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Los Angeles:

Celebrating Resistance and Internationalism INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

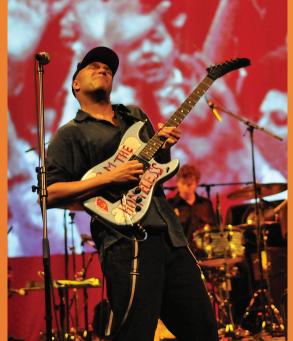


Revolutionary Iranian singer, Gissoo Shakeri, February 28 concert to benefit International Women's Day 2009

Think of how significant this is. Here are women who have been living in the middle of an horrific nightmare of oppression, a place where women have no human rights at all. For 30 years the women of Iran have been struggling against this. Many of them have been tortured and executed. But the struggle has not been crushed. It continues to grow inside and outside of Iran. And they have carried out this struggle keenly aware that U.S. imperialism holds only greater suffering and horror for women and all people, not liberation; that America and the Islamic Republic of Iran are part of the same matrix. As the Call says: "Women's oppression under US occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq is equally ugly and bestial. In Afghanistan, honor killing, stoning to death and forced marriage are rampant in areas under the rule of the US's Islamic Republic, as well as in

reas under the Taliban Afghanistan is run by pro-US tribal chieftains, warlords and drug lords. Women can not even show their face while walking outdoors. Since occupation of Irag by the US, medieval rules of Sharia have come back to hound women, and at the same time thousands of schoolgirls have been thrown into the prostitution market in the Gulf countries, encouraged by globalization and US occupation. This is how the US war has 'liberated' women of the Middle

For International Women's Day 2009. the March 8 Women's Organization (Iran and Afghanistan) put out a powerful Call. This statement called on people living inside the U.S. to join with the women of Iran and Afghanistan in their struggle against the woman-hating regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the imperialist U.S. empire. A serious and moving challenge was posed: "Let us be clear: We who have been in a kind of civil war with the Islamic Republic of Iran for the last 30 years are not fighting to trade one oppressor for another one. We are not fighting to liberate ourselves from the clutches of one outmoded social, ideological, political system like the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to let another outmoded system like US imperialism replace it. The very workings of this system perpetuate misogyny and woman-hating religious fundamentalism in the US and around the world. Nothing is a more deadly trap for the oppressed than to prefer one set of oppressors to another set of oppressors. There are no 'good oppressors' vs. 'bad oppressors.' We did not need GW Bush to 'liberate us.' And we do not need the Obama-Hillary kiss of death! But we do need and want the support of the people living in the US!"



Those living in the U.S. have a special nternationalist responsibility in this regard—to do all we can to support this struggle of the women of Iran and Afghanistan against both their home regimes and against the U.S. imperialists. This is especially important as the U.S. steps up the war in Afghanistan and threatens Iran with a whole new war.



International Women's Day March down Westwood Boulevard, March 7, 2009

La Banda Skalavera

What we see in contention here with Jihad on the one hand and McWorld/McCrusade on the other hand, are historically outmoded strata among colonized and oppressed humanity up against historically outmoded ruling strata of the imperialist system. These two reactionary poles reinforce each other, even while opposing each other. If you side with either of these "outmodeds," you end up strengthening both.

> Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA From the talk, "Why We're in the Situation We're in Today... And What to Do About It: A Thoroughly Rotten System and the Need for Revolution"

> > Con March 7, some 300

people marched and

rallied in the Westwood

roozeh Jehaneyeh zan!"

("Long live International

Women of the world are

in English, Farsi and

People on the street

Westwood Village.

catching hell, against this

Spanish, as they marched

through the Iranian district

along Westwood Boulevard.

showed support and some

joined the march. That night a torchlight march

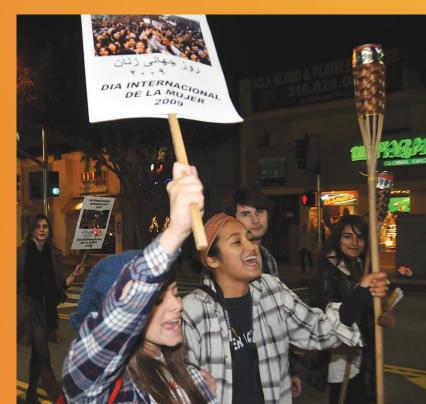
electrified the streets of

madness it's right to rebel!

Women's Day" in Farsi) and

chanted "Zendeh bad

section of West LA. They



This Call and the challenge it poses were taken up and answered by hundreds of

International Women's Day events celebrating

turned out for a concert featuring the Iranian

resistance and internationalism. 450 people

revolutionary singer Gissoo Shakeri; Tom Morello, the Nightwatchman; and La Banda Skalavera; alongside others, all of whom took part in this concert after reading the Call.

people in Los Angeles during a week of

7 A whole new way, a revolutionary path that rejects all oppressors: this is what the women of Iran and Afghanistan bring to the world today.



International Women's Day March down Westwood Boulevard, March 7, 2009

One high school student talked about why she and her friends really liked one particular chant: *U.S. can't liberate/They're the masters of* murder and rape. "I know that in the U.S. we have some of the highest rates of abuse towards women, some of the highest rates of rape-just so much violence against women, more than anyplace in the world where women are considered equal. And at the same time women are kept silent about it; rape is the most under-reported crime in the U.S. The U.S. has so many of its military bases all over the world. It has the biggest army and it uses it the most, so the U.S. can't go around to any country talking about liberation, talking about equality, it can't go anywhere talking about democracy because that's not the reality here.... The U.S. is an incredibly oppressive country and at the same time it's masking it with words like 'equality' and 'freedom,' but that's not the reality—and people need to start realizing it." A UCLA student said one reason she marched was because. "Women all around the world—and men—need to come together and reconsider the direction that our world is going."



In many ways, and particularly for men, the woman question and whether you seek to completely abolish or to preserve the existing property and social relations and corresponding ideology that enslave women (or maybe "just a little bit" of them) is a touchstone question among the oppressed themselves. It is a dividing line between "wanting in" and really "wanting out": between fighting to end all oppression and exploitation—and the very division of society into classes—and seeking in the final analysis to get your part in this. Bob Avakian, Chairman of the **Revolutionary Communist Party, USA**