



### **Extreme exploitation by the French TOTAL and the Iranian regime**

TOTAL, which is a global company and is forced to provide a safe and reasonable work condition for its workers in Europe, is committing a crime against humanity in Iran.

Here is a brief account of workers in Iran who are working for TOTAL. Assaluyeh runs with Koran sub-contractors. Assaluyeh is a Persian Gulf coastal town of some 11,000 people, in South of Bushehr. It sits on top of huge natural gas fields. Despite its enormous wealth, locals are deprived of their most basic needs such as clean water, schools, and clinics. Workers from different parts of Iran are employed to work under extremely hot conditions without adequate food, housing, tools, work safety and shelters. There is one shower for every 100 people. Drugs are distributed openly everywhere in Assaluyeh. 38 bodies have been found in the past few months, most of them died of drug use.

Workers are living in pre-fabricated houses in the desert surrounded by fences and barbed wire. Workers' rooms are overcrowded, 8 to 12 people in a room and they don't have facilities for their clothes. They have to keep their clothes outside the room. Old, young, drug addicts all cramped together in the same room. Contractors have their own accommodation, cafeteria. Workers have to eat in their rooms. There is no entertainment, no movies, no TVs.

People work 24 straight days and then will get 6 days off to go home to visit their family, but many cannot afford to leave. Workers are so far away and transportation is so limited that it takes up to 2 days to get back to Tehran. Most workers go home every 2-3 months.

They cannot afford to fly. Pay is often delayed for weeks, forcing workers to borrow and pay high interest. There is only one toilet for every 100 workers. Work hours are not less than 10 hours a day, sometimes they work as much as 12-15 hours a day. The temperature often reaches above 50C (120F) with 60-70% humidity.

Workers do not have real contracts. They have to sign some blank papers every 3 months. They can be fired at anytime. There is no health insurance, no clinics except for one in town that only has one Indian doctor. Workers are driven to places where there are no roads and many are hurt or killed in car accidents. No one keeps a count of accidents and casualties.

An average worker usually makes about \$US 200 a month. While according to officials the poverty line is \$340 a month. Afghan and Baluchi workers do the hardest jobs and are paid \$6-7 a day, whenever they are needed.

Please send your objection to Total's crime and demand an investigation of the Assaluyeh situation by a team who would show the truth. TOTAL abuse should be investigated and it must answer in a court and pay compensation to people who suffered all these years in the hands of Total and the Islamic regime.

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Information about TOTAL, Assaluyeh, and working class people in Iran, plus links to internet sites that have information regarding this matter is included.

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### **Poverty Line at \$340 a Month**

Laborers Unable

To Make Ends Meet

TEHRAN, Feb. 6--Poverty line has been set at three million rials (US \$340) a month of salary for an average Iranian family of five. The criterion for measuring poverty has been set by the Majlis Economic Commission.

Parviz Ahmadi Panjaki, who heads the Center for the Nationwide Islamic Labor Councils, told ILNA that even if the center's proposed minimum monthly salary of 1.6 million rials for workers is ratified by the Parliament, the salary range will remain far below the poverty line.

"The minimum salary has to meet the minimum needs of a family, while workers are unable to meet their basic requirements with their current salaries," he said, warning the Labor Ministry against any move that would weaken the labor institutions.

He said the ministry plans to join calls for amending the Labor Law in favor of the employers.

"The Labor Ministry is planning to remove 80 percent of the Labor Law and amend the remaining 20 percent," he complained, adding that the laborers must remain alert.

"The opponents of the Labor Law are trying to exclude workshops with less than 30-50 laborers from the law," he warned. Iran Daily, Tue, Feb 07, 2006

<http://www.iran-daily.com/1384/2495/html/economy.htm>

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**Iran Daily, Wed, Dec 15, 2004**

On September 29, 1997, Total (now TotalFinaElf) signed a \$2 billion buy-back deal (along with Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas) to explore South Pars and to help develop the field during Phases 2 and 3 of its development. TotalFinaElf has a 40 percent share of the project with the other two companies each having 30 percent shares. NIOC estimates that South Pars has a natural gas production potential of up to 8 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) from four individual reservoirs.

In February 2003, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh officially inaugurated Phases 2 and 3 of South Pars development, which came on stream in September 2002. Already, Phases 2 and 3 reportedly are producing around 2 Bcf per day of natural gas, and 85,000 bbl/d of condensates. Twin undersea pipelines will carry gas from South Pars to onshore facilities at Assaluyeh.

Phases 9 and 10 are expected to supply the domestic market, possibly by 2007, while phases 11 and 12 are slated for LNG export and condensate production, possibly by 2008. Companies reportedly interested in all or parts of phases 9-12 (expected to cost \$4 billion) include BP, Eni, Petronas, TotalFinaElf, and Statoil.

The government continues to neglect this crucial factor and has no plans to educate the native population of the enormous cultural and social transformations that is happening to them. Ground realities in Assaluyeh show these changes are proving a psychological and mental burden for locals whom until a few years ago lived in absolute poverty. They are now forced to coexist with these newcomers, i.e. domestic and foreign laborers, experts and engineers who hail from various cultural, religious and traditional backgrounds.

Before gas was discovered in this remote region, they made their living by fishing. Now, poor-quality and second-hand commodities from countries such as China are all over the place. Iran's industrial pole has also turned into a smuggling haven.

The cultural situation is indeed deplorable. Poor-quality and cheap products such as pirated CDs have overwhelmed the market, exposing the population to an unknown world.

The government needs to move fast and make plans to strike a harmony between industrial development, and cultural as well as social progress in the region.

## Shallow Promises

Conditions for the non-local population is no better.

The region lacks the most basic infrastructures to make living the least tolerable for the guests.

There is no adequate transport, lodging, education, medical and health treatment, and recreational facilities. Despite numerous promises by the government to improve the situation, words have yet to be translated into action.

For example, a plan by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to provide accommodation for 500,000 residents has been left in limbo, as is the case with other infrastructure and cultural projects.

All the same, the number of strangers is rising fast. They bring with themselves a host of unfamiliar attitudes and behaviors.

Oil minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh says his ministry's responsibilities do not include fields such as culture-building and social progress.

He admits the government isn't working on cultural and social aspects. "New environmental circumstances could culturally prove a burden on the locals. "

Zanganeh says his ministry will cooperate in any way it can. "We can offer solutions and money."

Things in Assaluyeh are changing fast. For the native people, changes are taking place just too fast.

<http://www.iran-daily.com/1383/2164/html/focus.htm>

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TOTAL

### **1.The project**

The South Pars gas field is the Iranian portion of what is probably the largest gas field in the world. The other part of the field, in Qatari waters, is known as North Field. With the South Pars project, **TotalFinaElf** has become the foremost oil company in partnership with Iran and has bolstered its position in the Middle East, where the Group has been active for some 75 years.

## **2.The challenge of South Pars**

South Pars is the largest project undertaken so far in Iran by international oil companies. The project was carried out in close cooperation with the Iranian authorities, NIOC, the project partners and service companies, under a so-called “buy back” contract. At the outset, NIOC chose to divide the South Pars field into 14 geographical zones or phases, each corresponding to production of 1 billion cubic feet (28 million cu.m) of gas per day. Development of Phases 2 and 3 was awarded to a consortium made up of TotalFinaElf (operator 40%), Malaysia’s Petronas (30%) and Russia’s Gazprom (30%). One particularity of the South Pars project is that the development scheme involves multi-phase transport of sour gas over a distance of more than 100 kilometres.

## **3.Developing South Pars**

Operations on South Pars use technologies such as deviated drilling and especially multi-phase transport, allowing the gas to be piped untreated from the depths of the sea to the onshore facility at **Assaluyeh**.

In order to extract the gas from South Pars, the Group constructed two wellhead platforms (SPD3 and SPD4) in 65 metres of water and a total of about 20 wells were drilled from these two unmanned platforms. Once extracted, the gas is piped directly ashore, without separation on the platforms, via two 32-inch pipelines 105 kilometres in length. This arrangement is known as a “wet scheme”.

[http://www.total.com/portail/webzine/index.php?lang=en&id\\_zine=4](http://www.total.com/portail/webzine/index.php?lang=en&id_zine=4)

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South Pars is Iran's largest energy project, and already has attracted billions of dollars in investment.







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