

WINTER 2018

INTERNATIONAL LIBERTY



FIGHTING AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

PARIS 2018

The ILA sponsors & attends
the Grand Gathering

MASSACRE 1988

Seeking justice for a crime
against humanity

8



Prisoners

سازمان

25



16



ILA MAGAZINE 2

CONTENTS

- 4 The 1988 Massacre in Iran
- 6 30,000 Murdered by the Iranian Regime
- 8 The Justice seeking campaign
- 10 United Nations updates
- 14 UK and US Government news
- 15 C of E Bishops Condemn the Regime
- 16 Paris gathering 2018
- 20 Messages from Iran
- 24 Messages from ILA supporters
- 25 Speeches by the International delegates
- 31 Artistic performances from Paris 2018

International Liberty Association
Rowlandson House,
289-297 Ballards Lane,
London
N12 8NP

Phone
020 8452 3481

Online
info@ilibrary.org.uk
www.ilibrary.org.uk

International Liberty Association
Charity Registration No: 1160607





4 30 000
IRANIAN
EXECUTED

6 MURDERED
BY THE
IRANIAN
REGIME



DURING THE SUMMER OF 1988 IN IRAN 30,000 PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WERE EXECUTED



HUMAN RIGHTS SUPRESSED

The perpetrators of this heinous crime have yet to be brought to justice. Despite the efforts of many human rights activists in this regard, a significant amount of evidence and facts about the case remain covered and hidden. A failure seriously to investigate and a lack of proper attention to the case, together with global silence and a lack of effective action by human rights organizations over the past 30 years have all contributed to blocking efforts to bring the perpetrators of the executions in Iran to answer for their crimes in a court of law. We witness instead the fact that Iran ranks first in the world for the number of executions per capita of population.

With the advent of Velayat-e-Faqih since 1979, the establishment of religious fundamentalist rule has resulted in severe repression and tyranny in Iran. As a result, human rights are being institutionally and systematically violated. Arrests and the brutal torture of human rights activists, including those working in defence of women and children, along with ethnic and religious minorities still continue. Public hanging, stoning to death, the amputation of prisoners' hands and legs, and finally, mass executions of prisoners of conscience are being regularly carried out. These rulings are generally concluded behind closed doors after a matter of only a few minutes, without the presence of a lawyer or the right of legal

representation for the defendants, and often with systematic torture.

In the summer of 1988, in an unimaginable action through the fatwa of Ayatollah Khomeini, 30,000 of the best sons and daughters of Iran were executed.

These were peace-loving intellectuals from all walks of life; attorneys, athletes, university and high school students, medical doctors and nurses, teachers, workers and even pregnant women were secretly executed in groups by firing squad or hanging. After the executions, they were buried in mass graves to prevent people becoming aware of the crime.



FARS

Photo : Ali Rafiei

FARS NEWS AGENCY

THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS HEINOUS CRIME HAVE YET TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE



The massacre took place in complete secrecy and in the shortest possible time.

According to recent reports from human rights organizations, these mass graves were destroyed, either by building over the site or under the pretext of road construction, in order to cover up evidence of the crime and block the way for justice.

The fact that this horrible crime took place was confirmed by the Iranian Velayat-e Faqih itself in the summer of 1988.



.....
These were peace-loving intellectuals from all walks of life. Attorneys, athletes, university and high school students, medical doctors and nurses, teachers and workers and even pregnant women

In a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2008, Reza Malek, former deputy in the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, said that in 1988, 170 to 190 graveyards were prepared in different parts of the country to bury the bodies of the victims of these massacres. He also said that in the same year more than 100 prisons and secret places in Tehran were prepared to torture the prisoners. Reza Malek is now imprisoned in his own country.

Even Ayatollah Montazeri, who in 1988 was designated by Khomeini himself as his successor, considered the 1988 massacre to be the greatest crime in Iranian history. He stated this in an audio tape that was widely broadcasted by his son through social media in 2017.

Thousands of Iranian people, old and young, women and men, were imprisoned, tortured and murdered for defending freedom of expression, equality and their God-given rights to live in a civil society. The fact that the international community remained silent and failed to respond to this terrible violation of human rights makes it likely that this heinous crime will be repeated. As we can see, 30 years after the massacre of 1988, people in Iran who struggle for their

rights are still arrested, tortured, and executed. People take to the streets demanding the return of the money they had saved during a lifetime's hard work and which had been plundered by government and banking institutions. Then we have unemployed graduates who are without hope for the future; they are disappointed and disadvantaged. There are workers and office staff who have not been paid their salaries for months. People turn to selling their kidneys or other body parts. Women activists protest against the forced "Hijab" and discrimination, and gather in peaceful rallies. Christians and other religious minorities could not freely practice their beliefs.

All these groups are taking part in protests, and they are all subject to arrest, vicious torture or execution.



MURDER IRANIA

30,000 IRANIANS
MASSACRED

**In 2017 there were
a minimum of 507
executions in Iran**

According to a credible report more than half of world executions take place in Iran. In its annual report it stated that in 2017 there was a minimum of 507 executions and that 60% have been verified. Five of those executed were under the legal age. 31 were executed publicly. The Iranian regime's widespread use of executions is as always a cause for concern.

This report adds: Reports made by Amnesty have showed that those who have been sentenced to death do not receive a fair trial. Most of the time the courts sentence these people to death on the basis of prisoners saying they were guilty due to harsh tortures. Usage of torture according to the UN Charter is illegal.

**MORE THAN HALF OF
THE EXECUTIONS THAT
TOOK PLACE ACROSS
THE WORLD IN 2017
WERE IN IRAN**

RED BY THE AN REGIME

T

STUDENT



Forouzan Abdi Pirbazari

Forouzan Abdi Pirbazari, (born in 1968, in Tehran), was a university student studying Sports Science, and a member of the national women's volleyball team. She was involved in human rights activities, particularly women's rights. She was arrested during her last semester before graduation and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

After the end of her 5 year sentence, Forouzan was held in jail for two more years. In 1988 she was executed along with the 30,000 other political prisoners.

NATIONAL CHAMPION FOOTBALLER



Habib Khabiri

Habib Khabiri was an Iranian footballer and captain of the Iranian national football team. His position was defender.

He was arrested for his human rights activities in 1982. He was severely tortured and then after a year executed in 1988 along with 40 other female and male activist prisoners.

CHILD ACTOR



Mohsen Mohammad-Bagher

Mohsen Mohammad-Bagher was a well known paralysed child actor. He had two walking sticks. The most famous film he appeared in was "Stranger and Fog" (Gharibeh va Meh), in 1974. He played the role of a paralysed child. Mohammad-Bagher also had roles in several other films and dubbed tracks in a number of children's cartoon films. He was arrested for his human rights and artistic activity. Despite being paralysed, he was always so vivacious and smiling that anybody who did not know him would not believe that his legs were paralysed. Eventually, he was executed at the age of 27 in the 1988 massacre.



A JUSTICE SEEKING CAMPAIGN

HUMAN RIGHTS SUPRESSED

In the summer of 2017, International Liberty Association joined the families of those massacred in 1988 and other prisoners of conscience announcing “The Litigation Movement for the 1988 Massacre”. The purpose of the movement was to bring the perpetrators of the massacre to justice, to stir the conscience of the international community, and to enlist support in advocating for human rights in Iran. This was welcomed by Iranians inside the country. As a first step, families of the prisoners massacred in 1988 started activities across Iran, with a view to bringing the principal criminals before the international tribunals. They collected the names of the victims and location of their graves, and reported these to the movement.

At the same time as these activities were taking place within Iran, the movement started international human rights campaigns to stop executions and support prisoners of conscience in Iran. Advocates of this human rights movement organised demonstrations, meetings, committees, actions and speeches in several countries, including Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and the USA. All of them call for universal condemnation of human rights abuses and the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, and announce their solidarity with the people of Iran, demanding that no one be harassed for their belief, religion or gender.

.....
We ask all human rights defenders around the world and all the men and women of conscience who respect human rights and freedoms, to help us

In solidarity with the Iranian people, many political and social figures, parliamentarians, members of political parties, human rights organisations, and even religious leaders in various European countries condemned the massacre of Iranian political prisoners. They urged their governments to limit their political and business relations to stop the execution and torture in Iran. They also called on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an independent commission to investigate the 1988 massacre.

This movement quickly gained the support of other human rights associations and organisations enlisting to cooperate with ILA. We were able to register with the international community the “Litigation Movement” for the 1988 massacre a project aimed to Stop executions in Iran. The Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran, the late Mrs Asma Jahangir, raised these issues in several reports and interviews, and the project was recorded in the United Nations annual report.

We have had a series of meetings in Geneva, European parliaments,

THE LITIGATION MOVEMENT FOR THE 1988 MASSACRE



the United States and Canada. The latest meeting was the annual Grand Gathering in Paris. The main themes of the Gathering were the search for justice following the massacre of 30,000 prisoners, and stopping executions in Iran. The ILA was one of the sponsors of this big annual event in Paris.

The conference was attended by tens of thousands of people from five continents, including over 600 prominent political and human rights leaders. The personalities and dignitaries who attended announced their solidarity with the Iranian people in their struggle to achieve peace and freedom, the abolition of death penalty and an end to the violation of human rights in Iran.

The conference demonstrated global solidarity for the advocacy movement for the victims of the 1988 massacre. It serves to amplify the voice of prisoners of conscience incarcerated for defending human rights and equality, and ensures that they are afforded the respect due to them by right-thinking people throughout the world.

The impact of the conference on the atmosphere of tyranny and repression inside Iran has made it a point of inspiration for the people of Iran and their hope for freedom. Reflections on the Grand Gathering received from inside Iran confirm this effect.

Bringing about justice after the 1988 massacre, honouring the sacrifices of the 30,000 innocent people who were executed and stopping the execution of people for their religion or their way of thinking, would all significantly help to heal the suffering of thousands of mothers and fathers who cannot



wait for their children's freedom and impatiently look forward to see their loved ones again.

Seeking justice for these fallen heroes and their remaining families, we ask all human rights defenders around the world, all the men and women of conscience who respect human rights and freedoms, to help us. We urge them to support the "Litigation Movement" and the struggle to stop executions in Iran.

Undoubtedly this just and legitimate demand is the first necessary step to a lasting freedom in Iran.



The Annual report by the UN Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez on the human rights situation in Iran

March 1st 2018

Paragraph 44 of the United Nations report on human rights situation in Iran mentions the campaign of bringing to justice to the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre. It also mentioned the letters received from the family members of the victims of the massacre and also the Secretary General's concern for the well being of those looking for justice and the truth in this regard.

United Nations' Special Rapporteur calls for independent investigations



n Wednesday 25 October 2017, as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation

in Iran, the late Ms Asma Jahangir called for a comprehensive and independent investigation into the massacre of prisoners in 1988 in Iran.

Regarding the massacre, which was based on Khomeini's fatwa, Ms Jahangir said, "The significant number of petitions, communications, and documentation related to the reported execution of thousands of political prisoners, men, women, and teenagers in 1988 speaks of a deep and unrelenting pain that must surely be addressed. The killings themselves have been acknowledged by some at the highest levels of the State.

Almost on a daily basis, I receive heartfelt letters from the relatives of those killed, calling for answers. The families of the victims have a right to remedy, reparation, and to know about the truth of these events and the fate of the victims, without risking reprisal. So, I emphasize my call for a comprehensive and independent investigation into the massacre."



"I emphasize my call for a comprehensive and independent investigation into the massacre."

NGOS DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

During the 36th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, a number of representatives of NGOs defending human rights and women's rights, condemned the violation of human rights and women's rights by the Iranian regime, and called on the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to press for investigations of the 1988 massacre as a crime against humanity.



THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S 64TH RESOLUTION

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted its 64th Resolution on 19 December 2017 against human rights violations in Iran

The General Assembly resolution “expresses its serious concern over the high number of death sentences imposed and executed ... including the imposition of the death sentences against adolescents and those who at the time of the offence were under the age of 18, and executions for crimes that are not serious, and basically are relying on compulsory confessions”, and called on the Iranian regime “to abolish executions in public, both in law and in practice”, “torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”, “the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention, including the use of methods to target persons of two nationalities and foreign citizens”, “bad conditions in prisons”, “denial of access to medical treatment”, “extensive and serious restrictions on the



right to freedom of expression, opinion, assembly and peaceful gathering by means of virtual or extra-linear” and “harassment, intimidation, and torture of political opponents, human rights defenders and activists of Women Rights and minorities, labour leaders, student activists, film-makers, journalists and bloggers, directors of social media, media workers, religious leaders, artists, lawyers and persons belonging to well-known and unknown religious

minorities and their families”, and “Harsh Convictions, Including Death Penalty and Long-Term Internal Exile”, “Avengers Against People for their cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms” and “Discrimination and Violation of Women and Girls’ Rights” and “Religious, Ethnic, Linguistic, and Other Minorities” are among the other issues that the United Nations General Assembly resolution calls for an end to, and requires the Iranian regime to stop.



CIVIL SOCIETY URGES UN TO LAUNCH INQUIRY

THE FATE OF DETAINED PROTESTERS OF THE RECENT UPRISING DEPENDS ON IT

On 1 February 2018, a civil society hearing in Geneva, co-sponsored by ILA, heard witnesses and legal experts and offered an adjudication of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran. The day-long event organised by Justice for Victims of the 1988 Massacre in Iran (JVMI) was also sponsored by four NGOs with consultative status at the UN.

In this hearing, international civil society personalities and NGOs urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate the months-long massacre during which the government of Iran executed an estimated 30,000 political prisoners.

They included the following personalities:

Prof Jean Ziegler, Vice President of the Advisory Committee to the UN Human Rights Council

Dr Juan Garcés, Chief Lawyer in the Spanish case against General Pinochet

Tahar Boumedra, A former UN Human Rights official, authored two books on the 1988 massacre

Eric Sottas, Former Secretary - General of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

.....
"The lives of thousands of jailed protesters are now in danger, particularly at the turn of the year after which numerous protesters died while in custody"

The hearing was the first of its kind in Geneva and it urged immediate action by the UN to address the current wave of mass arrests and killings in Iranian jails following peaceful protests. It stressed that an inquiry, long overdue, is especially crucial as the lives of thousands of jailed protesters is now in danger, particularly at the turn of the year after which numerous protesters died while in custody.

The audience also heard oral testimonies from eight survivors and eye-witnesses to the massacre. Mostafa Naderi, who was incarcerated from 1981 to 1992 and miraculously survived the 1988 massacre, recounted the 11 years that he spent in prison, including five years in solitary confinement. The testimonies of Mr Ahmad Ebrahmi and Mrs Farzaneh Majidi, now residing in the UK, were perceived as both revealing and shocking. The audience was moved by the courage of the eye witnesses and severity of their accounts.

The indictment was presented by the distinguished British lawyer, Kirsty Brimelow QC, Chairwoman of the Bar Human Rights Committee. She presented ample evidence to establish that the 1988 massacre constitutes a crime against humanity and, referring to the current situation in Iran, concluded that similar crimes are perpetrated by the same officials in Iran today.

The presiding panel of adjudicators included Sir Geoffrey Robertson



QC, head of Doughty Street Chambers in the UK and former appeal judge at the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone, and Prof Eric David, Professor Emeritus of International Law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. On the basis of the evidence provided, both of them concluded that the UN has an obligation to investigate the 1988 massacre in Iran. A report by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the General Assembly about the "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran" dated 31 October 2017 was read out. This stated, "The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued

to receive a large number of complaints from families of the victims of executions which took place in 1988."

MPs and Peers call on UK government to press UN to form a commission of inquiry

MPs and Peers call on the UK government to press the UN to form a Commission of Inquiry at a conference in the House of Commons, dozens of MPs and peers called on the UK government to condemn the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran and to press the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran to form a

commission of inquiry, in order to bring the perpetrators of this crime against humanity to justice.

The cross-party MPs were joined by prominent lawyers from the Law Society and the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales.



US Congress condemning the massacre of 30,000 prisoners in Iran, in 1988

Forty six US law-makers from both the Republican and Democratic parties, including head of Foreign Affairs Committee, Chair of the National Security Subcommittee, and Democratic ranking member in the Foreign Affairs Committee, called on the US government and US allies to publicly condemn the massacre in 1988 in Iran. They urged the United Nations to convene a commission of inquiry

to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. The head of the Democratic Party's representatives in the Committee on Foreign Affairs issued a press release announcing the official statement of the resolution 188 to the press.

Washington Times 12/06/2017



Church of England Bishops condemn Iranian regime's human rights record



Over 70 bishops in the UK joined the Rt. Rev and Rt. Hon Dr Rowan Williams to condemn the human rights abuses of the Iranian regime, particularly the plight of religious minorities in Iran.

In a press release published on 23 June 2018 the Bishops announced: "The regime has been condemned no less than 64 times by various United Nations bodies and criticised by international human rights organisations for its appalling human rights record.

While the majority of the victims of the regime's abuses are Shiite Muslims, members of religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, members of the Sunni branch of Islam, and people of other faiths, have been targeted over their personal religious beliefs."

In the statement the Archbishops and Bishops "call on all countries to take into consideration 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 base any improvement of relations with Iran on a cessation of oppression of minorities and on a halt to executions in Iran".

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Rowan Williams, The Lord Williams of Oystermouth
The Most Reverend John Davies, Archbishop of Wales
The Right Reverend Dr. Barry Morgan, The former Archbishop of Wales 2003-2017
The Most Reverend Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness
The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church
The Most Reverend Walter Khotso Makhulu, Archbishop Emeritus of Central Africa
The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, The Bishop of London
The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek, The Lord Bishop of Gloucester
The Right Reverend Paul Butler, The Lord Bishop of Durham
The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, The Lord Bishop of Coventry
The Right Reverend Graham James, The Lord Bishop of Norwich
The Right Reverend Dr John Inge, The Lord Bishop of Worcester
The Right Reverend Nick Baines, The Lord Bishop of Leeds
The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, The Lord Bishop of Newcastle
The Right Reverend Donald Allister, The Lord Bishop of Peterborough
The Right Reverend James Newcome, The Lord Bishop of Carlisle
The Right Reverend Stephen Conway, The Lord Bishop of Ely
The Right Reverend Peter Forster, The Lord Bishop of Chester
The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford
The Right Reverend Gregory Clayton Smith, The Lord Bishop of St Albans
The Right Reverend Christopher Richard James Foster, The Lord Bishop of Portsmouth
The Right Reverend Christopher Lowson, The Lord Bishop of Lincoln
The Right Reverend Peter Eagles, The Bishop of Sodor and Man
The Right Reverend Nick Holtam, The former Lord Bishop of Salisbury
The Right Reverend John Pritchard, The former Bishop of Oxford
The Right Reverend Julian Henderson, The Bishop of Blackburn
The Right Reverend Dr Pete Wilcox, The Bishop of Sheffield
The Right Reverend Robert Atwell, The Bishop of Exeter
The Right Reverend Andrew Watson, The Bishop of Guildford
The Right Reverend Robert Paterson, The former Bishop of Sodor & Man
The Right Reverend Dr Gregor Duncan, The Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway
The Right Reverend Adrian Newman, The Bishop of Stepney
The Right Reverend Pete Broadbent, The Bishop of Willesden
The Right Reverend Rob Wickham, The Bishop of Edmonton
The Right Reverend Ric Thorpe, The Bishop of Islington
The Right Reverend Dr Graham Tomlin, The Bishop of Kensington
The Right Reverend Dr Mike Harrison, The Bishop of Dunwich
The Right Reverend Peter Burrows, The Bishop of Doncaster
The Right Reverend Clive Gregory, The Bishop of Wolverhampton
The Right Reverend Dr Jonathan Frost, The Bishop of Southampton
The Right Reverend Richard Frith, The Bishop of Hereford
The Right Reverend Dr John Thomson, The Bishop of Selby
The Right Reverend David Stancliffe, The Assistant Bishop of Durham
The Right Reverend Tony Robinson, The Bishop of Wakefield
The Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, The Bishop of Ripon
The Right Reverend Peter Hill, The Bishop of Barking
The Right Reverend Paul Slater, The Bishop of Kirkstall
The Right Reverend Geoff Annas, The Bishop of Stafford
The Right Reverend Libby Lane, The Bishop of Stockport
The Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, The Bishop of Birkenhead
The Right Reverend Richard Jackson, The Bishop of Lewes
The Right Reverend Richard Atkison, OBE, The Bishop of Bedford
The Right Reverend Dr Alan Wilson, The Bishop of Buckingham
The Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley, The Bishop of Hertford
The Right Reverend June Osborne, The Bishop of Llandaff
The Right Reverend Joanna Penberthy, The Bishop of St Davids
The Right Reverend Richard Pain, The Bishop of Monmouth
The Right Reverend Mark Rylands, The Bishop of Shrewsbury
The Right Reverend Glyn Webster, The Bishop of Beverley
The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, The Bishop of Dover
The Right Reverend Philip North, The Bishop of Burnley
The Right Reverend Colin Fletcher, The Bishop of Dorchester
The Right Reverend Nick McKinnel, The Bishop of Plymouth
The Right Reverend Jonathan Merick, The Bishop of Lynn
The Right Reverend Dr Alan Winton, The Bishop of Thetford
The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft, The Bishop of Bolton
The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, The Bishop of Sherborne
The Right Reverend Dr Woyin Karawei Dorgu, The Bishop of Woolwich
The Right Reverend Edward Holland, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of London & Former Bishop in Europe
The Right Reverend Andrew J. Proud, The Bishop of Reading
The Right Reverend Anne Hollinghurst, The Bishop of Aston
The Right Reverend Anne Dyer, The Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney
The Right Reverend Ken Good, The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe (Church of Ireland)



PARIS GATHERING JUNE 2018

**"I HAIL ALL THE MARTYRS AND PRISONERS OF
CONSCIENCE WHO HAVE FALLEN IN DEFIANCE
OF TYRANNY**

SINCE JUNE 20, 1981, UNTIL TODAY.
FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK NIGHT,
A ROSE BLOSSOMS
WINTER WILL NO DOUBT PASS,
AND THE HARBINGER OF SPRING,
THOUSANDS OF ROSES IN HAND
WILL CERTAINLY FOLLOW

HAIL TO FREEDOM!

HAIL TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAN!"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Maryam Rajavi

The keynote speaker at the Paris gathering was Madam Maryam Raja-vi, the President-elect of Iran's parliament in exile, the NCRI.

Excerpts of her speech follow:

A brief glance at the circumstances in Iran is revealing:

The strike by toiling truck-drivers in 285 cities and in 31 provinces for 12 days to attain the absolute basics of their rights, shook the regime to its foundation.

During recent months, day after day, teachers, retirees, defrauded individuals and families who have lost all of their life assets to the fraudulent mullahs, and workers of hundreds of manufacturing units rose up. And last week, the uprising of tradesmen of the Tehran Bazaar paved the way for further protests in other cities.

Indeed, Iran's sons and daughters once again joined voices and hands, in an uprising that embraced all of society and all ethnic groups and communities. The volatile state of society is now perceived by everyone.

The mullahs however, offer no solution. They are neither willing nor competent or to resolve these problems.

The velayat-e faqih (absolute rule of the Jurisprudence) is now void of any legitimacy. Khamenei's prominence has plummeted considerably even among the regime's followers. The regime has now literally run out of currency.

The Revolutionary Guards and the infamous Bassij paramilitary forces face major defections. The masquerade of "moderation" designed to preserve the regime and its suppressive apparatus has been exposed and its true nature uncovered.

.....
"The masquerade of 'moderation' designed to preserve the regime and its suppressive apparatus has been exposed and its true nature uncovered."



In Paris at the Iranian Grand Gathering, solidarity between Iranians and supporters of Iranian resistance on behalf of prisoners, the martyrs of the 1988 massacre.

.....
**"We have to end
 torture and executions,
 enslavement of women
 and imprisonment of our
 ethnic communities."**



The regime in its entirety is sinking ever deeper in the abyss of internal feuds and power struggle.

A generation thirsting for freedom and fervent to end the people's suffering are leading the way. We are here to echo their voices and to devote ourselves and our movement to achieve the aspirations of our people and their sacrifices...

Our platform is based on the following principles:

We call for the establishment of a society based on freedom, a democracy based on people's vote and equality.

Our platform specifies clear demarcations in opposition to despotism and that of being a dependent state.

We reject resolutely any form of gender, ethnic or class discrimination.

We have advocated and will continue to advocate gender equality, the

right to freely choose one's attire, separation of religion and state, autonomy of ethnic groups and communities, equal political and social rights for all citizens of Iran, the abolition of the death penalty, freedom of expression, parties, the media, assembly, and freedom to form unions, associations, councils and syndicates.

The families of victims of 30,000 prisoners massacred in 1988 commemorate the martyrs by holding their pictures and tulips in Paris, 1 July 2018



An Iranian woman being harassed by the 'Morality police' for her clothing



Another Iranian woman being detained by the 'Morality police'

PARIS 2018



The families of victims of 30,000 prisoners massacred in 1988 commemorate the martyrs by holding their pictures and tulips in Paris, 1 July 2018



Having learned of your endeavours helping to organise the “Free Iran gathering” in Paris this year, I am writing to express my appreciation to you and all of your colleagues. Sometimes, I feel as though our lives in Iran are meaningless, as we can only try to survive a day-to-day life without any prospect of change or horizon in sight. But at times like this, I am so heartened that you are out there to echo our voices, sharing our pains, the story of our lives and the need for a helping hand with people who care and whose humanity is exemplary. It gives me some hours of inner peace, knowing that there are those of you who devote yourself, time and lives to rid us of this suffering. You light up our lives with your efforts and hope enters our homes because of you. With you in our thoughts we can endure the hardships and nourish our minds and hearts.hearts.

Blessings from **Isfahan**

Last week my bleak days turned hopeful as I managed to watch the Gathering for a “free Iran” in Paris. You cannot imagine what excitement my family and I experienced. Life in Iran these days is very hard. Not only is there a daily struggle to survive, but as things are so volatile, one cannot predict what tomorrow brings and there is always an air of anxiety for what may occur the next day. Thank you for thinking of us in these turbulent times and your campaigns for our loved ones and our people. I want to share with you my recent observation. Since the Gathering, I sense a degree of fear amongst the regime’s forces in their usually vicious and indiscriminate violence, harassments and arrests. I dare to say that carrying out the public executions to terrorise us now weighs heavy even on the minds of the Mullahs, as the there is an unusual hesitation in their conduct of spreading terror and fear. They know they’re being watched. watched.

Abbas from Dorood





MESSAGES FROM
IRAN

Iwould like to thank the British and Iranian friends, members of ILA in London, for their part in organising the Grand Gathering in Paris. The Gathering was a true reflection of the Iranian people's desire for democracy throughout the world. What a humanitarian effort! I call this a masterpiece, but one that was created by the hand of thousands of people whose selfless efforts created this magnificent display, expecting nothing in return. In spite of many obstacles, my wife, daughter and I managed to watch the entire 9 hours on Sima Television, which has become such an important medium in our lives. It felt as if we had participated in the ceremony personally, even though we are in Iran, and we are so delighted to have joined you in this way. You may not realise this, but having learned of your endeavours and that of the wonderful people in the UK, we have developed a close connection to you in our minds and you have taken a special place in our hearts. We consider you, Iranian and British, as our extended family and hope to one day host you in a free Iran. God bless you.

Yours Sincerely
Susan Samimi

Greetings to all my dear friends. You are a source of hope and joy for the Iranian people. I am a physician and in my profession I am witness to a great deal of sad and dreadful things, most of which tear me apart. Even my daily struggle as a female doctor is sometimes easier to bear in comparison. But my heart, conscience and affection for my people gives me a responsibility not only to alleviate pain and remedy health problems, but also to take part in rooting out the cause of so much suffering in our society.

This year, for the first time, I had the opportunity to leave town to watch the Gathering of Iranians and their friends in Paris. You may know that Simaye Azadi TV had a live broadcast and I watched the entire event. Much of the time I was shaken from disbelief, as I had never imagined it to be so beautiful and inspiring.

I shed many tears of joy watching thousands of people from five continents, prominent political figures and human rights defenders. I kept asking myself how it was possible and I repeated to myself that we are so fortunate that so many have come to defend the rights of the Iranian people. The meeting

reached a pinnacle with the speech of Madam Rajavi. To hear her defend the oppressed and the impoverished, I felt that she said all the things that I wished the world to know, "The long queues of young people selling kidneys and eye corneas. The institutionalised gender apartheid and violence towards women, casting us back to the times of slavery, the millions of street children selling raffle tickets to provide for family and the cemeteries becoming a place of shelter for the homeless." She also spoke passionately about the need to ignite the flame of hope by increasing activity, and the sacrifices it required, and I was truly humbled to hear her pledge and that of all those people. I was filled with enthusiasm to know of an organised movement devoted to our cause to restore human rights. I felt hope replace grief in my heart. Since then I have come to feel young again, although I am quite aged. I want to finish my message to you by saying that your work is vital, and you make a difference because your selflessness heals many invisible wounds. Your love heals us and we can sustain our efforts.

With kind regards
Dr. Batoul from Tabriz

MESSAGES FROM IRAN

To the humanitarian people in the UK and the ILA Association
My name is Sudabeh. I am 22 years old and a student of law. I am writing to you to tell you about myself, and I want to let you know what your work has meant to us here in Iran, most particularly your support for the Grand Gathering in Paris. Please forgive the length of this letter, but there is so much that I want to tell you.

I am sure that you know of the battles that any young woman in Iran is forced to take on, enforcing respect for her identity, and defending her God-given right to be perceived as an independent individual. I am no exception. At the age of 11 I had to fight hard for the most normal yearnings of every child. This was to see a glimpse of my father's loving eyes and feeling his caring hands.

My most vivid childhood memories are the nightmares that my mother and I had to live for 3 months, searching every prison to find my father, during which I had to face up to harassments and humiliation from evil Mullahs and interrogators denying his presence. My father was arrested for having travelled through Iran making a documentary about child labour, and the release of his project in the form of a photo album. Our nightmare turned to a life time of grief. When we finally achieved a visit, it was my first and last one. The next time I was given the address of a burial site. I grew up with a thousand questions about why we had to suffer such hardships. I felt helpless learning of so many families torn apart like mine, and especially girls who had to endure misery every day.

I dare say that all of my generation, which is the majority of our young population, struggle with the same

questions, "why?" , "what to do?" , "how long?" and more.

Years later I befriended a girl in my class called Leyla, as our lives were similar in that we had lost a loved one.

Her mother was executed just like my father. We became close in a common search for answers and solutions. She was really brave and I was inspired to be courageous like her. She once showed me images of a satellite television broadcast, featuring Iranian women promoting equality. This is how my life took a turn. I was connected to a cause with positive ideas, energetic people encouraging activism and honouring women's equality as a value that was practiced and cherished, not just by women but also by men who were proud of their female compatriots. Through further involvement, I learned of an entire movement of solidarity organised and devoted to the very human desires that I and my classmates esteemed. These gave me hope for a future that I had not envisaged before. Now I am a different person, resolute in my activism, with all the risks involved for me and my family.

Engaging with many others in the university, we have had an active role in promoting the 10 point plan of Madam Rajavi for a future Iran. This year's Gathering in Paris gave us renewed hope and we were all inspired. To see our voices echoed, to hear so many expressing admiration for us, and to learn of so much work and coordination, made me realise that even though we are far apart in distance, our hearts are connected and we personify the same values. You and all those who are with you have given meaning to our lives.

Lots of love to you all **Sudabeh**

.....
Now, I am a different person, resolute in my activism, with all the risks involved to me and my family.

PROTESTS IN IRAN



**Protests have
spread to Tehran,
Ahvaz, Arak, Karaj
and other cities**



SUPPORTERS

Messages from ILA supporters

I expected good news and we saw a wonderful display of great solidarity on humanitarian issues surmounting party- political issues. Even the UK parliamentary group seemed ready to join the chorus, giving strength to brothers and sisters in Albania and in Iran in their hardships and in the great endeavour to speak for peace in the Middle East through the means of opposing the tyranny of mullahs.

Thank you once again for everything and hope to see you soon. Thank YOU and your wonderful, servant-hearted team. I hope that the world-wide media reports of the conference give you and especially your brothers and sisters in Iran and in Tirana lasting encouragement to continue your work.

Geoffrey



It was good to meet old friends – Iranian and English. As always, we were looked after beautifully and all our needs catered for very well. Very good discipline of speakers – being confined to 5 minutes/person. I liked the music and entertainment – the banners and flag-waving make us feel part of the proceedings. At last I can really believe it might be NEXT YEAR IN TEHRAN.

Thank-you to all of you for looking after us so well for so many years, from the time when we were few to now when we are dozens.

Love to you all, **Jennifer**



Varied format this year, with musical acts and visual interludes between speeches. All to very high standard. Most interesting to experience some of the varied culture of Iran and Albania. All the visuals were stunning. Everything beautifully staged, as usual. Pity about the translations. Thank you to all you volunteers for looking after us so well (again), and making the trip so enjoyable. My apologies to Zohreh, whom I could not locate once off the coach at the office, to thank in person. "Zohreh, thank you so much, all your hard work was much appreciated."

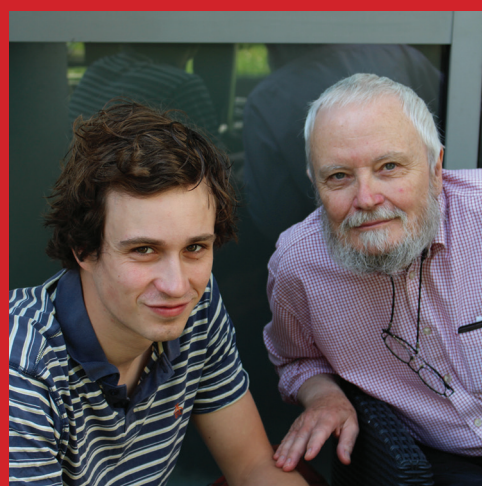
Dr. Diana



SUPPORTERS

This year's Grand Gathering was palpably different from any previous year. The sense of optimism and momentum in the air and the calm, clear direct nature of the speeches bore this out. For the first time we entered the hall, not marked out as the British contingent, but 'just' as part of the tens of thousands come from all over to be witness to the proceedings and pledge support to the Iranian people in their desire for change. And what was most inspiring was seeing the Iranian people truly together for the first time in decades the Iranian diasporas, the Ashrafis, now organised and active in Albania, and the people in Iran itself, courageously uprising within the country all year, braving the repercussions to send good wishes to the gathering and demonstrate their support for Maryam Rajavi as leader of their cause. It seemed to me a nation having a final rehearsal in the wings, ready and eager to arrive centre-stage together. I felt privileged to witness this. Next year, the Gathering in Tehran!!

All the best, **Liz**





The Grand Gathering was a huge event that put across a great sense of connection between supporters like us, the exiles in Tirana - participating from their new assembly building - and new footage of those in Iran who are standing up for humanity and dignity in the face of one of the world's most repressive regimes. In the course of my own campaigning to the Foreign Office, I have previously received a response claiming that the exiles and dissident groups are insignificant inside Iran. The Paris meeting proved quite the opposite. Knowing that the Ashrafi are safe, and that the international campaign to highlight the regime leaders' personal responsibility for the 1988 massacres is making progress, there is a feeling of the cause advancing, rather than just fighting for survival.

Nicholas



International delegations



UK

“In our country, we enjoy many freedoms and we want the Iranian people to enjoy the same freedoms. We stand united with each and one of you in your battle, and I’m sure that our message will echo all the way to Tehran, to cities and towns across Iran. We stand with the Iranian people as they strive for a better future and will do so until Iran is free.”

David Amess

“I want to highlight the Iranian women who are risking so much to be part of the protest movement. These are women who bravely stand in the face of the security forces and chant; “Down with the mullahs”. They are brave to stand up against the compulsory veil and the laws that put restrictions on them. I share your appeal for freedom for women in Iran.

Theresa Villiers

“Earlier this year, we saw in Iran what I thought was a glimmer of hope. We have to be the voice of the Iranian people. I commend Madam Rajavi for her 10-point plan for showing the world that not only is a plan available, but it can be achieved by her.”

Matthew Offord



“We stand in solidarity with the brave people of Iran who have stood up against the ayatollahs. A change in policy is well overdue. The UK and our colleagues in the European Union must join and support the people of Iran in their desire for freedom and equality. We must recognize the Regime as a terrorist entity.”

Roger Godsoff

A resolution has been written by members of both the House of Commons and the Lords in defence of the Iranian people’s cry for freedom, democracy and an end to executions



ALBANIA

“Dear friends, we in Albania don’t speak your language, but we understand each other very well through the language of the heart. We chose to help you and now 3,000 Iranians are safe in Albania. Albanian tradition has a term called “Bessa” which carries the meaning, “A word as large as the world”. It is renowned since the time when we gave sanctuary to the Jewish people during Second World War. Your situation is so close to theirs, which is why we are trying to make a difference for the Iranian people in such a difficult time.”

Pandeli Majko,
Former Prime Minister

“We have suffered as you are suffering, for 50 long years under dictatorship of those with greed and hate for their own people. Many ask why Albanians offered to help our friends from Iran. The answer is we want for each other happiness, freedom and prosperity. Many brave men and women in your country have stood up for this. Many have sacrificed their lives. But they do not need just words of sorrow. They need the ones that believe in freedom and liberty and democracy to stand up to do their part.”

Fatmir Mediu,
Leader, Albanian Republican Party



FRANCE

"I'm in complete agreement with Maryam Rajavi, when she was talking of the very fantastic prospect of democracy and freedom. And when she explained that there is no chaos, because some of your enemies are attacking you because if there is an uprising, it will be followed by chaos. It is not true at all. These people should listen to Madame Rajavi's program, on the temporary stage of democracy for six months, and of the program of elections she offered you."

Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.
Co-founder of Medicines Sans Frontieres and Medicines du Monde

"The UN Secretary General said that he is disturbed by the executions in Iran. Amnesty International reported that many protesters have been killed. The Iran situation is no longer in favour of extremists. Yes, the wind is changing in favour of people. Yes, people want democracy and peace without corruption."

Philippe Douste-Blazy, Former Foreign minister of the centre-right, and current United Nations official

"To all the distinguished guests from all over the world, we want to welcome you to France: the land of human rights. We have decided to support the Iranian Resistance and its relentless effort to install democracy in Iran. There are over 40,000 of us who support you. Maryam Rajavi Your 10-point plan, based on democracy and gender equality, is something that we all support."

Jean-Francois Legaret, Mayor of the 1st district of Paris. Representing The delegation of French Mayors



Michele de Vaucouleurs, Senator

"We want to pay tribute to the sacrifice of your people and express our wish for a Free Iran. You have our support and we will fight along with you for a Free Iran."

Philippe Gosselin,
French parliamentarian

"We are historical friends. We can testify to the changes that this gathering has made over the years. Iranian people will probably remember the summer of 1981, when thousands of young people were killed in Iran, and France welcomed the Resistance leaders. along with you for a Free Iran."

Gilbert Mitterrand, President of the Daniel Mitterrand Foundation



CANADA

"I am here today to tell the people of Iran, not who their government should be, but that it should be choice of the free people of Iran."

The Regime does not seek freedom or peace and we must acknowledge the people's rising protests in Tehran. The Canadian government, under me, was tough on the Regime, including designating it as a state sponsor of terrorism, closing the embassy in Tehran, and sponsoring UN moves against it."

Stephen Harper,
Former Prime Minister

"We must not ignore the people of Iran and we must not ignore their desire for change. Over the past six months, the people of Iran have shown great courage in protesting on the streets in more than 140 cities. Today, we join Madame Rajavi, a woman of great courage and of great determination for a free, democratic Iran."

John Baird,
Former Foreign Minister



EUROPE

“Your movement resonates far beyond your land, as respect for human rights is an internal call. Your cause resonates far beyond the borders of Iran. The voice of citizens must resonate beyond the sounds of guns and those hiding behind them. Your cause responds to a global concern about the export of terror and the threat to peace.

Our common wish is that Iran will become a beacon of trust and stability. That day will make the world a better place.”

Ad Melkert, Former leader of Dutch Labour Party and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Iraq

“The Regime plunders their people, and tries everything to crush the opposition, but the world can see that the people are fighting back. I admire your resoluteness and hope.”

Eduard Lintner, Former German Deputy Interior Minister

“NCRI has proved that it is capable of absorbing dissatisfied people and bringing them together. The NCRI’s 10-point plan is one that is welcomed by the West; we stand with this movement. Mrs. Rajavi has not moved an inch from the fight for freedom of all people.”

Martin Patzelt, Member of German Bundestag

“I believe that Iran will free itself from the mullahs. Maryam and the NCRI are prepared for this change in Iran. After recent months, we see that the Iran regime is not ready to have a dialogue even with its own people, therefore we should end the appeasement and support Iranian resistance instead.”

Marcin Swiecicki, Member of Parliament from Poland

“Equal rights matter a lot. We oppose injustice. Maryam Rajavi is a symbol of freedom.

We share the pain of the people of Iran. We, the Polish and Slovakian nations, are perfectly familiar with your plight.”

Youth delegation Poland and Slovakia

“We admire each one of you, the brave people who took part in the uprising. What we call the resistance is the strongest democratic movement in any country in the world. It has the power to bring human rights and democracy to Iran, as well as security to the region. This is our movement.”

Lars Rise, Chairman of Norwegian Committee of Friends of a Free Iran

“More than 120,000 Iranian defenders of democracy have been arbitrarily detained, tortured, and executed. More than 30,000 political prisoners were massacred in the summer of 1988, and those perpetrators must be brought to justice. A large part of Italian society recognises that standing with the Iranian people is standing on the right side of history. We are here to tell you our profound admiration for the values you are defending, not only in the interest of the Iranian people, but in the interest of all humanity.”

Giulio Terzi, Former Foreign Minister of Italy

“Your fight is our fight for a free Iran. This is the objective of so many martyrs who gave their life for this fight. We remember them.”

Roberto Rampi, Italian Senator

“We are the Friends of the Free Iran group in the EU parliament. It’s our job to support the Ashrafis in Iran and over 200 MEPs signed a letter of support. It is our common fight, not just for freedom of Iran but for the dignity of all countries. EU High Representative Federica Mogherini recently said that there is no alternative in Iran, but we have to ignore this lie that butchers can reform. To the Iranian people, your future is our future, to live in freedom and solidarities.”

Jérard Deprez, MEP, representing the European Parliament delegation

“We remember your heroes, and support bringing those who are responsible for massacres in Iran to justice. We support ordinary people of Iran, those who live in the country in difficult circumstance. We admire their resolve to make their country free.”

Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, MP, Representing the delegation from the Belgian Parliament

“Madame Rajavi’s ten-point plan is supported across the world. We will support this, and with the efforts of the Iranian people, it will become possible.”

Laurence Fehlmann Rielle, Member of the Swiss Federal Parliament



MIDDLE EAST

"I appreciate your role in working to change Iran and I support your role in achieving human rights and restoring the rights of women in Iran. We stand with you in defending human dignity. The Iranian regime's intervention in Palestine is causing increased sectarian violence and preventing the establishment of peace."

Nejat al-Astal, Palestine

"Forty years of dictatorship and massacring the Iranian people and intervening in neighbouring countries ends here. The Iranian regime meddles in the countries of the region to convince its people that it is fighting for Shiites. But this regime has nothing to do with Shiites. The Arabs who want to confront this regime in Iran should support you."

Saleh al-Qalab, Jordan

"All the people of Iran are out in the streets, their only weapon is their bodies. Their only hope is regime change. This regime has lost its credibility. The Moroccan Kingdom is supporting you."

Najimeh Taitai, Morocco

"I congratulate you for sending a message of peace. The people of Iran have been the victim of their regime, which has killed pregnant women and 12-year-old girls. Even Mecca was the victim of a plot by the Iranian regime. Today is a victory for civilized and knowledgeable Iran, not the Iran of Khomeini and Khamenei and Soleimani and Rouhani. The regime of Tehran is an extremist regime and against everything the Quran represents. I would like to reiterate my solidarity and my support, because we have and will always be by your side and will remain so until we free Iran."

Al-Ansari, Saudi Arabia, Chair of Saudi-American friends society



"The hopes of the Syrian people revived when we saw our brothers and sisters in Iran protesting against the dictatorship that has been affecting the entire region. The Syrian and Iranian people are one."

The voice of Iran and Syria represent the voice of freedom everywhere. We know that change is coming. We call for peace and justice and security and freedom and respect of every religion and gender. That is what we're trying to do in Syria and Iran."

Nazir Hakim, Secretary General of the Syrian Coalition



IRAN

"We are proud to announce a Delegation of 320 representatives of Iranian Associations in Europe and the US who have helped to organise this event. We support the brave young people fighting against inequalities and remind ourselves of our commitment to an Iran without any prejudices of any kind such as gender, race, colour, religion or language."

Ramesh Sepehrrad, advisory board member, the Iranian American Community

"Each one of us has come out of Iran recently. We have suffered and witnessed the Regime's crimes and lies, but after 39 years they have failed to separate our movement from the Iranian people."

If there were moments of doubt, now there is none. Every one of us has suffered. But our generation lacks nothing. We are in solidarity. We are passionate, ready and enthusiastic. We are resolute to create an Iran where tyranny has no place. We are proud to have Madam Rajavi at the head of the alternative as she paved the way for us."

Paria Kohandel, Delegation of Young Iranians who have recently fled Iran

"The protests in recent days show that the fall of the regime will happen soon. The regime of Iran is the enemy of science. Only a government that is in line with scientific progress and seeks the welfare of its people will be able to assume power. Technological progress is also having its effect on the political and economic landscape of Iran. We're at the cusp of a revolution and these advances will help considerably and support the people."

Kazem Kazerounian, Delegation of Iranian experts & professionals



IRAN

“Dear fellow citizens, this event is to celebrate a Free Iran. These protest movement have been unprecedented. The protests taking place in Iran are inclusive and are happening across the country.

The national currency has collapsed. The wealth of the Iranian people has been depleted by the corrupt Revolutionary Guards.”

Dr. Jahansouz, Iran



WOMEN'S RIGHTS

“Women have been leading the Iranian resistance against the dictatorship and this is an important day to lead to victory the Iranian protesters. Freedom is not only necessary for the Iranian people, but for the people of the Middle East and the peace and security of the world.”

Ranjana Kumari, Equality movement activist from India

“Since Dec. 28, we are witnessing how Maryam Rajavi has been delivering what she promised. Here, a few years ago, she announced 1000 Ashraf hubs to topple the corrupt dictatorship in Tehran. That is happening right now.

To the thousands of women, the mothers, daughters, sisters of the 1988 massacre victims, to the people who are fighting against the corruption of the mullahs, to the 80 million Iranian people taken hostage by the mullahs, we are with you inch by inch.”

Ingrid Betancourt, former Colombian Senator and presidential candidate

“All Iranian prisoners of conscience should be released immediately. The Iranian people deserve the support of all freedom-loving people. To the thousands of women leading the protests in Iran, to the young people, to the millions of people held hostage, we are with you in every step on the path to democracy, until you are finally free.”

Maria Candida Almeida, Deputy Attorney General, of Portugal



“You know, I look out and I see all the amazing women here who are part of the movement. At all levels of the NCRI women have led this movement. And we see that continuing today in the streets of Tehran where women are refusing the mullahs’ directive to wear the veil. Despite being hurt they are taking off the veil. Let me just say this to the young women. Madam Rajavi in her remarks spoke about the roses. The young women in the audience today, your mothers, your grandmothers have led this fight. You are the roses of the future that will lead us to a free Iran.

“I could not help but be inspired by seeing the Ashraf 3 women on the screen today speak to us from there. To them we say we are proud of your courage, we are inspired by your courage, and women will continue to lead the way and fight for you and fight for the women in Tehran.”

Dr. Jahansouz, Iran

“To the women of the resistance, we are feeling a wind of protest in Iran and the Iranian women have launched a new dimension. I am very proud that the French government did not comply when it was asked to attack you, but I know that change will not come from outside. It will come from the Iranian people, because Iran belongs to them.”

Rama Yade, Former French Minister of Human Rights



USA

"It is wonderful to return here at a time of great significance and more hope than ever before.

Suppose the face of Iran was not the mullahs, but of a woman. In Maryam Rajavi we have an alternative built on a very solid foundation. She stands for democracy, human rights, and separation of church and state.

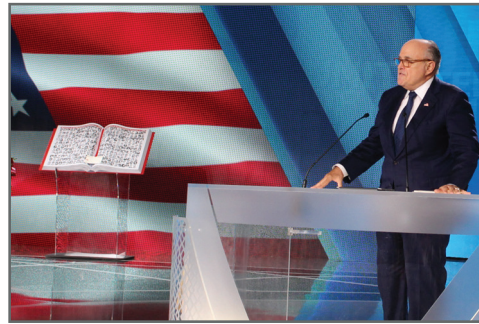
When the people take to the streets and protest day after day, no matter how much they're oppressed and how many of them are killed, they continue to grow. You've been able to form resistance units all over Iran. Those protests are being coordinated, and what this means is that we have an alternative.

Do not give up hope. You have many friends who want a new Iran that represents the people's aspirations for the future. We want human dignity and equality for the people of Iran.

"To those countries that continue to support Iran, you are paying for a regime that deprives women and children of their rights and murders people because of their religion.

"The reason Iran is in economic freefall, despite the massive amounts given to them, is because the mullahs have stolen from the Iranian people."

Rudy Giuliani, Former Mayor of New York City and long-time friend of a Free Iran



"The willingness of so many people to come from so many places is a major factor in the growing support that you see worldwide for freedom in Iran. Your presence here today helps communicate and build that support.

Your being here makes a difference. You are sending a signal, you are communicating solidarity, you are helping morale in Iran, and you are shaking the people who think they can somehow live with a dictatorship.

If you're in a town in Iran and you're faced with the secret police, you're faced with a dictatorship, it really encourages you ... to believe that out there, there are people who care about you, there are people that want you to succeed, there are people who are on your side.

I believe there's a real wellspring of the human spirit eager to work with you, eager to help, and eager to be involved. And I believe if you go back and look once again at the remarkable speech that Mrs Rajavi gave, and you think about the years that she and all of her compatriots have put in, the risks they've run, the tragic, personal losses they have suffered, freedom will come."

Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the US House of Representative

"We have seen how the Iranian regime uses terrorism to destabilize the Middle East. My troops captured six members of the Quds force and we found evidence that Iran was promoting sectarian violence."

General George Casey



We thank Ms Rajavi who has devoted decades of her life to bring this about and the people who died and the people who were mutilated to help bring it about, and the residents of the Camp Ashraf who suffered tremendously and the Albanians who welcomed them gallantly,

We all are aware, and you are aware, and your presence shows you're aware, that there is nothing inevitable in human affairs. We hope that the mullahs will topple but it's going to take more efforts - but you are here to show that effort is going to be forthcoming

Our efforts will not stop either until the day comes when we can greet each other in a peaceful and free Iran.

Judge Michael Mukasey, Former US Attorney General

"The regime has exported terrorism all around the world - that has not changed. What has changed however is the people in Iran and their protests."

We support you, we are there for you, we are amazed at your bravery. We cannot carry the fight as you have, but we will help.

Louis Freeh, Former Director of the FBI

"Let us make this fundamentally clear, we stand here as democrats and republicans, we may have our differences but all of us stand with the people of Iran. To those on the streets in Tehran, being Iranian still means you can be prosperous, free, happy, and have a future."

Robert Torricelli, Democrat Member of the U.S. Senate from 1997 to 2003; Served 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives

Artistic Performances





TOMORROW'S IRAN

Let us envisage a free Iran of tomorrow...

A DEMOCRATIC IRAN, BASED ON THE POPULAR VOTE

The ballot box is the only criterion for legitimacy.

PLURALISM, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

Unconditional access to the Internet and the use of social media.

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND STATE

Prohibiting any form of discrimination against followers of any religion or denomination.

GENDER EQUALITY

Equal participation in political leadership prohibiting all form of segregation.
Equal participation in political, social and economic arenas. Underscoring the right to choose freely their attire, marriage, divorce, education and employment.

RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Abolishing the Mullahs' Sharia law. A modern judicial system based on the principles of presumption of innocence, the right to defence, effective judicial protection, the right to be tried in a public court & total independence of judges.

EQUALITY BETWEEN ALL ETHNIC GROUPS AND NATIONALITIES

The language and culture of all are among our nation's human resources and must spread and be promulgated in tomorrow's Iran.

COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The International covenant on civil and Political Rights, the convention against torture, and the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE OWNERSHIP & INVESTMENT

Equal opportunity in employment and business ventures.

PROTECTING AND REVITALISING THE ENVIRONMENT

