

# Shawn Fain for VP!

July 25, 2024

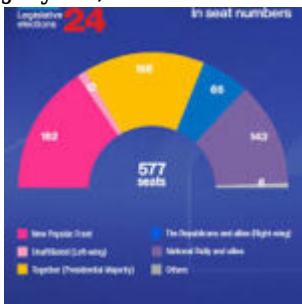


The outside-the-box choice for VP.

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# Another View on the 2024 French Legislative Elections

July 25, 2024

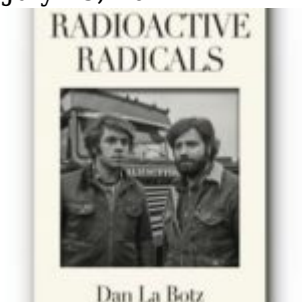


The main story is the RN's advance, not an NFP victory.

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# The Veracity of Fiction

July 25, 2024



With Radioactive Radicals, Dan La Botz has written a bold and unique novel that is ultimately a

novel of questions and uncertainties.

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# Iran's Presidential Election Puts Spotlight on Domestic Situation

July 25, 2024



In a poll conducted by Zamaneh in June 2024, Iranians overwhelmingly said that the presidential election will not improve their lives. 69% wanted a fundamental transformation of the political system.

## Iran's Presidential Election Puts Spotlight on Domestic Situation

While Iran's nuclear program, its regional imperialist interventions and its recent direct missile war with Israel have been in the news, the recent death of president Ibrahim Raisi and the subsequent state-orchestrated election for a replacement have put the spotlight on Iran's domestic situation.

By the government's own estimates, less than 40% of eligible voters participated in the first round of the presidential election in which 6 candidates vetted by the authoritarian and theocratic regime competed and held debates. During the second round of the election which was narrowed down to the extreme conservative Saeed Jalili and the reformist candidate, Masud Pezeshkian, more people chose to vote only because Pezeshkian promised to restart negotiations with the U.S. to improve relations and offered to be less violent than the others in his approach to women who refuse the hijab.

As Iranian feminist writer and activist, Elahe Amani stated in an earlier article in *New Politics*, "Amidst the sham or state-orchestrated presidential election in Iran, a grim reality unfolds. Women are being violently arrested by the Morality Police for refusing to comply with mandatory hijab rules or wearing 'improper' hijab, dubbed 'Bad Hijab.' This misogynistic backlash follows the historic 2022 Woman Life Freedom uprising, led by Iranian women. Despite severe punishments, fearless women persist in their resistance, marking a turning point in the fight against the mandatory hijab." According to a poll conducted by the Iranian human rights website, Zamaneh, based in the Netherlands, Over 60% of Iranians are against the compulsory hijab. According to the Iranian government's own poll, 45% said they were against the compulsory hijab. Pezeshkian, the reformist candidate who won the presidential election, did not oppose the compulsory hijab. He only promised to use education and less violent means to convince women to wear it.

The Iranian state's war against women also continues in the form of further assaults on women

inside prisons and most recently, the issuance of a death sentence against a woman labor activist, Sharifeh Mohammadi. Mohammadi, an industrial engineer, has been falsely accused of affiliation with a Kurdish organization and of inciting rebellion against Islam.

Another Iranian progressive currently facing the death penalty is Ahmad Reza Jalali, a physician and dual Swedish citizen who was arrested on a visit to Iran in 2016 and imprisoned on false charges of “spying for Israel.” In June, the Swedish government made a deal with the Iranian government to release a Swedish diplomat and a Swedish Iranian citizen imprisoned in Iran, in exchange for Sweden’s release of Hamid Nuri, an Iranian government prosecutor earlier convicted by a Swedish court for his involvement in the executions of over 5000 political prisoners in Iran in 1988. However, the Swedish government did not negotiate the release of Jalali. Jalali is now on a hunger strike and has issued a statement from prison, condemning the Swedish government for abandoning him. Iran has the highest execution rate after China.

Police brutality and arrests of women, labor and environmental activists, Kurdish, Baluch, Arab youth, and Afghan migrants continue to increase. Thousands of the over 20,000 who were arrested during the Women, Life, Freedom movement protests are still in prison. 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and feminist, Narges Mohammadi is still in prison along with dozens of other feminist leaders.

Thanks to public pressure inside and outside Iran, Toomaj Salehi, beloved working-class rapper and supporter of the Woman, Life, Freedom movement no longer faces the death penalty. However, he remains imprisoned for his powerful songs and defiance of the Iranian regime.

In November 2023, according to a poll conducted by the Iranian government itself, 73% said they believe in the complete separation of religion and state and 85% said they were less religious than five years ago. In a poll conducted by Zamaneh in June 2024, Iranians overwhelmingly said that the presidential election will not improve their lives. 69% wanted a fundamental transformation of the political system. 26% said the existing system could be reformed. 5% wanted to maintain the existing system.

Iran’s nuclear and missile programs, its military interventions in the Middle East region, its increasing production of missiles and drones for Russia’s imperialist war on Ukraine, and the Western economic sanctions imposed in response to these actions have continued to impoverish the Iranian masses to an unprecedented level. Of those recently polled by Zamaneh, 83% have said that increasing Iranian militarism and military intervention in the region would lead to increasing domestic repression.

July 10, 2024

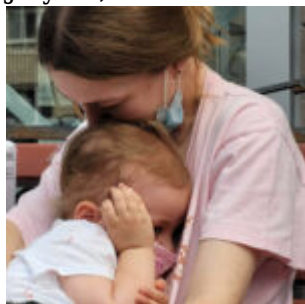
Frieda Afary is an Iranian American librarian, translator and author of *Socialist Feminism: A New Approach* (Pluto Press, 2022). She produces *Iranian Progressives in Translation* and [Socialistfeminism.org](http://Socialistfeminism.org)

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## Ukrainian Union Says Russia Intentionally

## attacks Civilians

July 25, 2024



The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU), a member organization of the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Confederation, calls on the international community, the ITUC, the ETUC, and their member organizations, as well as the governments of democratic states, to strengthen their support for Ukraine.

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## Teamsters President Sean O'Brien Should Not Speak at the RNC

July 25, 2024



A speaking engagement at the Republican National Convention by Teamster President Sean O'Brien only normalizes the most anti-union party and President I've seen in my lifetime.

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## Socialists Should Advance Our Own Politics in 2024

July 25, 2024



The Democratic corporate centrist is the lesser evil to Trump, the wannabe rightwing dictator. But does that mean socialists should support the Democratic candidate to stop Trump?

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## Why Socialists Must Work to Defeat Trump and Elect Biden or Candidate X

July 25, 2024



A month ago, we had a debate in Solidarity on the question of the U.S. presidential election in which I argued the need to vote for Biden in order to defeat Trump.

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## Biden Must Withdraw for a Viable Challenge to Trump

July 25, 2024



If the current crisis within the Democratic Party does lead to Biden's withdrawal from the race and a

period of open debate and discussion to pick a viable presidential and vice-presidential team of candidates at the Democratic National Convention, that might help regenerate the democratic process in the U.S. and bring back young people and people of color who have become disillusioned with the U.S. elections.

## **Biden Must Withdraw for a Viable Challenge to Trump**

In the past week, the political developments in the U.S. have been head-spinning. Joseph Biden's disastrous performance in the June 27 debate with Donald Trump showed that his level of cognitive decline is so severe that he is incapable of challenging Trump's lies, bullying, misogyny and racism. Biden did not even mention the word Palestinian in his debate. The only one who mentioned that word was Trump who used it as a slur against Biden.

Then on July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court's ultraconservative majority voted 6 to 3 to grant Trump and future presidents broad or practically absolute immunity for their official conduct and to make it illegal to use any evidence related to their official conduct to prosecute them for their private conduct.

Given this dire situation, and given the fact that Trump has a 3% lead over Biden among registered voters, the only immediate pathway to possibly reverse this authoritarian drive is for the Democratic Party to replace Joseph Biden with another candidate. Another Democratic Party candidate might be able to challenge Trump and gain support among the 20% of voters who are still undecided and the many youth who are too disillusioned to vote. The Democrats would also have to win a large enough majority in the Senate and regain a majority in the House of Representatives in order to pass new legislation and possibly change the composition of the Supreme Court.

While Biden has still not relented, opposition to his nomination is increasing within the party leadership, the donors and among the general public

Some Democratic Party leaders such as James Zogby are offering plans for a four-week period of democratic, transparent and open debate for leaders who wish to offer themselves as replacement candidates before the Democratic Party National Convention in August when the delegates would have to vote for them.

Other Democratic Party leaders are saying that Biden should simply anoint his vice president, Kamala Harris as the nominee since she is next in line and also authorized to access the funds raised for their race so far. Based on some recent polls however, Kamala Harris is only one or two percentage points above Biden in a match up against Trump.

If the current crisis within the Democratic Party does lead to Biden's withdrawal from the race and a period of open debate and discussion to pick a viable presidential and vice-presidential team of candidates at the Democratic National Convention, that might help regenerate the democratic process in the U.S. and bring back young people and people of color who have become disillusioned with the U.S. elections.

Given how discredited Biden has become because of his October 2023 embrace of Netanyahu and his mostly uncritical support of Israel's right-wing government, the idea of a new candidate who might care about both Palestinians and Israeli Jews would be refreshing.

At the same time, if Biden refuses to withdraw in the end, we need to vote for him because he and his administration would be far better than Trump's which would take away all of our basic civil rights.

Voting for the Democratic Party candidate and not a third-party candidate such as Robert Kennedy, Cornell West or Jill Stein is still the only effective option for fighting the growing authoritarianism at this time.

In my recent book, *Socialist Feminism: A New Approach* (Pluto Press, 2022), I have explained the distinctive features of twenty-first century authoritarian capitalism and offered theoretical and practical long-term and short-term perspectives for confronting it and creating a humanist alternative.

In our day-to-day interactions with people, we also need to challenge the disinformation that is being used to confuse the public to vote against their own human interests. Toward this aim, the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association has created pathfinder brochures on various current world events to promote discussion among the general public about the burning issues of the day. <https://sites.google.com/view/srrt-pathfinders/home>

Frieda Afary, Iranian American Public Librarian

July 4, 2024

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## France: We Need a Popular Front Based on the Social Movements

July 25, 2024



This thunderclap, which had been widely announced, must lead the popular and democratic forces of the left to unite in order to fight the evil at its roots. It's five minutes to midnight!

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# Iran's Hijab Law and Electoral Scrutiny

July 25, 2024



Gender issues are crucial in Iran's presidential election, scheduled for June 28.

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# Cuba since COVID: Communist Party represses social unrest

July 25, 2024

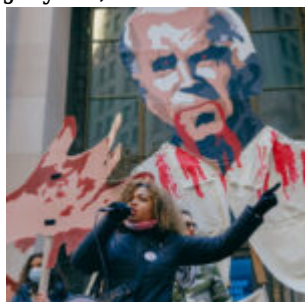


"The conditions in Cuba are tough for those dissenting," Alina Bárbara López says. "I have refused to flee Cuba and that strengthens the pressure on me. Nevertheless, I believe it is possible to get involved."

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# How Biden Mutated into a Dove

July 25, 2024





While this mutation is a tribute to the importance of the protest movement against the war in the United States, we cannot ignore its opportunistic and hypocritical nature.

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## **Loren Goldner (1947-2024): Crossing Paths with a Revolutionary Internationalist**

July 25, 2024



Loren Goldner, activist and writer, passed away in Philadelphia on April 12, 2024. We first met through exchanging letters in July 1997.

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## **How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom**

July 25, 2024

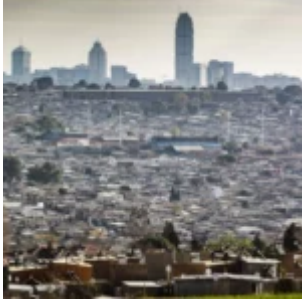


Review of Maya Wind's new book, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom*

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# South Africa: Hanging On

July 25, 2024



Cyril Ramaphosa presides over a corrupt administration in a weak and stagnant economy and a society with extreme poverty and inequality. South African capitalism is a basket case. How long can it hang on without a massive reaction from its people?

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# On the Mexican Election: Manifesto of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT)

July 25, 2024



It is necessary to build a counter-hegemonic pole to the current “progressive” consciousness in order to grow into the revolutionary anti-capitalist consciousness.

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# The Struggle for Sudan

July 25, 2024



Khalid Mustafa Medani discusses the repression of the Sudanese Revolution of 2018-19, and the origins and dynamics of the devastating civil war between the two counterrevolutionary military factions.

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## Libertarianism and the Far Right

July 25, 2024



The Libertarian Party has become just another flavor of the same reaction that propelled Trump to office in the first place.

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## Professor's Letter in Support of Students in Geneva

July 25, 2024



I fully associate myself with the terms of the letter from the teachers and researchers of your university, in particular with their defense of academic freedom and respect for the formation of

critical knowledge.

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# **The Mexican Election - For an Independent, Anti-capitalist and Anti-Patriarchal Left Bloc.**

July 25, 2024



In this panorama, different organizations and collectives of the independent left see the need to form an Independent, Anti-capitalist and Anti-Patriarchal Left Bloc to strengthen the organization and mobilization independent of the government and the right.