

Against the Current

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In this issue:

- [Dual Effect of Imperialism's Policy on the Islamic Republic](#)
 - [Mass Demonstrations, Prelude to a Great Storm](#)
 - [News and Reports](#)
-

Dual Effect of Imperialism's Policy on the Islamic Republic

- Jack Straw's, the English foreign minister, recent trip to Iran and the total of his speeches in that respect and following that the utterances of Colin Powell, the US foreign minister concerning internal events in Iran, once again endorse the carrot and stick policy of the English and US imperialist block in respect of the Islamic republic. This is a policy that at the same time has resulted in a series of retreats from previous positions for the Islamic republic and a series of continuous advances for that imperialist block. If nearly two years ago, the arrival of the English foreign minister in Tehran, after twenty years, was followed by symbolic protests in front of the English embassy in Tehran, this time the reaction to that trip, a few days after Tony Blair mimicking George Bush and saying that "anti regime demonstrations deserve support", did not go any further than limited moaning of several elements such as the editor of Keyhan newspaper and the leader of "combatant clergy" faction in the parliament and such like.

Although the discussions between Jack Straw and the Islamic republic government have not been openly and clearly propounded, as is the way of secret diplomacy, however considering the history of the problem and the policy of US after eleventh of September, also developments and political events in the religion, and finally content of speeches of both sides, we can find the following. In addition to the issue of attracting comprehensive co-operation of the Islamic republic in respect of observing the Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty (Islamic republic is a signatory) and signing its joint protocol (which facilitates the possibility and conditions for unannounced inspections by the International Atomic Agency's inspectors), other issues such as interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq, terrorism, Al Ghaedeh current, religious groups in Palestine, the process of discussions between Israel and Palestine and finally the problem of "human rights", have been among problems discussed and argued over.

Jack Straw, from position of power, demanded the officials of Islamic republic sign the Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty as soon as possible. He said it was the demand of the European Union. He threatened, should the Islamic republic not sign the treaty and act according to the wishes of the English and US imperialist block, it would be denied of commercial agreement with Europe. Islamic republic has made a lot of efforts in the past few years to obtain that. In addition he threatened the case of economic sanctions of the US government and restrictions related to that would more or less remain in force!

In the past, the Islamic republic was able to neutralise US pressures to some extent by going to Europe and Japan, but under current conditions there is no possibility of such manoeuvre. The European position, in spite of its disagreements with US, is co-ordinated with US policy in that respect. Japan, as another commercial partner of the Islamic republic, is cautious too. While Japan is expressing concern about the nuclear programmes of the Islamic republic, it wants the Iranian government to grant permission to the international inspectors to do a complete inspection of Islamic

republics nuclear facilities. In addition to all that, Russia which was closer to the Islamic republic than others, has advised the Islamic republic to sign the joint protocol.

The officials of the Islamic republic immediately retreated in face of threats of the English foreign minister who at the same time is US government's messenger and executor of its policy to a great extent. They at the same time complained and criticised US and English leaders interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic republic and asked that such method is changed.

The problem of terrorism, Al Ghaedeh, non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and problem of Palestine were issues that the Islamic republic had not and would not dare argue. Khatami's and other government officials' only request was that co-operation is "two sided" and "good willed" and "terrorists who have inflicted the greatest damage on the Islamic republic are seriously dealt with". Jack Straw too promised to seriously deal with the Mojahedin and at the same time said "in that respect important measures have been taken in Iraq"!

In any case, the words and reactions of the officials of the Islamic republic were general and many sided, they were waiting to see what concessions the other side would make. However, the following events indicate the efforts of Islamic republic to attract Jack Straw's consent and make other deals with him and imperialist governments.

Immediately following the effective threats of Jack Straw, Colin Powel offered the carrot to the Islamic republic. He said US should not interfere with the internal affairs of Iran and must remember that the Islamic republic was freely elected in Iran. That indicted new secret agreements. Kharrazi, Islamic republic's foreign minister, welcomed Colin Powel's statement and called it "an indication of accepting the reality" and hoped that such acceptance of reality would continue and lead to a change of "American policy" towards the Islamic republic!

The reality is that the Islamic republic has no problem accepting imperialist block's demands and conditions in respect of the problems being discussed in this article. So far it has conceded its previous positions to save itself. In respect of signing the joint protocol treaty banning proliferation of nuclear weapons too it has no choice and will accept it. Although it had until September 2003 to sign the protocol, it has already welcomed the arrival of Al Beradeai (Boss of the International Nuclear Energy) to Iran at the time of writing this article.

Flexibility in foreign policy everywhere has been accompanied with intensive oppression and spread of internal suppression. Khatami, Khamenei and other leaders of the regime called the students and toiling people, who for ten consecutive days demonstrated and marched in majority of Iranian large cities, rioters who must be smashed mercilessly. Fearing the spread and intensification of those protests, it has increased the arrest and imprisonment of students, workers, teachers and other citizens at all levels. Even the supporters of the regime are arrested and jailed for criticism. This does not correspond with the problem of observing "human rights", even within the framework of western and imperialist governments' norms.

Although the problem of "human rights" is one of the arguments between the Islamic republic and western and imperialist governments, it must not be forgotten that

observance or non-observance of human rights is not and has not been a determining factor for those governments. Those governments always have the talent to ignore "human rights" and make deals with the most reactionary regimes that violate human rights in a most brutal way. Whether in future steps, the western and imperialist governments would have gained sufficient economic and political concessions to suffice with the flexes of the Islamic republic to that extent and completely pass by violation of "human rights" and not, use it as an excuse to gain and complete concessions, and whether during the inspection of nuclear energy facilities of the Islamic republic they would create another excuse for the same purpose and pressurize the regime are points that would become clear later.

The issue which is clear from now is US and its main ally England, even other western and imperialist governments, would be widely using the policy of carrot and stick to gain economic and political concessions, spread their influence in Iran and plunder the products of the labour of Iranian workers and toilers. Wherever necessary, on the grounds of branding the Islamic republic a member of "axis of evil", they would pursue the policy of regime change and where necessary they would pursue the policy of changing the regime's behaviour which would mainly be supporting one of the regime's wings. The position adopted by the US foreign minister corresponds to this policy, although other persons in US government apparatus (such as Rumsfeld) follow the policy of regime change.

Islamic republic and its leaders are seriously frightened of the current developments in the region. To the same extent of having adopted a brutal, offensive and hard position against the toiling people of Iran, they have been compelled to take a softly softly and completely defensive approach in the face of those governments. To save their interests and position and continue their regime's disgraceful life, more than ever, they are prepared to make any deals and compromises against the people and their interests. The toiling people that have no other option than relying on their own united force, and independent of those governments that some counter revolutionary forces had hoped on, rise up to destroy the Islamic republic regime and bury it forever. Early morning rays of mass revolution have severely terrified world of reaction and capital and made them run around busily. Mass revolution is the only road to deliverance from the evil of the Islamic republic for the Iranian people and wiping out the existing system.

Mass Demonstrations, Prelude to a Great Storm

In the evening of 10th June 2003, hundreds of students from Tehran University, a university which has always been the most vanguard higher education centre in struggle against oppressive regimes ruling Iran, started a protest march against privatisation of universities from the University residence towards the Worker Street. They were chanting the following slogans: "universities are not private", "students are not for sale", "death to plunderers of the treasury" and "freedom and justice are the slogan of the nation".

In a short time, thousands of people from Tehran joined the demonstrations chanting "students we support you". Car horns were sounded in streets of Tehran as an indication of support for the students' demonstrations.

As the demonstrations were joined by the masses, second to second, the slogans became more radical. From "political prisoners must be freed" slogans were exalted to "death to Khamenhi, Rafsanjani, Khatami and death to Islamic republic".

The oppressive armed forces of the regime, which had blocked the entrances to the Revolution Street to stop the route of demonstrators to the Revolution Street and preventing more people joining the demonstrations, resorted to confrontation with the people. Demonstrators lit fires in the streets, set up barricades and engaged the anti riot forces. People bombarded their vehicles with stones, attacked some government establishments and smashed the windows of several banks.

Demonstrations were spread to other universities and some areas of Tehran by 11th June 2003. In a few days they were spread to Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Babolsar, Kerman, Yazd, Hamedun, Tabriz, and Sannandaj and as far as remotest towns.

During these countrywide mass demonstrations, at least 5 persons were murdered by the regime's mercenaries. Hundreds were sent to hospitals and thousands arrested.

Demonstrations with such a mass, countrywide scale and most radical slogans for the overthrow of the regime have been unprecedented throughout the life time of the Islamic republic.

At the moment, the scale and breadth of these demonstrations are reduced, but all existing evidence indicate those demonstrations are the prelude to higher forms of struggle that would declare the arrival of the storm of revolution. Those demonstrations were a thermometer of the readiness of people for revolution. They showed that the people of Iran, following a period of sporadic battles and experiencing various forms of struggle, have now reached that level of readiness to rise up for a destiny making battle to overthrow of the Islamic republic in a countrywide mass movement. A new phase of growth of movement and revolutionary exaltation has arrived. Political crisis has reached the maximum depth. Mass discontent about existing situation has reached broad and countrywide unprecedented proportions. Economic crisis and in tandem, the policies of the capitalist class and their government have squeezed the masses of toiling people such that they can not in any way secure a minimum cost of living. Political pressures exerted by the regime have also reached an unbearable level. The masses of people are not only discontent with the existing situation but have truly arrived at a moment that they can not live like this and tolerate the situation. Discontent, protest and struggle have reached such a level of growth that the masses of people are prepared for any kind of selflessness and sacrifice to transform the existing situation. The recent demonstrations clearly showed this reality.

The same reality shows that the broad masses of people no longer place any hope in existing situation improving within the framework of the present system. The defeat of the regime's policies, not only the dominant wing's policies but the wing known as "reformist" are now clear and exposed to even the most backward sections of the masses of people. No longer there remains even a drop of illusion about the regime or any wing of it. People's slogans against Khatami, in the recent demonstrations, were the final shot fired at the lifeless body of those claiming to be establishment's reformists.

The totality of this situation and as a result, the contradictions among the ruling group have been intensified. It has reached such a depth that a group, from the ruling group, have practically joined the regime's bourgeois opposition camp. The deepening rift has provided greater facility for eruption of mass anger and discontent.

The international situation too has helped to make the Islamic republic's standing acutely worse. The political situation of Middle East has changed to the loss of the regime.

Big powers of the world, in order to advance their policies in the region and Iran and at the same time, attempt to harness the Iranian people's revolution, have put political pressure on the regime to implement changes they have in mind. American imperialism and European imperialists, despite the having contradictions with one another over the Middle East and particularly Iran, agree on one thing. And that is revolution in Iran, particularly in the conditions that the Middle East region is in crisis and unstable, can upset many of their regional equations. Nevertheless they also know that, not only advancement of their policies in the region would face obstacles with existence of Islamic republic, but at any second there is the possibility of a revolution occurring in Iran. Hence they have intensified political pressures on the regime.

Therefore the American government, at the same time as preparing to manufacture alternatives to harness the revolutionary movement of the masses of Iranian people, is at a stage that the overthrow of the Islamic republic has become a practical reality, at least at the current moment. Therefore it has co-ordinated its policies with the European imperialists, who wish to pressurize the dominant wing of the ruling group to accept some developments from within the regime but without any upheaval. European powers, up to now too have employed maximum effort to advance that policy. They are worried about investments worth billions of Euros and their hefty profits in Iran. They are worried, that continuation of Islamic republic's policies as present would end in such an explosion that they would loose this great market and its profits. Nevertheless the defeat of this policy has been exposed since some time ago. The wing, they support among the ruling group, has not the courage and strength to confront the dominant wing nor the dominant wing, whose position in the current situation is more wobbly than any time before, would surrender quietly and relegate power. Form the view point of the dominant wing that would mean loosing power, their interests and the end of Islamic republic, at least in its current form and appearance. At this juncture some wings of the Iranian bourgeoisie and the international bourgeoisie defend war and military confrontation to overthrow the Islamic republic and confronting the Iranian revolution too. This point of view, at present moment, is not the point of view and policy of none of the world powers. In the conditions that American and European imperialists, are daily sinking deeper in the cesspit of a war of attrition in Afghanistan and Iraq, such a case becomes less probable than any other time. These powers know well that in Iran, they would face problems a thousand times more complicated than Afghanistan and Iraq. They know that in no way they have the strength to confront those problems.

Therefore, despite the efforts of the great powers, only one case would have the possibility of realisation and that is mass confrontation for toppling the existing power. This has no other meaning than a revolution.

Recent demonstrations also exhibited this reality. They endorsed the possibility of that case being realised under conditions that the regime is under pressure and its internal situation has turned acute to the highest degree.

The mass and country wide demonstrations declared the arrival of a new phase in the growth of the movement and exaltation of revolution. Hence it must be considered a prelude to a broad wave of mass economic and political strikes that finally would end in a political general strike. The laws of class and mass struggle and the practical experiences of these struggles during revolutionary periods too, show that in Iran, always after a series of sporadic protests and struggles, the struggle takes a relatively consolidated form in the centre which is Tehran. From there it is transported to the towns and takes a relatively country wide form. When the movement reaches this stage of growth and exaltation, inevitably it must exalt to a higher form of struggle. Because the lack of productivity of this form of struggle on its own gets exposed in practice and the necessities of the movement absorbing greater masses would necessitate a new and higher form of struggle. For the mass movement to broaden in order to appear in new dimension, the most populous class that is the working class must become an inseparable part of the country wide movement and its central nerve system. At present workers are present in the demonstrations as individual elements and some times workers of a factory or several, separately demonstrate; but still they can not be present at the demonstrations as a class and or as a mass current. Workers can not close the factory and establishment they work in every day and demonstrate on the streets. The stage to show their power is the factory and their particular form of struggle is strike. Therefore, exaltation of form of struggle and the country wide movement absorbing greater masses and covering all aspects, would have no other meaning than striking becomes the main form of struggle. Those strikes that in the beginning would be a wave of economic and political strikes or combination of the two, at their peak would result in a political general strike. At this juncture, workers as a class, would be present at demonstrations and combination of these two main forms of struggle, that would be accompanied by a series of peripheral forms of struggle, including local uprisings, armed struggles and confrontations, would facilitate the condition for the general and country wide armed uprising and the overthrow of the regime. The process of change, transformation of forms of struggle and the pace of their exaltation are dependent on objective and subjective factors within the movement; and of course dependent on numerous occurrences and incidents that can influence that. Therefore no more than what it did, should be expected of the recent demonstrations that for ten days covered the whole of Iran. The mass demonstrations did what they had to do and declared the arrival of a new phase in the growth of the movement and revolutionary exaltation.

Student Protests and Street Demonstrations

News and Reports

TEHRAN- From 10th June 2003 students of various universities in Tehran resorted to a series of rallies, demonstrations and marches in protest to privatisation of universities. Protests began from campuses and quickly spread to many streets, squares and areas in Tehran and other cities. As many thousands of youth and other

strata of people joined the ranks of students, protests urgently became political. Despite information ministry threatening to arrest organisers and deal harshly with the "disrupters", Khamenei demanding his agents and those on his pay roll to show greater resolution, rallies and demonstrations continued for ten days. Ten days that shook the earth beneath the Islamic republic.

Protest rallies generally would begin at night and continue till dawn. Students of majority of universities in Tehran, including Beheshti, Allameh -e- Tabatabai, Science and Industry, Khaje Nasir, Teacher Training, Industrial Amir Kabir and Tehran University actively took part in the demonstrations. The epicentre of commencement and continuation of struggle was Tehran University campus and its surrounding streets, but it quickly spread to other areas of Tehran including Narmak Square, Park Laleh, Housseini Square, Sadeghiyeh Round About, Jordan, Flowers Round About, Amir Abad Junction, Golbarg, First Round About in Tehran Pars, Fatemi Round About, Velenjak region and the motorway close to it, Kurdistan Motorway, Jalal Abad Highway, Satar Khan street and other areas. Other strata of toiling people supported and joined demonstrations every where following that. During these protests that included some advances and retreats many slogans were chanted against the state, Khamenehi, Khatami and other leaders of the regime. They included: "Taliban shame on you- let go of the state, Long live Mullah Omar- Long live Khamenehi, Pinoche Dictatorship- Iran wont be Chile, Dictator-you are finished, Leader get lost, Khatami resign resign, Mercenary get lost, We don't want a bully state- We don't want a mercenary police". A main slogan in all demonstrations was "Political prisoners must be freed". Slogans also expressed the will of the demonstrators to continue the struggle such as: "Basiji tanks and artillery have no more effect. I will kill the one who killed my brother". There were slogans demanding political freedom and demonstrating the contradiction of the existence of Islamic republic to those freedoms such as: "Freedom, Freedom, Political Freedom" and "Freedom of opinion is not possible with beard and wool".

The demonstrations were broadly supported by the people. Other than thousands joining the demonstrations, some people showed their support in other ways. Some went on roofs shouting slogans and booing the police and or confronted the police with stone throwing and Molotov cocktails. Some lit their cars' headlights and sounded their horns to encourage the demonstrators and express solidarity. The demonstrators set tyres on fire, blocked streets and threw stones and bricks to confront the police. In one case, they succeeded in compelling the police to retreat by threatening to throw a gas bottle onto fire and explode it. In other cases they were singing and dancing around fires and some women and girls threw their scarves into fire as a protest against enforced dress code. Other unprecedented incidents during mass demonstrations were the arrest and public exposure of several non-uniform police mercenaries equipped with radio and tear gas. The demonstrators widely painted slogans on walls. In addition they inflicted damage to banks and government establishments and set several vehicles and motorbike belonging to the police on fire. The police reported 34 motorbikes, 22 vehicles lost, five banks sustained damage and 22 police personnel injured by stone impact.

The demonstrations reverberated broadly throughout Iran and the world and severely terrified the decayed Islamic republic. The regime deployed its various suppression forces and used every means to quell the protest. In some instances it opened fire on the people and mercilessly mowed down the demonstrators. Police rampaged through

student halls of residence and vandalised, smashed and stole property. In hundreds of places in Tehran they set up check points. Hundreds were arrested and sent to prison, hundreds injured and tens of people kidnapped or disappeared. They did not even spare the injured. They raided hospitals and made mass arrests.

It is clear that greater and more merciless suppression is on the regime's agenda. Yazdi, member of the Guardian Council, previous chief justice and old friend of Khamenhi, clearly echoed that in his Friday Prayer speech in Tehran. He called the demonstrators "rioters and combatants against god" and demanded that the judicial power not to make any considerations when dealing with them. He repeated Khamenhi's words that "rioters must be dealt with in a most merciless way".

Although protest and demonstrations, to the extent of the first ten days, have gone down at present but protest is continuing in other forms. Currently in majority of universities students have resorted to strikes and sit-ins and in the first intense are demanding the release of those arrested. Additionally, hundreds of family members of those arrested in Tehran recently, have for several continuous days gathered in front of Evin Prison, central building of Tehran University and in the university's mosque staging sit-ins and demanding release of the arrested.

ISFAHAN- On 12 June 2003 students of Isfahan University resorted to protest rallies. As the police and other agents of the regime attempted to prevent students going on to the streets, students chanted slogans against the regime and its leaders while pouring onto the streets. On the other hand, thousands of people and students resorted to demonstrating against the existing situation in various streets of the city. Around Shiraz Gate they ended up clashing with the police. Despite widespread suppression and arrests protests continued for several days.

On 15 and 16 June 2003 students assembled on the west wing of Isfahan University. Students of Isfahan Industrial University resorted to protest rally too. "Death to Friend of Hezbollah, death to dictator, idol smashing nation- smash the great idol" were the slogans repeated by the protesters. Protests spread to other areas of the city including Shahin Shahr, Takhti junction, Shekarshekan junction and others. In the middle of the roads tyres were set on fire. Several police motorbikes were burnt and government establishments attacked by the people. Finally with police's brutal attack, hitting and injuring people, wide spread arrests, any kind of movement on the streets were prevented and students returned to the university. Following that police set the industrial university's halls of residence on fire. Students gathered outside the university administration building and demanded security. At the same time, despite coming under attack, students of the Isfahan Arts University continued their strike. More than 300 were arrested.

Dizche- On 13 June 2003 the people of Dizche, a town in the Mobareke region of Isfahan, resorted to demonstrations and clashed with the forces of suppression. Demonstrations continued to the next day. Police opened fire on people killing 22 years old and injuring several others. Continuing their assault police injured and arrested a number of people during evening raids.

Oroomiye- On 19 June 2003 hundreds of Oroomiye students rallied outside Agricultural University. While chanting slogans against the state they marched to the

gates of the university to demonstrate in the streets but were prevented by the university security who immediately shut the gates and closed the university.

Tabriz- Protest rallies of students commenced since 16 June 2003 from halls of residence and next day spread to the university. "Death to tyranny, death to dictator, Khatami resign resign" were among student slogans. As the police prevented students leaving the university, a huge number of youth and people gathered outside in streets around the university to support the students. Security forces blocked the roads and prevented movement to control the situation. Next day police attacked students' halls of residence and 135 students were arrested. Protesting students and people spread their rallies and demonstrations to streets surrounding students' halls of residence, University Roundabout and Abresan Junction.

Rafsanjan- Students of Rafsanjan University protested for two consecutive days gathering at Taleghani Roundabout and chanting slogans against the regime. As a result of police attack a number of demonstrators were injured and arrested.

Shiraz- Medical university of Shiraz students held rallies encouraging other students to join them. At the same time on 15 June 2003, a great number of students and other strata of people held a protest rally at Chamrun Boulevard of Shiraz. Protests continued for several days. "Death to the criminal" was among the slogans of protestors. As a result of brutal police assault, one person was killed and a great number arrested.

Kermunshah- Medical students and students of Razi University resorted to protest rallies at the halls of residence on 18 June 2003. Many youth and people gathered around the streets surrounding the university to support the students. Other rallies were also held in some parts of the city including Civic Centre Car Park. Protests continued for several hours. There were clashes and stone throwing between students and the police.

Kermun- In support of protests in Tehran, Kermun students resorted to rallies and demonstrations for several consecutive days. Other strata of people joined the protests. On the second day the numbers exceeded 7,000. Police attacked the ranks of protestors with tear gas. Protestors made fires to resist. Few days later students resorted to protest again, chanting slogans against the regime they demanded immediate release of those arrested earlier and political prisoners.

Karaj- There were street demonstrations and protests in Karaj and surrounding towns. Demonstrations in many cases led to clashes with the police and stone throwing. Police used tear gas injuring many who were carted to hospitals. Protestors attacked some banks and state establishments. In Robat Karim, Gohar dasht, Fardis, Hesarak and Golshahr -e- Karaj hundreds were arrested. Despite arrests, Hesarak University students held another protest rally in the university. The families of those arrested held a sit-in in front of Gohar Dasht prison and demanded immediate release of those arrested.

Mashhad- Nearly two thousand students and other toiling people of Mashhad resorted to street protest rallies from 9 Pm on 16 June 2003 and continued till after midnight. Protests were continued for several days every night. The police, motorbike mounted police and non-uniformed police attacked the protestors with numbing spray. More than 80 protestors were arrested. Students of several Mashhad universities held a sit-in protesting against suppression measures and at their rallies demanded immediate release of those arrested.

Hamedun- Like other cities Hamedun witnessed mass protests and demonstrations. On the evenings of 16, 17 and 18 June 2003 Boo Ali university students resorted to demonstrations and chanted slogans against the regime and its leaders. Student protest rallies were supported by other strata of people outside the universities who repeated the same slogans. Finally police brutally attacked students' halls of residence. During the barbaric attack three were killed, tens were injured and many arrested. For the next few days universities were closed and police occupied them.

Yazd- Hundreds of students and other strata of people resorted to demonstrations on 18 June 2003. Police surrounded the protestors. Protestors were demanding "political prisoners must be freed" and chanting other slogans asking the other people to join them. On the following days protests got wider. There were hard clashes between Friends of Hezbollah and people on the following Thursday and Friday nights. All the walls in the area were covered with slogans against the regime and its leaders. Protestors resisted police's brutal attacks which included tear gas charge with stone, brick and Molotov cocktail throwing. Protestors also inflicted damage on government establishments.

- In many other cities similar protests took place. In Rasht besides student protest rallies, youth and other strata of people resorted to protest and demonstrations. At the Green Market they ripped pictures of the regime's leaders. There and at Mikhael Junction police brutally attacked the people. In Zanjun students rose up in support of other student demonstrations and held rallies at students halls of residence. In Sabzevar students held a sit-in at governor's building. Demonstrations in support of students were held at Keyan Pars of Ahvaz. Friends of Hezbollah attacked demonstrators and anti riot police supported them. Several were injured and arrested. Shahrood university students also held a rally and marched on 16 June 2003. Their demands included release of political prisoners. At the same time, another group of students held a sit-in in front of the town's prison. In Ghom too, a large group of youth held a protest rally and chanted slogans against the regime. Police, in fear of protests spreading, quickly reacted with brut force and dispersed the crowd. Teacher training students resorted to demonstration in support of countrywide student demands in Sannandaj on 19 June 2003. Police immediately surrounded the university and positioned its forces on the streets around the university. As they charged, students put up a fearless resistance. Police blocked a huge crowd of people who had commenced marching towards university to join the students.

