



# International Liberty Association Newsletter

Churchill House • 120 Bunns Lane • London NW7 2AS

**W:** [www.iliberty.org.uk](http://www.iliberty.org.uk) • **E:** [info@iliberty.org.uk](mailto:info@iliberty.org.uk) • **T:** 020 8452 3481

## EDITORIAL

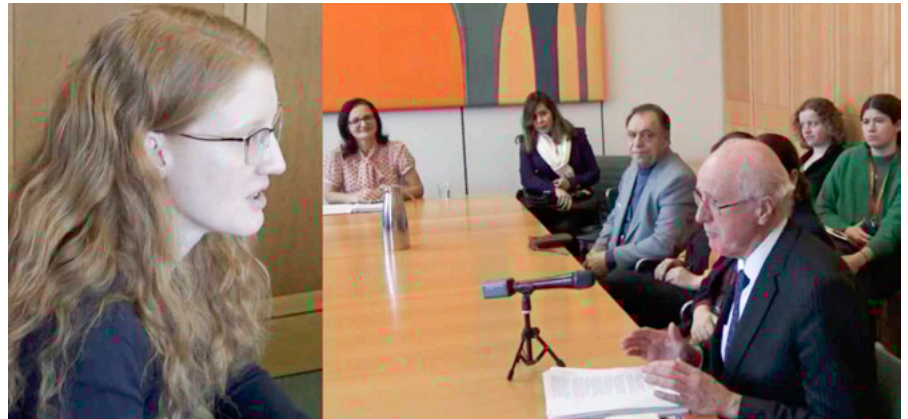
As the year advances the people of Iran continue their call for change in the face of massive repression. The protests that started with the death of Mahsa Amini on 16 September last year have now continued over 150 days.

From the protests tragic stories continue to emerge of reckless shooting and deliberate murder by the regime's security forces. The killing of 9-year old Kian PIRFALAK and 36-year old Dr Aida Rostami are covered in this newsletter.

In both cases the clumsy efforts of the regime to intimidate the victims' families into silence have failed spectacularly. Not only have the families challenged the shabby lies and false accusations of the security forces but they have gone on to expose the truth and bravely shout out what really happened to their loved ones. Thanks to such brave families public outrage against the regime only continues to intensify. The days of the mullahs' regime are surely numbered.

Across Iran many other opponents of the regime remain in prison: artists, physicians, academics and of course students. In these pages you can read how many of the journalists trying to report the news of this uprising have been detained as well. ... continued on p.2

## BRITISH LAWMAKERS AND ANGLO-IRANIANS URGE THE UK GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT IRANIAN PROTESTS



Anglo-Iranian organisations held a meeting in the UK parliament recently to discuss the current uprising in Iran and what could be done to help the brave protesters

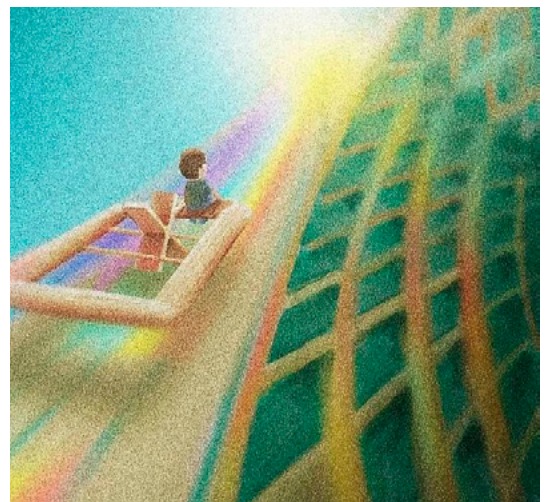
who are risking their lives to alert the world about their abysmal conditions and the suffering caused by a regime that has no respect for their most ... continued on p.2

## THE STORY OF KIAN PIRFALAK

During the crackdown on protests happening in Izeh, Khuzestan Province, on 16 November 2022, security forces opened fire on a family passing by in their car. **Kian PIRFALAK**, 9, was killed on the spot, and his father, **Maysam PIRFALAK**, was severely injured.

The regime's officials tried to attribute the killing of Kian to so-called terrorists, but Kian's mother bravely emphasised in the funeral ceremony of her son in front of thousands of people and in the presence of the country's security forces that the government's claim about the terrorist attack was a lie and that the security forces themselves shot at the family's car.

The family also put out a



statement condemning the arrest of innocent people regarding the incident; some men were falsely accused of carrying out the killing of Kian and severely wounding her husband and were consequently about to be executed.

It is important ... continued on p.3



## British lawmakers and Anglo-Iranians urge UK govt. to support Iran protests *continued from p.1*

basic human rights. The attendees condemned the Iranian regime's mounting violence against the protesters and urged the UK government to cut ties with Tehran and proscribe the Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) - the terrorist arm of the supreme leader - as the terrorist entity that it is. Excerpts from the meeting are shared below:

**Azadeh Zabeti**, president of the Committee of Anglo-Iranian Lawyers, said:

"I'm an international human rights lawyer as well as a human rights and women's rights activist with expertise in Iran and, of course, the wider Middle East. I'm the co-chair and president of the Committee of Anglo-Iranian Lawyers, and with **Dr Elahe Zabihi** on my right, who's a senior lecturer, we are committee members and on the panel of the **Women for a Free Iran**, who are hosting you this afternoon.

"Women are active participants in this revolution, and in others, they have always been at the forefront of the Iranian people's history of change.

"The IRGC, whom we will come to speak about in a little while, and I'm sure our speakers will touch upon, have used batons, steel rods, tear gas, and live ammunition on unarmed civilians, killing protesters, including women, children, and minors.

"The demands of Iranian



women and our people are very simple, and that is that they have the inalienable right, which is the right of all men and women around the world, to live in a free, democratic, and secular republic."

**MP Jim Shannon** added:

"I wanted to be here because I've always supported the rights of those whom I suppose [are] the freedom fighters in Iran, especially ladies and girls, but also those of other religious persuasions as well. I chair the APPT and freedom of religious belief. For me, religious expression is so important.

"The nationwide uprising is one that we all support, and I want to add my support for that as well. I think the uprising has made it very vivid and clear that the Iranian people overwhelmingly reject the ruling regime.

"Some 750 protesters have been killed, including some 60 children. I think that underlines the number of people who are involved and the age groups that they range from as well. Some 35,000 have been detained, and we've had some hangings as well, and those have

been hard to watch when people are only fighting for the freedom, liberty, and democracy we have here that we enjoy in this country.

"The regime needs to be held accountable for the serial mass murder."

**Lady Liz Redfern** concluded:

"There was something for me that I tweeted just last week. There was a news story of a husband who had received an eight-year prison sentence for decapitating his 17-year-old wife. He'd received an eight-year sentence for murdering, in the worst possible way, his very young wife. Whereas death sentences are being handed out to those who dare speak out against the regime. To me, it just absolutely spoke to the hypocrisy and the corruption that goes to the heart of that regime and the misogyny that underpins it.

"I've been very keen to try and make sure that we're doing all that we can to bring pressure to bear on the regime in Iran... be a voice for those women who aren't [willing] to live with that misogyny and that hypocrisy every day."

### **Editorial** *continued from p.1*

We will of course continue to do everything we can to be the voice of the voiceless and bring the plight of young Iranians still in prison facing torture and the threat of execution to the attention of the world.

Presently we are seeing many families gathering in

front of prisons across Iran where their relatives are held. They are bravely highlighting their cases and have been able to stop executions and, in some instances, even secure a release. It shows that the regime is susceptible to continuing local and international pressure.

With the help of our volunteers we will do our best to gather and disseminate information about prisoners and trust that with our efforts and your support we shall be able to save more innocent lives.

Lastly, we hope you will join us for our Easter & NoRuz event on Saturday 29th April.





## Story of Kian Pirfalak

*continued from p.1*

to note that the clerical regime imposes extraordinary pressure on the families of those killed in the protests. The authorities instruct the families to either remain silent about the death of their children or to appear on state television and confirm the “official” false narrative about their death, if they don’t cooperate, their other children will suffer the same fate.

Kian’s mother immediately took her son’s body to their home and covered it with ice in an attempt to prevent the regime from stealing the body, burying it secretly, or using it to blackmail the family.

As a result of the attack, Kian’s father had become paralysed. He wasn’t told anything while he was at the hospital during his recovery by his family, because they wanted to spare him the sorrow and the pain and to help him to focus on his healing. They finally decided to

inform him on the 40th day of Kian’s death, when the rest of the family were preparing to commemorate Kian’s short but very rich life. Kian’s father, who thought his son was still alive, burst into tears on his hospital bed.

Instead of being held accountable for murdering Kian, the regime is planning to prosecute his father. He can’t even walk or sit, yet they summoned him to court.

The death of Kian has had a profound effect on Iranian society at large and demonstrators in all provinces started chanting: “Down with this child killing regime!”

We have also witnessed a wave



of art on social media created by Iranians in memory of this kind and gentle soul.

Kian wanted to be an inventor and pursue a career in robotics.

## THE BRAVE DOCTOR WHO GAVE HER LIFE SAVING OTHERS

**Dr Aida Rostami**, 36, was kidnapped, tortured and killed because she did her job, and was faithful to her medical oath.

When Aida was 10 years old, she lost her father to cancer. This painful experience provided her with a clear goal in life: she decided to become a doctor so she could prevent other people from going through the same horrible experience. Despite the hardships of being a girl without a father in Iran, she still managed to go to medical school and became a much-respected doctor.

Aida showed an incredible amount of courage when she worked on the frontline during the Covid pandemic. She saved many lives. When she caught Covid herself, she nearly died. But when she recovered, Aida came out of it with even more determination. Aida said to a friend that she was pleased to have survived because it

gave her an opportunity to save more lives.

During the recent uprising she and a group of trusted colleagues formed a team, who would treat injured protesters in private settings or during home visits because of the dangers that protesters and doctors can face if they seek treatment in general hospitals.

On 11 December 2022 she left Chamran Hospital in Tehran where she worked. After a short phone conversation with her mum in which she told her that she was on her way home, she went missing. The next day, her family was contacted by the police to identify a body.

It was Aida. Both her hands were broken, her face was shattered, there were injuries all around her



Dr Aida Rostami has been buried next to her father.

body and her genitalia. The cause of her death was announced as blunt force trauma without any further explanation and her family was told to keep quiet and refrain from holding a funeral for her. However, this inspirational medic is now in the hearts and minds of people all over the world!



## CONFERENCE HELD IN SUPPORT OF IRANIAN PEOPLE'S DEMANDS



As part of its solidarity with the Iranian people's uprising, the **Committee of Arab Islamic Solidarity with the Iranian Resistance (CAISIR)** hosted a conference in Brussels on 27 January 2023.

The conference was attended by prominent personalities from Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen and Iraq, as

well as by Syrian opposition forces.

The conference was held by

**Hanan Abdul Latif**, head of the European branch of **Rafidayn Human Rights**.

The participants expressed solidarity

with the people of Iran and the brave protesters. The speakers voiced their opinions about the heroic fight of the Iranian people despite the regime's severe crackdown recently.

**Hayel Dawoodieh**, Jordan's former minister of endowments, said: "In 1979, the Iranian people started their revolution to liberate themselves from tyranny,

and they were able to achieve victory. Instead of siding with our just causes, Khomeini plunged the Arab region into a spiral of sectarian and ethnic conflicts. His regime was a party to all the wars and conflicts that raged in the region, in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, and turned these countries into a group of failed states."

Dawoodieh also asserted that for over forty years, dictatorial rule practised by the ruling regime in Iran has exhausted the Iranian people and destroyed their capabilities in the name of Islam. But this action and this method of domination is not a part of Islam at all, and rather it has distorted the image of Islam across the whole world.

## NEW RESOLUTION CALLS ON THE US CONGRESS TO SIDE WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

During a press conference on 8 February 2023, a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled the House Resolution (HR) 100, which supports the Iranian people's uprising and the ten-point plan proposed by **Maryam Rajavi** for a free Iran. HR 100 was originally presented and co-sponsored by house representatives **Tom McClintock** (Republican, California) and **Brad Sherman** (Democrat, California) and now has the support of over 160 US legislators. Sherman released a statement on his website regarding the resolution, excerpts of which appear below:

"For nearly 150 days, the Iranian people have risen up against the brutal Ayatollah regime following the brutal murder of a young woman, **Mahsa Amini**, at the hands of the regime's morality police. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets

Left: Brad Sherman

Right: Maryam Rajavi speaks as the McClintock-Sherman Resolution is introduced.



in protest, tens of thousands have been detained by the regime's own admission, thousands have been tortured and at least 517 protesters have been murdered – although the true number is, tragically, likely much higher.

"This is not the first time that the Iranian people have taken to the streets to demand their freedom and an end to this regime. Starting in 2017, large scale protests have erupted across Iran every year in a testament to the unbreakable desire of the Iranian people to live in freedom. Despite facing significant threats of arrest, torture, sexual violence, and death at the hands of the regime, the Iranian people have

shown tremendous bravery and resolve as they make their call for a free Iran heard around the world.

"The Iranian people have made it clear - the murderous Ayatollah regime is living on borrowed time.

"Congress must always be unequivocal in standing with the people of Iran as they fight to achieve a secular, democratic, and non-nuclear state where they can live in freedom; and unequivocal in our condemnation of the human rights violations and state-sponsored terrorism of the murderous Ayatollah regime. I am proud to be the Democratic co-lead on this resolution and will always stand with the Iranian people."





## RECORD NUMBER OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS IN IRAN'S PRISONS

**The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)** has estimated the number of journalists arrested since the beginning of the protests on 16 September 2022, to be 71 people, some of whom have been temporarily released on bail, and 28 people, including 14 women, who are still in jail.

In its annual report, **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)** described the detention of reporters and journalists during the uprising as a sign of massive repression. RSF also noted that an unprecedented number of female journalists have been arrested and imprisoned in Iran.

RSF has placed Iran 178th among the 180 other countries included in the World Press Freedom Index published in 2022, just after China, Myanmar, and Turkmenistan. Only Eritrea and North Korea are behind Iran in this index.

**The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** announced Iran as the top jailer of journalists in 2022. China, Myanmar, Turkey, and Belarus lag Iran in the CPJ index.

According to CPJ, Iranian authorities have imprisoned a record number of female journalists, a reflection of their prominent role in covering this female-led uprising.



## THE UK GOVERNMENT SHOULD BLACKLIST THE IRGC



In a press conference on 2 February 2023, **Hossein Abedini**, from the **National Council of Resistance of Iran's (NCRI)** representative office in the UK, revealed a document from inside the regime about Tehran's plan to abduct Iranian dissidents abroad.

The revelations clearly define how the fundamentalist organs of the regime, such as Jamiat al-Mustafa and Ahl al-Bayt, which work under the umbrella of

religious propaganda in the west, are in fact at the service of the IRGC's Quds Force - designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the US government.

**MP Bob Blackman** also took part in the press conference. He underlined that the regime's heinous and malicious activities in Iran and the UK could also be a danger to the United States. He also vowed to continue his efforts to put pressure on the UK

government to proscribe the IRGC.

While confirming Blackman's remark and praising his commitment, Abedini underlined that this pressure is necessary as the regime's armed forces are essentially a terrorist force. He said that the UK government knows this fact, but blacklisting the IRGC is a political decision with genuine impact.

It is worth noting that MI5 director **General Ken McCallum** had previously warned that Tehran had taken several terrorist measures. He said:

"At its sharpest, this includes ambitions to kidnap or even kill British or UK-based individuals perceived as enemies of the regime."

"We have seen at least 10 such potential threats since January alone", Reuters quoted McCallum as saying.



## CANADIAN LAWMAKERS VOICE SUPPORT FOR IRANIAN PEOPLE



In a conference in Toronto on 4 February 2023, Canadian lawmakers and former Canadian government officials voiced support for the Iranian people's right for genuine democratic change and encouraged their peaceful struggles to achieve freedom and human rights.



Former Canadian minister of foreign affairs, **John Baird**, told the people of Iran: "Canadians stand with you in this struggle.

"I have been inspired by the bravery of the literally millions of Iranians who've taken to the streets to try and peacefully overthrow this fascist dictatorship in Tehran.

"Women, teachers, unions, millions of students, and especially supporters of the MEK [Mojahedin-e Khalq], they're tired of the corruption, they're tired of the mismanagement and they are tired of the authoritarianism of their terrible government.

"They are sending a clear

and unequivocal message to the mullahs: it's time for you to go.

"I can tell you one of the proudest moments that I had in public, life especially working with **Stephen Harper**, was the day that I was able to announce that we had kicked all the mullahs' henchman spokespersons out of Canada once and for all.

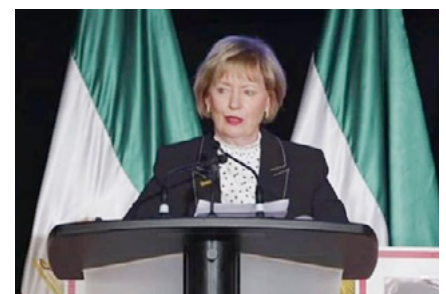
"The uprising in Iran is deeply rooted in the 40 years of struggle of the Iranian people. The uprising is not a spontaneous phenomenon - it is rooted in the history of Iran, 120,000 executions, and the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners because they were steadfast and supported the MEK.

"The leading role of Iranian women is not incidental or coincidence, but it derives from the struggle of Iranian women over the last 43 years. During the past 43 years tens of thousands of Iranian women have been imprisoned, tortured and thousands have been executed.

"Women have been playing leading roles in the MEK for 30 years. The NCRI president is a woman of high quality who has been recognised worldwide for her confidence and her leadership and her principled opposition to this dictatorship and for democratic coalition. The Iranian people want

an end to dictatorship, and they are chanting in the streets in Tehran and across the country in every corner of Iran: 'Down with the oppressors.' Be it the shah or the mullahs.

"Like many of you, I have been inspired by Madame Rajavi's ten-point plan for freedom of expression and assembly, the separation of religion and state, gender equality, and a non-nuclear Iran, one that can live in peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and with the civilized world."



Canadian MP **Judy Sgro**, former minister of citizenship and immigration, told the conference:

"We are clearly witnessing a momentous moment in modern Iranian history. For the past five months, the Iranian people have braved killings and arrests and have come to the streets to demand a regime change and are demanding a democratic government.

"Beautiful young women and handsome men are putting their





## DR FARHAD MEYSAMI - BURNING LIKE A CANDLE TO LIGHT THE DARKNESS SURROUNDING HIM



Dr Farhad Meysami before and after imprisonment.

Social media images of a jailed Iranian physician on hunger strike caused outrage.

**Dr Farhad Meysami**, 53, was jailed in 2018 for supporting women activists protesting against the compulsory headscarf policy, subsequently beginning a hunger strike on 7 October 2022 to protest the killings of demonstrators.

Iran has been shaken by nationwide unrest following the death of **Mahsa Amini** on 16 September 2022 in police custody.

Amini was arrested by the morality police for flouting

the mandatory hijab policy, which requires women to cover their hair fully. Since the start of the unrest, women have played a prominent role in the protests.

More than 500 protesters have been killed and over 30,000 arrested. At least four people arrested during the most recent protests have been hanged.

“My client Farhad Meysami’s life is in danger,” tweeted Meysami’s lawyer **Mohammad Moghimi**. “He went on hunger strike to protest the recent government killings in the streets.”

In a letter published on social media, Meysami made three demands:

1. An end to executions,
2. The release of political-civil prisoners, and
3. An end to ‘forced-hijab harassment’.

“I will continue my impossible mission in the hope that it may become possible later on with a collective effort”, he wrote.

The outrage on social media, which compared the regime’s prisons with that of Hitler’s concentration camps, forced the regime to release Meysami in a show of mass pardons for the anniversary of the 1979 Revolution. We wish this brave doctor, who risked his life to save others, a quick recovery.



lives on the line, something that we all need to applaud and encourage and do everything we can. We’re not standing in the streets with them, but we all have a voice. You don’t have to be Iranian to have a voice, you have to care about democracy and human rights, and it’s imperative as parliamentarians that we talk to our friends and talk to our neighbours, educate them, talk to them about just what kind of persecution is going on there.

Iranians have made it clear

that for them the choice is not between bad and worse, the current theocracy and the dictatorship that preceded it. They want a democratically elected republic. This is echoed in their chants of ‘no to monarchy, no to theocracy and yes to democracy and equality’.

“This regime has been tolerated and its abuse is ignored for far too long by all western democracies, Canada included. Business as usual must end and the IRGC must be listed as a terrorist entity.

“The younger generation and the women of Iran, having defiance to the regime, stood up to say we do not fear any more, we will fight, we will die, we will take our country back. That’s determination.”

Many other prominent personalities were present at the meeting. Additionally, members of Iranian communities in Canada addressed the event and emphasised the need for a united international effort in support of the people of Iran.



## PROTESTERS ACROSS IRAN CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE REGIME'S CONSTANT OPPRESSION



the regime's bogus claims that Iranians in Sistan and Baluchistan are seeking separation.

The Iranian people seek democracy and freedom, and they want to put an end to a century of dictatorship and inequality.

The world community should also recognise the Iranian people's desire and innate

Despite a huge number of arrests and killings in the past five months, protesters across Iran continue to call for change and defy massive repression.

Iranians in the Sistan and Baluchistan province (south-east Iran) hold protest rallies every Friday, keeping the fire of the nationwide uprising aflame by chanting popular slogans. The uprising has now past its 150th consecutive day.

"Down with the oppressor, be it

shah or the supreme leader", has been the dominant slogan in most cities across Iran.

In Izeh, (south-west Iran) brave locals chanted anti-regime slogans and expressed solidarity with the risen people in Sistan and Baluchistan by chanting "From Zahedan to Izeh, the country bleeds". This slogan was previously chanted by locals in Zahedan when regime forces opened fire on protesters in Izeh during the first days of the uprising, rejecting

right to establish a democratic, non-nuclear country that respects human rights and wants to live in peace with its neighbours and the world. The Iranian people would like countries around the globe to cut ties with the regime and want the world to recognise the regime's oppressive force, the IRGC, as a terrorist organisation for its activities both domestically and internationally; repressing the people of Iran as well as exporting terrorism abroad.

### Join us at our live event for the occasion of Easter and NoRuz

**Date and time:** Saturday 29 April 2023, 3pm–7pm

**Location:** Porchester Hall, Porchester Rd, London W2 5HS

Please send an email or call the ILA to reserve your place:  
[info@iliberty.org.uk](mailto:info@iliberty.org.uk) Tel: 020 8452 3481