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# International Liberty Association Newsletter

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## EDITORIAL

Recent protests and demonstrations in Iran have been an unprecedented expression of the people's desire for freedom and human dignity over an extended period of time. Women have played a prominent leadership role in these protests, as they have been particularly subjected to oppression and injustice under the regime's medieval laws and misogynistic policies. With great courage and determination, women have actively participated in various campaigns and activities, paying a heavy price for their choices.

The theocratic government ruling Iran recognises no option other than continuing repression and execution to silence the protests and demands of the people, especially the youth (see page 1: £5bn to IGRC). We have witnessed horrifying instances of the regime's brutality, including the execution of young individuals and even minors, solely for expressing their beliefs and refusing to conform to the repressive religious laws. Fortunately, with your support and the voluntary efforts of activists inside Iran, we have made every effort to swiftly disseminate information and news concerning human rights violations to the general public and human rights organisations.

International solidarity for the people ... continued on p.2

## LARGEST DEMONSTRATION OF IRANIANS IN PARIS



On Saturday, 1 July 2023, the largest ever demonstration of Iranians abroad was held in Vauban Square in Paris, France, in support of the uprising in Iran and for a democratic change that protects human rights and basic

freedoms.

At the same time, distinguished international leaders and lawmakers held a conference near the city to demonstrate their unwavering support for freedom and democracy in Iran.

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## DOCUMENTS REVEAL £5BN ALLOCATED TO IRGC FOR MORE OPPRESSION

The latest published leaked documents obtained from the Iranian regime's presidency

by a dissident group indicate that the regime's president, Ebrahim Raisi, has allocated additional £5bn to the IRGC. These highly confidential reports highlight "the urgent need for immediate assistance for providing security equipment to the IRGC" and law enforcement units, due to the regime's fear of another round of



anti-regime protests.

Allocating such a large amount of money for oppression once again debunks the regime's bogus claims that it lacks the funds to address the country's dire economic situation and its people's impending financial calamity, and shows that any release of sanctioned funds will be used for more oppression.



## Largest demonstration of Iranians in Paris

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Prominent speakers who addressed the conference talked about the ongoing uprising in Iran, the threats posed by the existing regime, the viable alternative, and the imperative of adopting the right policies to foster a prosperous future for the country.

In her speech, which was broadcast live for the demonstrators at Vauban Square, **Maryam Rajavi**, the president-elect of the Iranian opposition for the period of transfer of power in Iran, pointed out: “We refuse to abandon our core beliefs, values, battles, and ideals to pursue power. We shall not endure the slightest hint of tyranny, exploitation, or authoritarian intent, be it from the dictatorships of the Shah or the mullahs. Furthermore, we do not depend on any foreign power to liberate Iran.”

She further added, “Khamenei and his Guard Corps [IRGC] are painfully aware of the forthcoming wave of uprisings. Consequently, they call upon the USA and Europe to intervene, obstruct the transformation in Iran, suppress the leaders of the popular uprising, and limit their fundamental rights of freedom of expression, assembly, and political engagement under the pretence of security or national sovereignty. Is this



truly indicative of 21st-century Europe?”

**Mike Pence**, 48th vice president of the United States said: “I stand before you today as a former vice president of the United States and as a private citizen. But I know I speak on behalf of tens of millions of Americans in both political parties when I say the American people stand for freedom and the American people stand for a free Iran, a secular, democratic, non-nuclear Iranian republic that derives its just powers from the consent of the people of Iran.

“We call on the free nations of the world to support



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of Iran, in the face of repression and human rights violations, is crucial in preventing the regime from carrying out acts of censorship, internet shutdowns and the concealment of its crimes. Supporting volunteers and activists in this field builds a platform for the people of Iran from which voices can be heard and demands can gain the support of the civilized world. Surely the people of Iran’s

courageous pursuit of human rights and basic freedoms is worthy of global admiration and recognition.

The international campaigns we are involved in have been instrumental in bringing the situation in Iran to the attention of the world and articles in this newsletter show growing international solidarity for the people of Iran - from the streets of Europe, to national parliaments, to the wider

international community. They are all testament to the importance of the work we do together.

We remain hopeful that through continuous information sharing, international solidarity, and the protection of individuals against oppression and suppression, we can make further progress in our quest to bring respect for human rights and basic freedoms to Iran. Surely that day is not far away.





## Largest demonstration of Iranians in Paris

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the brave Iranian people and to apply maximum pressure on the murderous regime in Tehran. And together, we renew our commitment to the great cause we share, that for which we hope and pray and stand, the liberation of the Iranian people from decades of tyranny and the rebirth of a free, peaceful, and prosperous democratic Iran.”



**Lisa Chambers**, leader of the Irish senate:

“Ireland has been clear in its condemnation of the repression of protests by the Iranian authorities, as well as the clear breaches of human rights in the country. We have repeatedly called on the Iranian authorities to respect the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. Clearly, those rights are not being respected today in Iran. Our government has raised these concerns directly with the Iranian embassy in Dublin and with officials in Tehran and continues to do that to this day.

“The Irish government has been very clear. The executions carried out by the Iranian authorities and the severe sentencing of peaceful protesters is unacceptable and we utterly condemn these actions.

“Last year, in October, following the death of Mahsa Amini, I drafted a resolution for the Irish senate that passed with the unanimous support of all members of our House on the issues affecting the Iranian people, in particular the violations against women and girls.

We condemned the unrelenting and oppressive actions of the Iranian authorities. We support the right to freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly of the Iranian people. We condemn the restrictions on access to the internet, which restricts freedom of expression and also freedom of assembly.

“I want to pay particular tribute to the inspirational Iranian women. Who every day sacrificed their well-being and their safety and that of their families in the fight for freedom for Iran. Many of them have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today we remember that sacrifice.”

**Ingrid Betancourt**, former Colombian senator and presidential candidate in 2022, said: “This year, the Iranian resistance faced huge obstacles for this rally. The regime of Iran asked France, the country



of democracy and human rights, to prevent this event from being held. And the government succumbed to the regime’s demands. What a shame! There is no other explanation than blackmail.

Others tried to recommend dignitaries of other countries not to attend under the pretext of security concerns. But here we stand today, stronger than ever, united in our pursuit of justice and freedom and supporting you.

Over the past two decades, you have led the movement that the mullahs thought they had destroyed. This is the movement of hope and faith. This is the only movement that has remained steadfast. These twenty years have been filled with moments of triumph, but also adversity. Through it all, you Maryam, have remained resolute, refusing to bow under the pressure of tyranny. You have inspired all of us and ignited a fire in our hearts that will never be extinguished.”



**Anna Firth**, British MP added: “With the brave young women and young men of Iran and of course, with you, Madam Rajavi, and your ten-point plan, I want you to know that the UK parliament salutes your unbelievable courage and determination, and we stand with you in your vital struggle for justice, for democracy, for equality and for freedom in Iran. And we stand with you because it is clear that your courage and your determination must go on.

But today I stand here with great hope, because today, Saturday, the 1st of July 2023, is the day that 3,600 parliamentarians from 40 countries have come together to sign a new world policy on Iran.”



## ILA PARTICIPATION IN PARIS RALLY

Dozens of ILA supporters and volunteers took part in the 'Free Iran' rally in Paris. These pictures and comments give a glimpse of what went on.

**Mary:** "I'm going to Paris with the International Liberty Association and I am really happy to be able to do anything I can to help the desperate people of Iran to know that the world is watching and is aware of what you're living through. We love you very much and we hope to see you live in total freedom very soon. This is the best thing I've ever done in my entire life, so thank you for giving me the opportunity to even have a word with you and to tell you that we love you and we encourage you. Keep the faith."

**Alexander:** "Thank you for organising the Paris trip which was a great success. The meeting of so many people for the Iranian cause was heart-warming."

**Peter:** "I am glad I joined the trip and most definitely felt it was worth it... I found the trip very moving, and humbling. To listen to, and observe people with infinitely more courage, and commitment, than I possess, fighting for liberty at risk of their lives, was immensely moving."

**Steve:** "I am happy that I joined the trip. It was worth it, even with the amount of travelling!"

**Caroline:** "I was very glad I came on the trip, I hope it made some contribution to the people we were supporting, however small."



For me it was good to meet other supporters."

**Gabrielle:** "I have direct experience of several 'good cause' organisations. ILA excels in many ways. A key quality is that you make us feel included and valued however much or little we contribute. This is so effective. You remember our names and faces, you feed us, you care for us and make us feel special, even if we don't attend every meeting or give lots of money. On a journey like this one, you manage every detail, remind us of every move and look after us. Most of all your sincerity is so powerful that it captures our hearts. This is your greatest asset."

**Amrit:** "I just wanted to say a very big thank you from Nam and I, we learnt so much more about the current affairs and how close it feels that there will be a

successful end to this story. We were overwhelmed by the support of others in the rally and everyone's unity to one goal, the freedom of Iran and what the people deserve after so long."

**Rosalind:** "Very happy that I was able to join the trip when you kindly arranged a lift for me. It was well worth it! A good four-day programme, cleverly divided into a useful information session on Friday, and a publicity event on Saturday with impressive contributions from important supporters!"

**Jeremy:** "I want to pay tribute to the volunteers who've done such a fantastic job and we've all, I think, got something very concrete out of the weekend. I think there's a sort of growing realisation that western governments have been too naive in their dealings with the mullahs"







## ILA PARTICIPATION IN PARIS RALLY

regime, and I think there's now more of an understanding that the regime is never going to change, there are no moderates in the regime and no agreement with the mullahs' regime is worth anything at all, and I hope that people who support the cause can help pressure their MPs and government to understand that better."

**Diana:** "I'm so glad I've come, the hall here is absolutely packed, we heard in unequivocal terms how misinformation, lies, downright lies, have been perpetuated by the Iranian regime, and at least now we all know how to counter this. It's up to each and every one of us to counter this with our own MPs, in our own media, with our own journalists, each and every time."

**Mark:** "All the ILA volunteers and organisers did a great job looking after us all as we travelled to and from Paris and while we were there. It must have been stressful for them but they were really kind and caring. You all did a brilliant job organising us! I would certainly recommend other ILA supporters and friends to go next time if they are able to do so."

**Philip:** "The whole event was necessary due to the encouragement that it gave, in particular to the people of Iran. The volunteers went out of their way to ensure things ran smoothly so well done to all of you. The only improvement needed is that if we have an event next year, it would be better to go back to somewhere like



Villepinte so we can all be together with the dignitaries."

**Liz:** "Volunteers were so well-organised at the rally ... seating if needed, constant food supplies, a position right at the front. Truly inspirational. We had no reason to feel anxious for our safety although I was vigilant and glad not to be 'hemmed in the crowd'. Wonderful large screen, fascinating footage

and music. Electrified crowd."

**Rosalind:** "It was so interesting to hear the panellists who were all experts in their fields speaking from their own perspective, giving different angles, giving different information about their experience, and all working in the same direction for the cause of freedom for the people of Iran. It was extremely encouraging."







## 3,600 PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM 40 COUNTRIES SUPPORT NEW POLICY ON IRAN

3,600 parliamentarians from 40 countries have come together to sign a new policy on Iran in favour of a secular democratic republic Iran and offering their full support to Maryam Rajavi's ten-point plan. This includes over 500 British parliamentarians from all parties in both houses of parliament.

The statement also has the support of over 115 former presidents and prime ministers.

The latest additions to the list of parliamentarians includes the majority of parliaments of Jordan and Yemen. These parliamentarians added their names to their counterparts in Europe, Oceania, and North America.

The statement expresses concern for the number of protesters killed or arrested during the recent uprisings in Iran and states that: "We stand in solidarity with the people of Iran in their desire for a secular and democratic republic where no individual, regardless of religion or birth right, has any privilege over others. Through their slogans the Iranian people have made it clear that they reject all forms of dictatorship, be it the deposed Shah or the current theocratic regime, and thus reject any association with either."

In their statement the signatories condemn "the Iranian regime's meddling in the Middle East region



The majority of parliamentarians in Jordan (above) and in Yemen (below) signed the statement in support of a secular republic Iran.



and Europe, including its terrorist attempts and cyber-attacks in Albania" and urge "the international community to stand with the Iranian people in their quest for

change and to take decisive steps against the current regime. This includes blacklisting the IRGC and holding regime officials accountable for their crimes against humanity."



The majority at the Bremische Bürgerschaft, the legislative branch of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen in Germany, joined the signatories.



The majority of representatives in the Bundestag's Lower Saxony state also signed a similar statement.





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### FLIGHT PS752 CASE TO BE RULED BY INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



The UK, Canada, Sweden, and Ukraine have launched a case against Iran at the United Nations' highest court over the downing in 2020 of a Ukrainian passenger jet and the deaths of all its 176 passengers and crew.

The countries want the International Court of Justice to rule that Iran illegally shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on 8 January that year, and to order Tehran to apologise and pay compensation to the families of the victims.

### IRAN SENTENCES FOUR BAHAI'S TO 20 YEARS IN JAIL



A 'revolutionary' court in Tehran has sentenced four members of Iran's Baha'i community to a total of 20 years in prison. Notorious judge Iman Afshari, who is under international sanctions over human rights violations, convicted the four Baha'i of "joining illegal groups with the purpose of disrupting the country's security" following a trial held on 31 May.

### UK SANCTIONS 13 MORE IRANIAN OFFICIALS

The UK government has introduced sanctions on more than a dozen Iranian individuals and entities over human rights violations.



The list of 13 individuals and entities responsible for human rights abuses in Iran, released by the UK's Foreign Office on 6 July, includes prison governors overseeing torture and inhumane treatment and organisations charged with collecting private information of regime opponents, as well as individuals leading the repression of women through compulsory hijab laws.

### FEMALE ACTIVIST GIVEN ANOTHER FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE

An appeals court has handed an extra five-year sentence to prominent activist and journalist **Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee**.



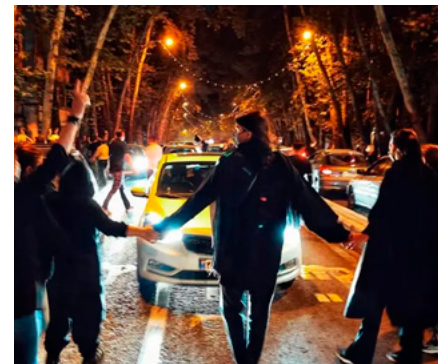
She refused to take part in the court hearing for participating in "illegal gatherings" and violating "national security" saying she didn't recognise the court's legitimacy.

She was rearrested last September during a police raid on her home at the start of the protest movement sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody.

### STUDENTS ISSUE PROTEST STATEMENTS AGAINST SECURITY FORCES' BRUTALITY

Students from two Iranian universities have issued statements of protest following the brutal treatment of a student demonstrator by a security officer at Tehran's Allameh University.

The 26 June incident, during which a security officer violently struck a student's head against stone steps, occurred in the context of a dispute over Iran's strict dress code enforcement.



The incident was triggered by the university's insistence on making the *Maghna'eh* - a black cloth covering the head, forehead, chin, and chest - mandatory for female students.

The students staged a sit-in at the university campus, which was met with violence by security forces.

In response to the incident, Allameh University students issued a statement which declared that: "We, who have become 'We' for almost a year, have no word for you except one: No."

On 27 June, students from North Tehran's Azad University issued a statement in support of their Allameh University colleagues. The students' statement called for universities "free from gender discrimination".



## THE UN FACT-FINDING MISSION ON IRAN PUBLISHES FIRST REPORT

The **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** mandated the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Iran on 24 November 2022 to investigate human rights violations related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022, after the death in custody of the 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini**.

On 5 July 2023, the fact-finding mission presented its first report to the UNHCR. In a statement in this regard the fact-finding mission said: “Iran must end its continuing crackdown on peaceful protesters and halt the wave of executions, mass arrests and detentions since the death in custody of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini last September. It must respect, fulfil, and protect the rights of all people in Iran, especially women and girls. Even today, ten months after the events, no official data is publicly available regarding those arrested, detained, charged or convicted in connection with the protests. But reports continue to emerge of arrests and detentions of protesters, including women and girls refusing to comply with the country’s forced-veiling law, and of harassment of their family members. Harsh punishments continue to be meted out to those



involved in the protests, including for exercising rights protected under international human rights law[s]. They are being imposed following legal proceedings that lack transparency and fail to meet basic fair trial and due process guarantees under international human rights law[s]. Two months after the protests began, a series of alleged poisonings in dozens of schools across 28 provinces were reported. The FFM is investigating whether these alleged poisonings have been orchestrated as a means to punish or deter girls for their involvement in the protests.

“The people of Iran, including women and girls, have fundamental

rights to equality, truth, justice, accountability and reparations that must be upheld. We call on the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully cooperate with our mandate and to ensure that all those affected have unhindered and safe access to providing evidence.”

The fact-finding mission has been a very effective way of keeping the spotlight on the Iranian regime. We can measure its importance from the fact that it was revealed by a hacktivist group some weeks ago that the Iranian regime is trying very hard to derail the mission of the FFM and to meddle in its activities in order to prevent the truth from surfacing.

**Please join us for a live event at  
ILEC Conference Centre  
London Suite, 47 Lillie Road, London, SW6 1UD  
Date: Saturday 30 September, 1pm–5.30pm  
Entrance fee: £10**

**Please contact the ILA by email or phone to book your place:  
info@iliberty.org.uk Tel: (020) 8452 3481**