordered by the government. Over 2,000 people had been arrested.

No Names

At the time of the consulate protest, there was no news of the names or the alleged "crimes" of at least 200 of these people who were still held in jail. Besides these prisoners, the Shah's dictatorial regime had arrested and imprisoned thousands of intellectuals and other people because they opposed the government's policies.

In June of 1970 there were over 20,000 political prisoners in the Shah's prisons. These opponents of the Shah were subjected to physical and mental torture by Savak (Shah's secret police).

Considering the political situation in Iran, it was not surprising that the Iranian students here protested the arrival in San Francisco of the Shah's sister, Princess Ashraf. At that time Ashraf was the head of the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission and was attending the 25th anniversary of the founding of the U.N.

Ironically, not a trace of respect for human rights can be found in Iran. The Shah has consistently denied the most basic democratic rights to the Iranian people. Freedom of speech, press, and assembly are nonexistent. Stating one's political views if they are critical of the government is forbidden; the "offenders" are subjected to severe torture and many are sentenced to death.

Requested meeting

To protest the unlawful arrests and inhumane treatment of political prisoners, the 41 students went to the Iranian Consulate. They demanded not only the release of the names of the political prisoners, but a press conference with Ashraf during which they could voice their grievances. The 41 invited members of the press to accompany them. When they entered the consulate, the students requested a meeting with Parviz Adle, the Consul General.

Instead of discussing the issues with the students, the Consul General ordered the San Francisco police to arrest them. The 41 were roughed up by the police, arrested and jailed on several phoney charges.

All of the charges except a misdemeanor were later dropped and the 41 were sentenced to 35 days in jail and fined. All of them served the sentence and have paid the fines.

Refused passports

For over 2½ years now the consulate has refused with absolutely no legal basis to renew the passports of the 41. The reason the consulate gives privately is "orders from the Iranian Government..."

The opposition of Iranian students to the policies of the Shah's dictatorial rule has resulted in similar acts of repression by the Iranian regime. In addition to

harassing the families of the students in Iran, cutting the student's funds, threatening and beating them, a favorite tactic of the regime has been the illegal refusal to renew passports.

For example, in 1965, the Iranian Embassy in Austria refused to extend the passports of some 35 Iranian students there. This also has occurred in Italy, Germany, and France where the C.I.S. has organized successful campaigns to defend Iranian students. It is clear that the refusal of the Iranian government to renew the passports is illegal and that our demand for passport renewal is quite just. It is only with the vast support of public opinion that we can isolate the regime and expose the Shah's repressive tactics.

Public pressure

The pressure of public opinion can force the consulate to renew the 41's passports and restore their legal and democratic rights. We hope to organize professors, lawyers, and all concerned individuals and organizations into committees to work effectively toward this goal.

We urge everyone to call the Iranian Consulate or to send telegrams asking why the 41's passports have not been renewed. Letters to the editors of local papers is another effective means of publicizing the illegality and injustice of the repressive measures taken by the Iranian regime.

The pressure of public opinion is the most effective means of exposing the Iranian government and securing the renewal of the 41's passports.

To: Iranian Consulate General, San Francisco, California

Subject: Concerning the 41 Iranian students under threat of illegal deportation to Iran.

We, the participants of the People's Workshop Against U. S. Imperialism, condemn the actions of the Iranian and the U. S. Governments for suppressing the just rights of the Iranian students and peoples to legally and lawfully protest the repressive actions of the Iranian Government by:

- 1) Having the 41 Iranian students illegally arrested and imprisoned for one month.
- 2) Conspiring with U. S. immigration officials to discontinue the extension of the 41 Iranian students' visas.
- 3) Revoking the 41 Iranian students' passports as a precondition for deportation and possible execution in Iran because the Shah's regime accepts no opposition.

We demand that:

- 1) the Iranian Government (Consulate General) return the extended passports to the 41 Iranian students immediately.
- 2) the U.S. Government validate these students' visas.
- 3) the U. S. Government stop all these acts of repression against Iranian students and all other Third World patriots who exercise their rights to speak the truth.
- 4) the present Iranian Government stop all barbaric acts of torture and execution against Iranian people and patriots.

We fully support the just struggle of the Confederation of Iranian Students (N.U.) in presenting to the people of the world the truth of the Iranian situation.

People's Workshop
against U. S. Imperialism
Eugene, Oregon
343-8387

Letters

Becoming a tyrant

I had several reactions after reading Professor Rousseve's commentary in the Emerald of Feb. 19. First of all, I am always pleased when I hear somebody advocating society producing for need rather than for profit, and certainly Rousseve is no exception here. But what did bother me was the attitude of benevolence that ran through the article. This type of "enlightened" thinking is so common among many who call themselves "social democrats," and it is a line of thinking that I feel does more harm than good.

Condescension among those that profess socialism can only lead to disaster. Whenever an intellectual takes the attitude that he is essentially superior to those that he is attempting to "save," he becomes a tyrant. Even when he takes that attitude that he can actually "save" anyone, he becomes a tyrant.

There is no such thing as a "benevolent" or "enlightened" government that stays that way very long, it rapidly deteriorates to a bureaucracy that serves merely to protect those that hold the real power in society.

The true problem of our society is that it is controlled by a system that refuses to allow the overwhelming majority of people to gain control over their own lives.

It is for the elimination of this state of affairs that socialism should be directed. No one can be "given" this control by another, it must be fought and worked for by all involved.

I am astonished that a socialist with a Ph.D. like Rousseve would attribute socio-economic status to "genes" and "luck." He might as well attribute it to spots on the sun. This type of position denies that economic standing is determined by the deliberate workings of an economic system, a system that might very well see Rousseve at the "bottom of the economic hierarchy" if there is suddenly a drastic decrease in demand for Professors of education. Rousseve can be a victim as much as anyone else.

The attitude of socialism should be toward changing people's lives, not changing people. The effort should be to have people gain control of their lives through co-operation and solidarity, not to make them merely pawns of public policy. This of course is not easy to do, nobody said that it was, but I believe it should be worked for.

I sympathize with Professor Rousseve's intent, but I personally feel he has missed the boat. I have always been skeptical of "social democracy," and his article has maintained my skepticism.

Dean Nolan

KWAX II

I was disappointed in your article covering the conflicts in the Division of Broadcast Services at the University; also in your phenomenal ability to delay and misplace letters written to the editor. The article which appeared on Feb. 7 never mentioned KWAX II, except as a nebulous entity which might broadcast programs from city hall, which sounds even more boring than the daytime programming. Who would stay up from midnight to two to listen to that?

In actuality, KWAX II has some innovative programming and a lot of creative energy, and gives access to air time to anyone with something to say or play that would be of interest to the community.

Monday nights are open to local musicians, poets, and other artists; previous Mondays we've had an interview with several Vietnamese students, a forum on Sylvia Plath, and music that you don't hear anywhere else.

Tuesdays are a fine bluegrass and

country show; Wednesdays are soul music and jazz. Thursdays there's music from Brazil and Africa, and old-time and avant-garde jazz from all over the world. On Fridays there's more time for local contributions in two hours of free form programming.

It's unfortunate that the entrenched bureaucracy in the Division of Broadcast Services refuses to admit that we're doing something worthwhile. If we had some air time during the day, KWAX might have more than the estimated 200 listeners we have now. A little support from the students and community might encourage DBS to open themselves up to the energy which we put into KWAX II not for money or credit or even recognition but for pure enjoyment.

Barbara Laverty

People must speak

It is time for the people of Oregon to rise up in protest at what many feel is the apparent disregard of the needs of children and families in this state by the Department of Human Resources and its Children Services Division. Since last fall I have read of crisis after crisis concerning child care programs funded through the Community Coordinated Child Care operation (4-C's).

Because I am a user of private day care services, my children are not directly involved in this issue. My concern is for the number of Oregon citizens who are trying to maintain and/or upgrade their employment ability but require adequate child care arrangements to do so. They have been living a nightmare due to the confusion and uncertainty of the eligibility requirements and fee schedules imposed by the Department of Human Resources, an office that is supposedly established to help people.

It is my understanding that child care programs must be tightened for lack of public funding, but the manner in which

the Department of Human Resources has gone about this task alarms me. Since January the Children Services Division has:

- 1) Decided a fiscal crisis existed for the day care program and initiated emergency action to implement the proposed changes in eligibility and fee scale by February 15, 1973;
- 2) Modified the proposed changes as a result of public testimony and protest, but allowed the deadlines to remain intact;
- 3) Communicated with the 4-C Councils mainly in the form of unwritten verbal statements which were often incomplete or not timely;
- 4) Implemented a policy of communicating directly with provider agencies instead of through the established 4-C Councils;
- 5) Scheduled only one hearing in the entire state to receive public testimony and input on the latest fee schedule and eligibility requirements.

I have been impressed with the efforts of the Metropolitan 4-C Council to coordinate child care programs and to try to meet the needs of the community on this matter. I have become a volunteer for this 4-C Council because I believed in the sincerity and competence of the Council and in the need for local control of such a program. I am sorry that only one public hearing for the entire state has been scheduled on the subject of the fee schedule and eligibility. It is to be held on February 26th at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

It is my hope that at this hearing and in the future the Department of Human Resources will seek a free exchange of ideas on the child care issue from the 4-C Councils, the provider agencies, parents of day care children and concerned citizens. If government in Oregon is to be truly representative of the people, then the people must speak!

Sincerely,
Deanna Spooner
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Portland, Oregon