

## News from Iran (440)

- On October 16. workers at Babakan Textile fabric in the city of Amol picketed at this fabric in protest of privatization, possibilities for shutting down of the factory and delay of paying of wages. This fabric has been privatized since December 2003 and now the electricity has been cut and with shutting down of this factory all the 735 workers will miss their jobs.
- Management of “Bahman Plastic” plant have not been at this plant in last several months and has practically closed this fabric. In addition workers have not been paid in last 4 months. 2 weeks ago representatives of the management tried to close this factory down and move all the machines. Workers unanimously stopped this action.
- 80 permanent workers of the Baf-Iran have not get wages in last 4 months. The owner of this plant has been tried to push workers to accept short employment. In spit of laying off of the 6 workers, all the workers have resisted against these pressures. On October 12 workers picketed at labor office and demanded clarifying their problems.
- 70 workers of Iran Kanaf in city of Rasht have not get their wages in more than 2 years. At last after several protests and more than 15 months waiting without any answer from employer, the owner has to pay around 25 million rials to workers and the rest of the payments have to be paid after 45 days.
- Transport workers in city of Ahwaz striked on October 19 in protest of delaying their wages in more than 2 months. Not only the wages but only other welfare benefits have not been paid during these times. Strikers demanded paying their wages and denounced that they will continue their struggle if the wages are not paid.
- Workers at Alborz Coal Company have adressed a letter to newspapers protesting privatization this mine and its unfortunate consequences
- 100 workers at nakhnaz Plant who have been laid off since September 2002 in a letter protested against shortages in retirements bonuses. In this letter they have given one month to owner to fulfill workers demands.
- Workers at Mehran plant addressed in a letter the media have demanded higher wages. In this letter they compared wages in last 3 years and pointed that even their humble bonuses have not been paid in last many months.
- Management at Khorasan Electronic Plant is about to sack another 180 workers. Last year 200 workers missed their jobs. In addition different bonuses have also been reduced.
- Owner of Iran Papyrus Plant has laid more than half of workers off. Now he trying to fire further 120 workers, who have been employed in last 15-20 years. Workers complained against this decision and now with the court’s order the sacked workers have to be re-employed. But the owner still hinders workers to go back to their jobs.

- Mire Plant is about to fire all workers. After hearing this news workers started a wave of protest actions. They stopped moving of machines by the owner and demanding job guarantees.
- On November 5. workers at Gheshm Metal Plant went on strike. This action was in protest against management plans about re-structuring work force. Working conditions at this plant are extremely hard. For 12 hours hard work day and compulsory 120 hours extra work at week, workers earn a very humble wage. In spite of all these hardships, workers are worry about the future. The sporadic lay offs are still going on and they have met very hard resistance from management. In last action all the workers went on strike when some of their co-workers were sacked. At the same time workers demanded higher wages and better working conditions.
- On November 5. and 7. workers at Azarakhsh fabric in city of Shahroud went on strike in protest against 3 months delayed wages. During this strike workers picketed in front of city's labor office.
- Bahman Plastic Plant had been taken over by a person with connections with police forces. He tried to move all machines from this plant. 90 workers who have not got wages in last 5 months have protested against this action. The new owner has also stolen workers paid taxes and unemployment insurance benefits.
- On November 8. workers at Yazd plant went on a 3 days strike. These workers have not been paid in last 8 months. Workers were asked to return to work. They answered that their strike will going on until their demands are accepted.
- After plans to privatize Kurdistan Textile Plant and laying all 75 workers off, workers at this plant went on strike on November 2. Management at this plant trying to convince workers to quit voluntary and get a sum of money, but workers only want their jobs back and their 8 months unpaid wages. A few day after workers went on a hunger strike. Some workers' conditions after 5 days getting worse and at the same time strikers took manager as hostage. Families of these workers tried to join their relatives, but guards at plant's port did not allow them. In solidarity with this strike workers at some other plants went on a limited strike.
- On November 3. 160 workers at Tool Maker Spark Machine went on a 2 days strike. These workers haven't been paid in last 7 months. After this strike a part of workers' delayed wages and bonuses were paid and they were promised to get the rest of their unpaid wages after some days.
- Workers at Hase Chinaware plant have in protest against privatization of this plant and unsecured future, which this action will call, picketed in front of government offices at this county. Under plea of re-structuring this plant has been closed in last 6 months and most workers have not even got a very humble unemployment insurance benefit.
- Labor authorities in county of Khouaestan denied to prove and classify working conditions at Karoun Plantage as hard. In protest against this wrong decision all the workers at this plantage stopped work and marched to words labor office in city of Shoushtar. After 8 km. marchers were stopped by security forces, while they blocked the road. Despite police tried to disband this march, strikers continue their action with a demonstration at the same place.

- 45 workers at Textile fabric of Abhar Baft have been fired despite of 3 months unpaid wages. Sacked workers complained over this decision to labor authorities and demanded retuning back to their jobs,
- 400 unemployed youths in city of Dehloran have picketed in front of city's labor offices. Labor authorities have registered these young workers and promised them job at Iranian National Oil Company. But several months have passed by and there is still no news about the promised jobs.
- Sever economical and social pressure caused at Eskandar Shaybani, a 48 years worker at Nasajan textile fabric committed suicide on November 2. After re-structuring of this plant he had to be fired. Right now there are 385 unemployed workers, who are waiting for a humble unemployment insurance benefit. Eskandar is not the first victim of employers' economical pressures. Before him 2 other workers at the same plant and under the same pressures choose to take their own lives.
- On October 20. Mahmoud Tizhoush, a 32 years miner at Hajak Coal Mine missed his life under a work accident. He was in a tunnel when the explosion happened. He left a young wife and 2 young children.
- According to Ilna, Iranian Labor News Agency, poverty line is now reached a revenue around 2,200,000 rials per month. This is a clear indication that life for more than 90 % of Iranian workers, who are employed under short terms condition, will be worsened day by day.