

## **In solidarity with the hunger strike of our Afghan comrades September 2023**

With shouts and anger, let us stand alongside the Afghan Rainbow Community and women against injustice, fundamentalism, and sexual-gender oppression.

Since the first day of September 2023, a number of Afghan activists in the city of Cologne, Germany, have embarked on a joint hunger strike to highlight the shame of recognizing the Taliban by world governments. Moreover, for the past five days, Mehreh Fabi, a member of the Rainbow Community activists in Sweden, has gone on a hunger strike in support of these strikers, making her body the last bastion of resistance against sexual apartheid and the global society's silence and inaction in the face of this injustice.

It doesn't matter whether misogynistic and homophobic crimes are committed by the Taliban in Afghanistan or by the Hijab police in the streets of Iran; whether it's the rape of a thirteen-year-old girl in Baluchistan or the brutal abduction and rape of six thousand Kurdish and Yazidi women by ISIS. For decades, women in Iran, Kurdistan, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, and throughout the Middle East have been shouting out for justice against religious fundamentalism and patriarchal systems.

Other freedom fighters around the world have also gone on hunger strikes in solidarity with these activists. The message of the strikers and all brave revolutionaries and women, from Rojava to Afghanistan, is clear:

" Your laws shall henceforth be disregarded,

Considering that we no longer wish to be slaves.

We have decided to now fear

A bad life more than death." (Bertolt Brecht, Resolution Der Kommunarden)

As we approach the first anniversary of the Gina revolution, we haven't forgotten that just two weeks after the Regime's murder of Gina, the free women of Afghanistan, in solidarity with the uprising in Iran, raised the slogan "Woman, life, freedom" and shouted out, "Today Iran, tomorrow Afghanistan." With their courageous struggles in the hands of the Taliban, they have kindled hope for the end of religious patriarchy, the common pain of the Middle East, among all the oppressed in the region.

Women, sexual and gender minorities, and marginalized individuals in the Middle East have been turning their suffering to anger for years, resisting against this thousand-fold oppression and suppression, fighting together for liberation. Their cries have a common resonance: "We share the pain, and we know some one else's freedom is our freedom."

Like them, we also know that while "Global North" governments occasionally condemn women's oppression and femicide and child massacres in civilized and human rights terms, the ruined lives and souls of people in the "Global South" hold little importance for them. So, we turn to the humanity and awakened consciences: when women and the Rainbow Community in Afghanistan are removed from all spheres of social life and confined to their homes in broad daylight, how can anyone remain silent and complacent?

When we look at Iran, we see the continuation of oppression against Afghans in the form of a gruesome combination of exploitation and racism. Among countless images of this longstanding

and systematic oppression, we remember the faces of Mohammad Ramez Rashidi and Naeim Hashem Ghotali: two innocent Afghan workers who were hanged by the Iranian regime to keep the wheels of the terror apparatus turning. Their faces will remain in our historical memory for the day of reckoning and make us more determined for the struggle ahead. Therefore, we will not forget Afghanistan, its children, women, the LGBTQ+ community, and all the marginalized in this geography of oppression.

From "Bread, Work, Freedom" to "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî" we stand together. Because we are against silence and forgetting. What do they fear us for? We live through death and have transformed into an immortal generation. We are blossoming freedom, and we know that resistance is life.

As some of the left-wing collectives in the Iranian diaspora, while condemning the racist crimes of the Iranian regime against Afghan migrants and declaring aversion to nationalist rhetoric aligned with it, we join our voices with the protesters and shout: No government has the right to negotiate with and recognize the inhumane and fascist Taliban.

Side by side against fascism and racism, we must shout: **"From Kabul to Tehran, against the same Taliban."**

Collective Women, Life, Freedom – Bielefeld

Avand Collective – Göttingen

Solidarity Association with the Revolutionary Struggles of the People of Iran – Gothenburg

Roja – Paris

Internationalist Bloc Frankfurt

Khiaban Collective – Dortmund

Socialism from Below - Bremen

Red Roots Collective- Manchester

Jina Collective- Amsterdam