



# International Liberty Association Newsletter

Rowlandson House • 289-297 Ballards Lane • London N12 8NP

**W:** www.iliberty.org.uk • **E:** info@iliberty.org.uk • **T:** 020 8452 3481

## Editorial

We are pleased to introduce to you this special edition of our newsletter, focusing on the Grand Gathering held in Paris on 1 July. As we gathered the material for inclusion, we became increasingly aware of how very special this year's event had been, as we trust the extracts of the speeches will convey, because the people of Ashraf were now out of Camp Liberty and safely in Albania.

We cannot thank the Albanian government enough for opening their hearts to the plight of the Ashrafis and so breaking the deadlock which was keeping them in jeopardy and holding back progress on other fronts.

No advance promotion for this event was so courageous, or so heartwarming, as the pleas of those in prison in Iran for humanitarians the world over to attend and be their voice, among them Arjang Davoodi, who wrote from Zabol prison: "I invite everyone to participate in the grand gathering in Paris to hold it as magnificent as possible."

And good people everywhere heeded the call and flocked to Villepinte, where dance, music and song as well as the speeches held their attention for over 9 hours, the whole event live streamed into Iran and throughout the world. Our ILA supporters also had the opportunity to speak with several of the prominent people who came to the floor to meet them and express their gratitude and respect.

As well as delegates from the UK and US, many of whom we have quoted in the bulletin, there were many from the Arab nations concerned about the Iranian regime's meddling and intrusions in their countries. Prince Turki Bin Faisal former Saudi Arabian ambassador to the UK was the most notable, receiving a standing ovation when

... continued on p.2

## PARIS 2017: CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS IN IRAN



**H**undreds of political figures, senior lawmakers, religious dignitaries and prominent personalities from more than 50 countries on 5 continents, again participated in this year's Grand Gathering, held in the Villepinte Convention Centre near Paris on Saturday, 1 July. Many of them addressed the event, speaking to the tens of thousands who had come also from across the globe to be part of this very special occasion. This year for the first time, the former residents of Ashraf joined the gathering via satellite from their own conference hall in Tirana, which, when projected onto the screens at the back of the Paris stage, was an immensely uplifting and heartwarming sight.

With all the Ashrafis having found safe haven in Albania by September 2016, the speakers at this event were clearly very happy to be able to focus, also for the first time, solely on the human rights situation in Iran itself and the meddling of the regime in the Middle East region, as the following excerpts from their speeches show.

**GILBERT MITTERRAND**, head of the France Libertés Foundation, welcomed the participants and said: "Your broad presence here is like a referendum against the clerical regime". He also conveyed a message from the former French President Francois Hollande who thanked



... continued on p.2

## 256 MEPS EXPRESS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT IRAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

**T**wo hundred and fifty six members of the European Parliament issued a joint statement that expressed grave concerns over Iran's "human rights violations, repression of women and minorities and the Iranian regime's support of terrorism." The signatories include four European Parliament Vice Presidents. Twenty three committee and delegation chairs also back the



statement which sends a strong message to Iran.

Gérard Deprez MEP, President of

... continued on p.3



PARIS 2017: CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS IN IRAN *continued from p.1*

the organisers for the invitation and said that “he will continue to pay attention to the human rights situation in Iran”.

**ED RENDELL**, Chairman of the US Democratic Party and Governor of Pennsylvania said: “...in my public career, I have never felt a better feeling than knowing that my work and my energy somehow contributed in some small part to getting the people of Ashraf out of Iraq to safety. I have never felt prouder of anything I have done in my public career. And I want to see those faces on the screen tonight, that is its own reward. You don’t have to thank me. It is wonderful, it is a great feeling”.



**JOSEPH LIEBERMAN**, former US Senator and Vice-Presidential candidate said: “The capital, since 1979, of Islamic extremism and terrorism has been in Tehran under this extremist regime, and that is why it has got to go”. He continued: “The people of Iran inside Iran have shown the courage to rise up. In the past year, as you know, there is a social movement that has adopted the cause of bringing to light what happened to the 30,000 Iranians, mostly members of the MEK, who were massacred in 1988. One day, just as there was in South Africa after apartheid ended, there will be a truth commission in Iran that will reveal the horrible truth of what this regime did.”



**BERNARD KOUCHNER**, former Foreign Minister of France said: “I want to congratulate and I pay respect to this fantastic Albanian people and the representative of the Albanian government because they were the only ones to welcome the people from Ashraf and Liberty. So thank you for



that, Albanian people. People of Iran have been suppressed for 38 years... The regime of the Ayatollah is the base of extremism. So people of Iran are very right and deserve... to have freedom and democracy. They deserve to have free elections through which they can elect their true representatives, and not those who have been elected by the supreme leader... change in Iran is certainly the beginning of a real change for democracy in the whole region.”

**TOM RIDGE**, former US Secretary of Homeland Security and Governor of Pennsylvania said: “A couple moments ago, I was walking outside, I had a brief conversation with a woman who has lost six family members in the struggle for a free Iran. It’s an extraordinary and a very personal reminder as to why we are all here together. It’s an honour and a privilege for all of us to join you in this cause... Only the light of liberty can overcome and replace the darkness of the tyrannical Iranian regime. That light of liberty, ignited and sustained by the martyrs, by the men and women of Ashraf and Liberty, and those who have managed to survive that terror and are now in Albania.”



Congressman Judge **TED POE** said: “There were countless attacks at Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty. The IRGC was behind all of these attacks. And I have introduced legisla-



tion in the House of Representatives to designate the IRGC as a terrorist entity. And we will get that done, I can assure you”. He added: “about thirty years ago Khomeini murdered 30,000 people because they were political dissidents. They wanted a regime change. It’s time to have a day of reckoning for those people that were murdered.”

**GIULIO TERZI**, former Italian Foreign Minister said: “European leaders and businesses are ill-advised rushing – at their own risk – to the Iranian market as if Rouhani were making of it a new El Dorado. Too often their partners are linked to the IRGC. World leaders should look to the Iranian people, to the expatriate community. They should stand with them, support the Iranian resistance, the freedom and human dignity the Iranians are striving for. The message to the mullah’s must be: It’s time for them to go.”



**JOHN BAIRD**, former Foreign Minister of Canada said: “I am so proud that the government that I served in as Foreign Minister in Canada spoke with great moral clarity. We labelled the entire Iranian regime as a state sponsor of terrorism. We kicked the mullahs’ spokesman out of Canada. We shut down our embassy, and we ended diplomatic relations with this regime. Friends, the money that this regime spends on terrorism, on military interference in the countries in the region, the money they spend on their nuclear program, is money that is being stolen from the Iranian people and they want it to stop.”



The keynote speaker to the event

*... continued on p.4*

**EDITORIAL** *continued from p.1*

he said: “The Velayat-e Faqih regime needs to export crisis to survive, but the first victims of Khomeini and his followers are the Iranian people. Your efforts to confront this regime is legitimate and your struggle is for the liberation of the Iranian people with

all its spectrum of Arabs, Kurds, Baluch, Azeri and Fars from the oppression of the Velayat-e Faqih.”

Let the last word go to Lesley Cook who came on her own via Eurostar to join us at the venue, and summed up the feeling of our group beautifully: “I left the Gathering feeling that the prospect

for change is better than it has been for some time, and hope that those in Iran who were watching on SIMA TV were encouraged by the worldwide support for democratic change for their country. Let’s hope the next grand event is held in Tehran free of oppression and human rights violations”.



## 256 MEPs Express Grave Concern about Iran's Human Rights Record *continued from p.1*

the Friends of a Free Iran in the European Parliament, issued a statement in this regard on 26 June 2017 which follows: Today we are announcing the support of 265 members of the European Parliament for a joint statement on human rights in Iran. My colleagues who have signed this statement are from all political groups and tendencies in the European Parliament. They include 4 Vice-Presidents of the parliament and 23 Committee and Delegation Chairs. This clearly shows that when the issue of human rights violations, repression of women and minorities and the Iranian regime's support of terrorism are concerned, we are all united.

Recently the Iranian regime held a presidential election. In our view this was a fake election because there were no opposition candidates and people just had the choice of choosing between several senior mullahs. Hassan Rouhani who is starting his second term, is no moderate or reformist. During his first 4 years, Iran was the number one in the world for the highest number of executions per capita.

Rouhani's minister of justice is a self-confessed murderer who was a member of the Death Committee, ordering the executions of over 30 thousands political prisoners in 1988, mostly from the main opposition PMOI.

Therefore in our statement we have called on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to set up a commission of inquiry on the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran.



We have called on our European governments to condition their relationships with Iran to a halt to executions and a clear progress on human rights and women rights.

Also, we are very much concerned by the destructive role of the Iranian regime in the region. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is mainly active in Syria and Iraq and must be put on the international black lists.

IRGC also runs most of Iranian economy. So our European companies who want to sign economic deals with Iran, take a high risk of dealing directly and indirectly with IRGC which is really a terrorist organization.

In order to express our solidarity with the Iranian democratic opposition, I will attend the FREE IRAN gathering in Paris on 1 July where I will present the support of 265 members of the European Parliament for this joint declaration. We strongly encourage our European governments and the EU to follow our statement.

## FORMER ARCHBISHOP ROWAN WILLIAMS: RELIGIOUS MINORITIES MUST BE AT HEART OF ANY IRAN DEAL

*An excerpt from the article in CHRISTIAN TODAY, 27 June 2017, by Harry Farley:*

**F**ormer Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is leading a campaign urging western countries to put religious minorities at the heart of any future deal with Iran.

Lord Williams joins the former Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard, the Bishop of Bristol Mike Hill, the Bishop of Burnley Philip North and dozens of other faith leaders in the UK and US to stress the 'harassment and persecution' of Christians in Iran under 'the ruling

theocracy'.

The petition calling on governments to make the end to oppression of religious minorities a precondition before any deal with Iran has been signed by more than 90 religious leaders ahead of a major conference in Paris on Saturday.

Tens of thousands are expected to attend the 'Free Iran' event on July 1 to highlight the levels of persecution under President Hassan Rouhani.

'While the majority of the victims of the Iranian regime's rights abuses are Muslims, members of religious minorities, including members of the Christian and Jewish faiths, have been specifically targeted over their personal religious beliefs over the years,' the faith leaders write.

'The situation of religious minorities have deteriorated in recent years, including during the tenure of President Hassan Rouhani. Scores of Iranian pastors are languishing in prisons solely for their beliefs,' they add, claiming

children's textbooks encourage hatred of Jews for taking Muslim lands.

'In such circumstances, we call on all countries to consider the deplorable situation of human rights in Iran, particularly the painful situation of religious minorities, in navigating their relations with Iran. We urge them to precondition improvement of those relations on a cessation of oppression of minorities and on a halt to executions in Iran.'

The signatories point to statement by the UN secretary-general António Guterres who said in March 2017: 'Members of religious and ethnic minorities have continued to endure abuse and discrimination and face persecution, including arrest and imprisonment, expulsion from educational institutions, denial of economic opportunities, deprivation of the right to work, the closure of businesses and the destruction of religious sites, such as cemeteries and prayer centres.'





PARIS 2017: CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS IN IRAN *continued from p.2*



**MARYAM RAJAVI**, laid a wreath at the memorial of 120,000 Iranian martyrs.

In her speech she said: "Is this regime ever capable of reform? The answer is NO, because claimants of reform held presidential office for 20 out of the total 38 years of the regime's rule and they did nothing but serving the Velayat-e Faqih regime... the time has come for exposing the executioners until the day when they will be held to account before the Iranian nation..."



Today, Iran's freedom-fighters have gathered in Ashraf number 3 in Albania. It is common knowledge that after 29 ground and air attacks on Ashraf and Liberty, their miraculous flight out of fire and blood has not come easy.

...Out of the past 38 years, the mullahs were engaged in war with Iraq for eight years, have been at war with the people of Syria for six years, and have pursued confrontation with the international community for more than ten years to build an atomic bomb.

The Iranian resistance is proud that it has stood up to the mullahs' religious fascism in all these three spheres: It has been the flag-bearer of peace and freedom; it has been a vanguard in defending the people of Syria, and it has led the way for a non-nuclear Iran.

...Khamenei and other leaders of the regime must face justice for flagrant violations of human rights and their crimes against humanity, particularly the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran and for their war crimes in the region."

Former Vice President of the European Parliament, **DR ALEJO VIDAL QUADRAS**, told the conference: This is the first time we are together in this gathering with no concern about the

safety of Ashrafis, and this is excellent news. The safe transfer to Albania last year was a great achievement, and a strategic defeat for the mullahs' regime who were planning to massacre all of them. These heroes stood up in heartless time against the Iranian regime and they were and are an example for the Iranian people for their commitment to freedom, to democracy and to equality between men and women. My dear friends from Ashraf, dear Ashrafis, you are the real symbol for us today and I feel deeply that fighting together with you against this totalitarian regime all these years has given to all of us a new meaning in our lives...

**ELONA GJEBREA**, Albania's Deputy Interior Minister said: "It's great honour for me to be at this extraordinary event. The first time I was here was 2014. By that time the government of Albania, with Prime Minister Edi Rama and the previous government, had accepted 250 persons. But in a two year time now we have 2,700 [Ashraf] people living in Albania. It was a huge, huge operation ... Yes, we made it! No single incident, safe and in a very organized manner, we welcomed our brothers and sisters."



**FATMIR MEDIU**, leader of the opposition party and former Albanian Defence Minister said: "It is a great pleasure and honour to be with you today here once more. Every day that goes through I am more convinced and honoured that the Albanians have taken the right decision to make you part of our family and part of our country..."



Former residents of Ashraf joined the gathering from Tirana via satellite.

[The] more I get to know you, the more I love you. The more I get to know your history, the more my heart is filled with pain but also my spirit is filled with hope that together we work for the future.

Former Albanian Prime Minister **PANDELI MAJKO** said: "... we are so honoured coming here to Paris in such a special space where East meets the West under the umbrella of the Iranian spirit and we all together dream about the future. Every year I have come here in the last five years I heard that you're afraid about your people in Ashraf Camp. Now, in the name of the Albanian people we are so honoured to tell you that they are safe. They are, in our faith, in Albanian faith, they are part of our home... part of the Albanian family."



**SENATOR CATHERINE NOONE**, Deputy Leader of Irish Senate said: "I'm happy to represent at this great gathering the delegation from the Irish Senate... On the 23rd of November last, a motion was tabled in the Irish Senate to condemn human rights violations in the brutal 1988 massacre of more than 30,000 political prisoners in Iran... We are very concerned that human rights abuses and executions continue today in Iran because of the impunity enjoyed by the Iranian authorities in the last three and a half decades. Therefore, we have called upon the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner, the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, and the Security Council to order an investigation and bring the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre into justice."



**LINDA CHAVEZ** said: "I want to salute you today for your courage and for your perseverance... Your perseverance gives us hope that we shall in the end defeat the phenomena of Islamic fundamentalism, whose heart beats in the clerical regime in Iran."



**INGRID BETANCOURT** said: "... to ... *continued on p.5*



## UK DELEGATION AT PARIS 2017 EVENT

**RT. HON. THERESA VILLIERS MP:** It's a huge honour to be able to address this inspirational event for the very first time. I have the very highest regard for the British-Iranian community in my constituency in Chipping Barnet back in England, and I thank them warmly for the support that they've given me... Everyone here will be all too well aware of the shocking human rights record of the Iranian regime, which is a tyranny. Nearly 700 people were put to death in a single six month period in 2015. That's equivalent to around three every single day of the year. And sadly, we all know that the Iranian regime leads the world in the execution of children... We all know that members of minority faiths like Baha'is and Christians face oppression and discrimination. And as many speakers have highlighted today it is also high time that women in Iran enjoyed freedom and equality once again... Ladies and gentlemen, friends, this regime is a deeply repressive one which brutalizes much of its population. And its pursuit of dominance in the region is a continuing source of instability in the Middle East. It is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, providing financial and material support to a range of lethal, violent, extremist, terrorist groups. So the Iranian regime is responsible for many lives lost and families bereaved both within its own borders and beyond. Ladies and gentlemen, it is

truly a source of evil in the world, and I sincerely hope that one day the people of Iran will be able to free themselves from its grip and together build a brighter future based on the principles of freedom and democracy.

**SIR DAVID AMESS MP:** Ladies and gentlemen, for evil to prevail all it needs is for good women and good men to do nothing. Now the British delegation joins with you today at this inspirational rally to make sure that something happens.

**BARONESS VERMA:** I know it's been a very long day for all of us but every speech has meant so much to the people of Iran and to us who stand here supporting the people inside Iran and those of you who have spent your years fighting for the human rights of the people of Iran. I also want to thank all of those politicians, parliamentarians, who have travelled from across the world to be here joining us all in making sure that what we want happens; that the people of Iran get the freedoms, the democracy, the human rights back. You have been stalwarts. And for the 11 years that I've known your work as a parliamentarian, I want to thank you. I want to thank each and every one of you who have spent your life making sure that those voices that have fallen, that those people who have struggled for this fight inside of Iran, have not been forgotten, those women, those children, those men who are your



brothers and sisters, our brothers and sisters...

Today, we are delivering hope not for them but for ourselves, because we can see collectively when we all join together and the world is on our side that we can make a change... But my friends, there is much still to be done and we must not let anyone forget that.

### PARIS 2017: CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS IN IRAN *continued from p.4*

defeat this religious terrorism... we need to go to the source, the historical origin of this plague, and this origin is the Iranian revolution of 1979. It was they, the Iranian fundamentalists, who were the first to install a model based on the absolute power of the religious Supreme Leader. Well before Al-Baghdadi at Mosul or Raqqa, Khomeini had already dictated in Tehran fatwas calling for the assassination of writers and intellectuals in Europe, accused of blasphemy...



**RAMA YADE,** former French Secretary of State for Human Rights said: "... at the time of the sham presidential election which has just been held, their memory, the memory of the 30,000, even reached the speeches by Rouhani and his conservative friends. Now they are accusing one another of being responsible for this crime. But this Death Commission, that launched this massacre, was one of which they were all members, including those who today call themselves 'reformists'... as



long as the tyrants continue to reign in Tehran, we shall have to stand up against barbarism, demand justice, and ensure that they are dragged before the courts."





# ILA DELEGATION AT PARIS 2017 EVENT

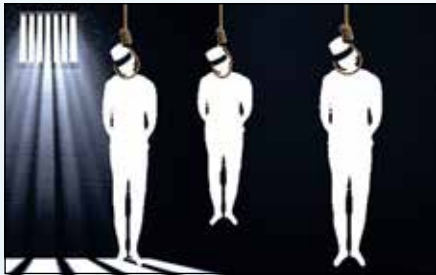




## NEWS FROM IRAN

### Iran executions soar in July

According to the families of death row prisoners who had gathered outside Gohardasht prison on 11 July, prison officials have said that 117 people are supposed to be executed in Gohardasht prison in the next few weeks. At least 57 prisoners have been executed in the first 12 days of July.



### Father and son face cruel conditions in prison

Mohsen and Ahmad Daneshpour Moghadam have spent more than seven years in Evin prison in a state of limbo. They have objected to the verdict of their original conviction but the judiciary refuses to issue a final verdict under the pretext of 'lost file'. Despite his own severe illness, Ahmad is nursing his 72-year-old ill father in prison. Both have been denied proper medical attention. Ahmad was arrested along with his father, mother, wife and a family friend on 27 December 2009 for visiting his brother in Camp Ashraf for a few days in 2008.



### Man was murdered by security agent in Tehran metro station

15 July 2017, a 40-year-old man was shot dead at the Shahr-e-Ray subway station south of Tehran by the regime's security forces after protesting against a mullah who harassed girls in the station under the pretext of 'enjoining good and forbidding wrong'. Eyewitnesses who filmed the incident say that,

contrary to the claims of the regime, the assailant did not do anything against the people and only confronted the mullah who harassed the girls.



### Christians jailed for holding ceremonies at home

Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, Mohammadreza Omid, Yasser Mossayebzadeh and Saheb Fadaie have been sentenced to ten years in prison each accused of "propagating house churches" and "promoting Zionist Christianity". Solidarity Worldwide condemned the sentences and said the Christian community in Iran has been criminalized.

Four other Christians were also sentenced to jail for 'missionary activities', according to World Watch Monitor report on 7 July.



### Agonizing surge in the number of child labourers in Iran

In an interview with the state-run ISNA news agency on 14 July, an Iranian official acknowledged the increase in child labour in the country and said: "Unfortunately, despite the fact that global statistics on child labour have been declining, we are witnessing increasing number of working children in Iran." Tahereh Pajouhesh pointed to the root of the problem, the



incompetent regime, and added: "As long as the economic structures of the country are not reformed and poverty is not eradicated, this process will continue."

"When the minimum wage of a worker is 800 thousand Toman (about \$300) per month, as the rental prices skyrocket, it can be seen with a thumbnail calculation that with this salary you cannot even have a suitable shelter", she said.

Iranian regime officials admit the existence of seven million working and street children as well as the abusive exploitation of a significant number of children in the narcotics trade in Iran.

### A 'crude PR stunt'

Amnesty International published a report about a visit to one of the country's most infamous prisons arranged by Iranian authorities for representatives of up to 45 foreign diplomatic missions from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. According to AI report "The authorities made no secret of the fact that the tour of Evin Prison in Tehran was designed to counter negative human rights reports about the prison, and showcase the 'excellent facilities' on offer which include an in-house beauty salon, gym, library and restaurant. In reality, this rosy picture could not be further from the truth".

In a long letter to the delegates whose 'congratulatory comments' enabled Iran's media to paint this 'rosy picture', Evin prisoner, Maryam Akbari Monfared, depicted the day to day realities of Evin and concluded: "I once again convey the sound of pains and sufferings towards you so you can reflect my voice. Where it is not even possible to breathe, we shout anger out of our mighty throat."





# MESSAGES FROM IRAN AND IRANIAN PRISONS FOR PARIS 2017



Mrs Sholeh Pakravan the mother of 26 year old Reyhaneh Jabbari who was hanged on 25 October 2014, after seven years of imprisonment for defending herself against rape by a high-ranking official of the Intelligence Ministry, wrote a letter on social media about the anniversary of 20 June 1981 and the need to commemorate this day as it has been the case in Paris gathering. She wrote in part: "Today, we are remembering political prisoners, both those who were killed in the past decades and those who are presently in prison."



"Back on 20 June 1981, I was a teenager. It was the day they opened fire on our people's demonstration. Afterwards, only the names of young boys and girls who had been executed were announced in the newspapers. The day turned into a turning point in the history of our people's quest for freedom. Those days I didn't understand anything."

"I didn't know the meaning of getting arrested and executed."

"I was not aware and I am ashamed of myself for not being aware."

"When I say I am ashamed of myself, I mean that if me and all of us stood together in those days, may be they couldn't have adopted inhumane laws."

"May be we could have prevented non-independent judges from presiding the courts."

"May be the so-called courts and dictated verdicts would not have taken shape."

"May be justice would not have got lost in my homeland."

"May be my daughter would not have been denied justice and today, she could laugh and be happy under the shining sun."

"For years, we have witnessed the judiciary and the government stand against our people's righteous demands."

"Awareness and freedom require great effort."

"Holding memorial ceremonies, seminars, and conferences is just the beginning of this road."

### Iran's political prisoners call on humanitarians to participate in the Grand Gathering in Paris

While taking grave risks, political prisoners from all over Iran, in various messages smuggled out of prisons declared their solidarity with the grand gathering in Paris on 1 July and called on humanitarians all over the world to take part in it.



In a joint message under the title "A smaller Iran at Villepinte" political prisoners in Gohardasht and Evin wrote: The Paris gathering shows that "there is hope". They wrote: "What could be more enthusiastic for us, the prisoners, than seeing that our friends and comrades in all parts of the world not only did not forget us, but are loud cry of ours and of the people of Iran, the larger prison ... Our greetings and salutes to all the stars of this galaxy who are presenting a truly democratic, coherent and adamant aspect of Iran and Iranians to the world."

Ali Moezzi, a political prisoner in the 1980s, wrote from Tehran prison:

"The Iranian people's historic demands to reach a free and democratic

Iran will not be abandoned; demands such as a pluralist society with fundamental freedoms, separation of church and state, the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, and gender equality ... I see myself with you from here in prison."

Balouch prisoners in the central prison of Zahedan, including a number of Sunni clerics, in solidarity with the Paris gathering wrote: As "the voiceless prisoners behind bars, we are seriously requesting you to take part in this rally as the defenders of our rights, and be our voice to the world".

Ebrahim Firoozi, the Christian political prisoner, sent his message from Gohardasht prison: "The gathering of fellow citizens in France is a sign of the flaming spirit of liberation. Now that we are not allowed to have free assembly inside Iran, by supporting the gathering of Iranians abroad and responsible participation in this gathering, let's be the voice of those suffering from the clerical regime, which annually brings thousands of people to death and has removed bread from the workers' table."

Arjang Davoodi wrote from the central prison of Zabol: "I invite everyone to participate in the grand gathering in Paris to hold it as magnificent as possible."

Mehdi Farahi Shandiz sent a message from Qazvin Prison: "... after the fake election that put

Khamenei and the whole regime in a dead-end, it was proved that the choice of our nation is to get rid of religious despotism and fascism, separation of religion from the state and Iran without compulsion, discrimination, censorship, repression, torture and execution ... I want you to say no to 38 years of execution and imprisonment, and to say no to the black religious tyranny by joining the Paris gathering".

