The Case for Regime Change in Iran

Denying Tehran The Bomb

Major U.S. figures join call for regime change in Tehran
Paris event showcases bipartisan American support for Iranian dissidents

By The Washington Times

Tens of thousands of Iranian opposition exiles gathered in France last weekend for an annual rally demanding regime change in Iran and condemning President Obama’s push to sign a nuclear accord with the Islamic republic.

The gathering was led by the Iranian exile organization, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and drew dozens of current and former officials from the U.S., Europe and the Middle East who joined in the call for Iran’s Shiite Islamist government to be overthrown.

Among the more high-profile figures was Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, Arizona Republican, who told the massive crowd in a pre-recorded video message that “the Iranian regime [is] the true epicenter of Islamic extremism in the world.”

Despite participating in nuclear negotiations with Western powers, Iran’s leadership would have fallen by now.”

“I don’t propose or pretend to forecast what the government [will be] in Iran after the current regime is replaced — and they will be replaced either by a popular uprising or external factors or collapsing on the world.”

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani went further. Appearing on stage Saturday afternoon, he slammed the Obama administration for pursuing a nuclear deal with Iran and ignoring the calls for regime change.

“We’re told there is no alternative,” Mr. Giuliani said. “Wake up. How many people are here today — 100,000, 110,000?”

Some at the rally said they had deep personal ties to Camp Ashraf. Fahal Lafzya, 38, said her daughter was stuck at the camp and died after Iraqi authorities refused to let her leave to treat an illness.

Ms. Lafzya also decried the government of Iran. “There are so many executions and torture in Iran,” she said. “At least there is freedom, democracy and equality in Iran.”

Several U.S. lawmakers were there in person. Among them was Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, California Republican, who drew large cheers by declaring that he wanted to “remind the brutal mullahs in Iran that their day is coming, and it will come soon.”

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Former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, who has attended the rally for the past several years, told The Times that he was there Saturday because “the candidates.”

He said the nuclear negotiations with Iran distract from what should be a Western policy backing the Iranian government’s overthrow.

The left-wing, secular umbrella organization includes more than 300 opposition groups peopled across 24 nations, members say. It sided with other revolutionary groups in overthrowing the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran in 1979, but broke with Islamist forces under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in the years after the shah was overthrown.

Leaders said the group has since renounced the call for Iran’s Shiite Islamist government to be overthrown.

Ahead of Saturday’s rally, Ms. Rajavi said in an interview with The Washington Times that the “circumstances are ripe for regime change” in Tehran. She blamed Washington and other Western governments for standing in the way by legitimizing the regime of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei through the pursuit of a nuclear deal.

“Through their policy of appeasement and giving concessions to the regime, Western governments have served as an obstacle to the regime’s overthrow,” she said. “In the absence of Western assistance, this regime would have fallen by now.”

Ms. Rajavi’s anti-regime proclamations have long appealed to neoconservative Republicans as well as to some hawkish Democrats in Washington.

On Saturday in Villepinte, France, hundreds of supporters waved blue flags emblazoned with NCRI’s leader Maryam Rajavi’s photo and chanted her name as she took the stage dressed in a blue outfit and headscarf.

A large screen behind her broadcast the slogans: “Regime Change in Iran” and “We can and we must.”

“Look at today’s Iran. Do you see any Iranians not longing for change? All of them feel the same pain and demand for change,” she told the crowd, asserting that her organization stands for “freedom, democracy and equality.”

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Iran is the true epicenter of the world’s radical Islamic extremism

By Sen. John McCain
Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee

I’m very proud to be with you for this remarkable and inspiring display of Iranian unity against the terror and violence and extremism of the regime in Tehran and the people who are under attack in Camp Liberty.

The American people have always stood up for those fighting for freedom and human dignity around the world, and that’s why the American people stand with you at this time. Your cause is our cause, and your fight is our fight.

Today we live in a world in crisis. Across the Middle East, Iran is setting fire to sectarian tensions in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and beyond, killing thousands and driving millions from their homes.

The Iranian regime, the true epicenter of radical Islamic extremism in the world, continues to fund terror and incite chaos in its campaign for domination in the vacuum of the American withdrawal.

ISIS is growing in strength, spreading radical Islam’s ideology of hate across the region. It’s up to the forces of freedom to stop them. We must lead from the front, not from behind. We must see the evil for what it is and marshal our resources and the resolve needed to defeat it. And most of all, we must stand strong with our friends.

Today our friends and comrades at Camp Liberty are under attack despite the promises of protection in return for laying down their arms. We know those at Camp Liberty are in danger, and the Obama administration is taking far too long to relocate them to safety.

I can assure you of one thing: I will do everything in my power as the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee to pass legislation to uphold our pledge to the people of Camp Liberty. We must expedite their resettlement to more secure locations and ensure their safety while they are still in Iraq.

My friends, the world has never been in more turmoil than it is today. This is a great challenge of our time. Together, we must unite to fight the spread of radical Islamic extremism and the unspeakable violence and oppression it brings. And we must prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and free the Iranian people from its brutal regime. The American people will stand with you in this fight. I thank you for your courage and commitment to this vital cause.

Mr. McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, is the senior U.S. senator from Arizona and the 2008 Republican presidential nominee. These remarks were adapted from a videotaped message he delivered to the June 13 gathering in Paris.

Why the U.S. must protect Camp Liberty

By Sen. Robert Menendez

This year we join in solidarity once again to remember the deadly rocket attacks on Camp Liberty in 2013 and to demand that the people in Camp Liberty live in safety and security. No longer the targets of terrorist acts. No longer the victims of violence. No longer left unprotected.

I have called on the government of Iraq, the United Nations and the U.S. government again and again to do more to ensure the safety of Camp Liberty residents and to commit to expediting a resettlement process for the dissidents so that they can live and prosper outside of Iraq. I am heartened that foreign governments, U.S. officials, U.N. representatives and Iraqi leaders recognize the tremendous importance that I, along with many others, place on the safety and security of the people of Camp Liberty.

Last year we worked together to ensure that protective walls were installed, sandbags were delivered and security remained a top priority. Now we must not lose sight of the most important challenge: making certain that the MEK residents are safely resettled outside Iraq. This must include a willingness on the part of the United States to demonstrate leadership and accept MEK residents into our own country.

I call on Iraqi officials to do everything in their power to prevent further attacks and to work cooperatively with the U.N., the United States and host nations to assist in a safe, secure and rapid resettlement process.

I also want to acknowledge the important role played by the MEK leadership in exposing the duplicity of the regime in Tehran, and now the important work you are doing to raise awareness of Iran’s nuclear program and covert cooperation.

We all know who ultimately holds power in Iran and who makes decisions. Iran's leadership has deliberately armed and trained Iraqi Shia militias to bleed U.S. forces in Iraq. Iran's leadership is backing a dictator in Syria dropping barrel bombs on his own people and a rebel movement in Yemen that until recently refused to consider any political process that could end the civil strife and human suffering.

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism, and this will not change regardless of what happens at the negotiating table in Vienna.

The fact is, Iran is interested in working with us only to the extent that it protects its interests in pursuing its regional hegemonic goals.

That said, the situation in Iraq at the moment is so dangerous that we are concerned that we are going from a weak Iraq to a collapsed state that will be a safe haven for violent extremists. Let us hope and pray that, God willing, that does not happen. I have made clear to U.S. administration officials that, no matter what, the safety and security of the MEK members at Camp Liberty must continue to be a priority. For that, we stand in solidarity today.

MEK residents at Camp Liberty in Iraq

Mr. Menendez is a U.S. senator representing New Jersey and previously served as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. These remarks were adapted from a videotaped message to the June 13 gathering in Paris.
Congress must not let a bad Iran nuclear deal compromise U.S. national security

By Rep. Ed Royce
Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

No issue is more important to the House Foreign Affairs Committee than preventing the ayatollah from acquiring a nuclear weapon. This month, Congress passed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. Congress will be instrumental in pushing back against a bad deal that compromises U.S. national security interests, but we can’t if it isn’t clear what is in the agreement. This bill requires that the president give all the details to Congress and the public so we can debate and judge any agreement on its merits.

The White House vigorously opposed the bill, precisely because it didn’t want the scrutiny. Congress has repeatedly made clear that an acceptable agreement must stop the regime from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. That’s a pretty straightforward bottom line.

The problem, unfortunately, is for many years there has been a government in Iran that denies to its citizens the basic freedoms that we in the United States know and love and take for granted: freedom of democracy, freedom of speaking your mind, freedom of free political system. None of those, unfortunately, exists today in Iran, and we know that the Iranian government unfortunately has been the leading supporter of terrorist organization throughout the world.

The Iranian people deserve better. Iran and the United States should be natural allies in the region, but instead this has not been the case since 1979.

So I want to congratulate all of you at this gathering who are fighting for freedom, for the people of Iran, who are fighting for freedom for the nation of Iran. And I want you to know you have the support of the United States of America, which fights for freedom wherever we can.

And I would like nothing better than to let the Iranian people decide what kind of government they want and who can serve in that government. This is not a matter of anyone trying to impose anything on the Iranian people. Quite the opposite. We want the Iranian people to have the freedom to do what they feel is best for them and not be repressed by a government that denies them of the basic freedoms and basic tenants of life.

Mr. Royce is a Republican House member serving California. These remarks were adapted from a videotaped message to the June 13 gathering in Paris.

by

By Rep. Elliot Engel

The Iranian people and the American people are good friends and should be good allies. People to people, we have no quarrel with the Iranian people.

Good people should be good allies to one another.

The White House vigorously opposed the bill, precisely because it didn’t want the scrutiny. Congress has repeatedly made clear that an acceptable agreement must stop the regime from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. That’s a pretty straightforward bottom line.

And 367 members of Congress are on record stating that such a deal must last for multiple decades and include full disclosure of the regime’s past efforts to build a nuclear weapon, a dramatic reduction in the number of centrifuges, as well as intrusive inspections and verification measures. Unfortunately, what we have seen of the current framework appears to meet none of these essential conditions.

Even President Barack Obama himself conceives that the regime’s breakout capabilities will dramatically increase as the terms of the agreement expire. In an NPR interview on April 6, the president stated that what is more relevant, as a more relevant fear would be, that in year 13, 14, 15 they have advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium fairly rapidly. At that point, the breakout times would have shrunk down to zero.

In announcing its outlines, Mr. Obama declared that this agreement is based on unprecedented verification. However, all of the essential elements of this inspection regime still need to be negotiated. The ink wasn’t even dry on this month’s announcement, and the other key piece of verification includes the regime coming clean on its past bomb work that your organization was key in unearthing. That elementary step still has not happened despite its long-overdue commitment to international inspectors to do so. The IAEA remains concerned about signs of the regime’s military-related activities, including designing a nuclear payload for missiles. The ayatollahs haven’t even begun to address these concerns.

Last fall, over 350 members wrote to the secretary of state expressing deep concerns about the lack of cooperation, yet the framework agreement is vague on this critical verification step. And the administration cannot turn a blind eye to the regime’s destabilizing role in the region.

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Mr. Engel is a House member representing New York and the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee. These remarks were adapted from a videotaped message to the June 13 gathering in Paris.


It’s time for America to keep its promises to the Iranian opposition

By Howard Dean

I wish our government back home could see the speech that Madame Rajavi just gave so they would understand that it’s not the MEK that should have been on the terrorist list; it’s the Iranian mullahs who should have been on the terrorist list.

So, I’m here for two reasons. The first is the reason I’ve been here every year for five or six years, and that is that I think that if a government and a country wants to lead in a positive direction they have to have moral force on their side. And the only way the United States can have moral force on its side is that we keep our word. And there are approximately 2,400 Iranian dissidents in what amounts to a prison camp near the Baghdad airport because America did not keep its promises. If America wants to be great first, we should keep our promises.

I would be remiss if I didn’t say one little political thing; I want to thank Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state for removing the MEK from the terrorist list. Now that was going to happen because of the courts, but she did the right thing when confronted with the facts and she overcame the pro-Iranian rump in the State Department.

Secondly, I have not spoken out about how I feel about this treaty or this agreement that may or may not come up, and I am not going to give a final verdict today. But there are some observations I’d like to make about the negotiations. I am for negotiations, even with your enemies, because you have to talk to your enemies, and talking is better than war. But I am not for negotiations that give the mullahs $50 billion to spend spreading terrorism, not just to all the places that have been mentioned before, but, for example, blowing up the Jewish center in Argentina and killing innocent people.

They have spread terror all over the world, not just in the Middle East, and we should not enable terrorism. I guarantee you that the Revolutionary Guard will get their hands on a big piece of that $150 billion when sanctions end, and Americans will die as a result. So we should understand that when we are satisfied that the mullahs are keeping their word, which they have never done in the past.

We are not going to spend $150 billion enabling terrorists if we don’t get them to give up their capacity, which means that any agreement must completely eliminate the possibility of the mullahs possessing the atomic bomb. And any agreement must allow full and complete and verifiable inspection in any facility contained in Iran. And if those conditions are not met, I cannot support an agreement. We must not have an agreement for an agreement’s sake. A bad agreement does not contribute to anybody’s legacy; it makes their legacy worse.

I am going to conclude the way I started. I think all Americans of every party are proud of our country and proud of the role that we have played in trying to increase human rights across the globe. We have not always been perfect, but we have always believed that it was part of our mission as a nation to improve human rights for all people, including those who are not American. I would have liked it if our government had raised the issue of human rights with the mullahs, the second-worst after the North Korean regime on the face of the Earth, in the way they treat and torture and murder their own people. And we did not say a word. I do not know how America sleeps with itself if we cannot stand up for everybody’s human rights. Human rights are not a matter of convenience. They must not be traded away to murderous regimes for any purpose.

Mr. Dean is a doctor and former governor of Vermont who sought the Democratic nomination for president in 2000. The above is adapted and excerpted from videotaped remarks presented at the June 13 rally in Paris.

A nuclear Iran is an existential threat to U.S. allies in the Middle East

By Rep. Brad Sherman

For the past 19 years, my principal focus has been on preventing a nuclear Iran.

I want to commend the MEK for the critical role it played in exposing Iran’s nuclear weapons program.

The current Iranian regime is not only an existential threat to U.S. allies in the Middle East, but also a defiant proliferator of terrorism and extremism.

The world must challenge the Iranian regime’s intensified support for terrorism across the Middle East—including Syria, Yemen and extremist militias in Iraq.

I remain committed to ensuring that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon and ends its support for terror, regardless of the outcome of the nuclear negotiations. I also want to commend Madam Rajavi for her advocacy of democracy, human rights and women’s rights in Iran.

Mr. Sherman is a House member representing California and the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on terrorism, nonproliferation and trade. The above was adapted and excerpted from videotaped remarks presented at the June 13 event in Paris.

The Democratic alternative for Iran is you

By Bill Richardson

I have three questions. One, will there be change in Iran? [Crowd: Yes!] Number two, is there a democratic alternative opposition? [Crowd: Yes!] Number three, is the current Iranian regime reasonable and moderate? [Crowd: No!] Very good.

I want to just say to you, I’ve been coming here for five years. The rallies get bigger. Not only are there Iranians here, but there are Asians, Africans, Latin Americans. You know why? Because everybody has joined you to seek change in Iran. And I’m very proud to be with a group of important leaders — men and women, mayors, governors, congressmen, senators, business leaders, distinguished academics, lawyers — representing America.

This movement is growing, and I want to also say to you in answer to the question about the Iranian regime being moderate, this regime has tortured and repressed its people for too long a time. If there’s going to be change in Iran, here’s what the regime might think about doing. First, they should stop helping Hezbollah. It should stop helping Hamas. It should stop helping the regime in Syria. It should stop harassing and attacking Israel. It should free political prisoners. It should free the American Marine. It should free the American journalist and all political prisoners. That would be a start.

I want to conclude with this. Do you know where the democratic alternative is? It is right here. It is you. It is democracy. It is the people of Iran that you represent. So I’m proud to be with my colleagues. I’m proud to be with you with this huge crowd. This crowd, the security was so big they almost didn’t let me in. And I say that because it’s important to recognize a movement that is growing — a movement that is an alternative.

So let us pray, and let us hope, and let us work together to continue the struggle to bring democracy and human rights to the great civilization that you represent. Not the current regime, the great civilization of Iran.

Mr. Richardson, a Democrat, is a former governor and congressman from New Mexico, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and a former U.S. energy secretary. The above was adapted and excerpted from his speech at the June 13 rally in Paris.
The Iranian people want regime change, not appeasement

By Maryam Rajavi
President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

The following remarks were made by Mrs. Rajavi at a June 13 rally in Villepinte, France, near Paris.

We have come here to convey to the world the voice and message of Iran's rightful owners, the Iranian people.

Amid an unrelenting up roar over the Iranian regime's ominous nuclear program and three inhumane wars in the region, we have come to say that those who are currently claiming to speak on behalf of Iran are in fact the enemies of Iran and all Iranians.

The people of Iran want neither nuclear weapons nor meddling in Iraq, Syria or Yemen, and they do not accept despotism, torture and shackles.

The people of Iran are the tens of millions of enraged teachers, students, nurses and workers who demand freedom, democracy, jobs and better lives.

They say: First, the velayat-e faqih regime has reached the end of the line. And second, the only way to end the violations of human rights in Iran, the nuclear impasse, the crises in the region, and the confrontation with ISIS and terrorism, is to topple the caliph of regression and terrorism in Iran.

Fundamental change a popular demand

Look at Iran as it has risen up today. It is seething with anger and rage despite nearly 1,800 executions during Hassan Rouhani's tenure:

- The recent uprising in Mahabad and the protests in Sanandaj, Sardasht, Saqqez and Marivan reflect the courage of Iranian Kurds.
- Successive demonstrations by teachers in all the provinces echo the cries of those who have been ignored and have now risen up to demand the right to life and the right to freedom.
- The daily strikes and sit-ins by workers reveal the pain of starving families nationwide.
- Dozens of armed clashes involving young Baluchis, Kurds, and Arabs lay bare the fury of a people in chains and denied of all means of protest.
- Hundreds of hunger strikes and protests by political prisoners are a testament to the perseverance of a nation that has brought the mullahs to their knees, even in their own torture chambers.
- The sit-ins of the mothers of prisoners on death row, the protests of Conobadi and Ahl-e Haq dervishes, and the suffering of impoverished street vendors are the rumblings of a volcano on the verge of eruption.

Look at today's Iran. Do you see any Iranian who is not discontented or does not yearn for change?

The 15 million deprived and destitute citizens languishing in shantytowns in the suburbs, the 10 to 15 million young people who cannot find jobs and the millions of families feeling the heavy burden of high prices all feel the same pain, and they all demand a fundamental change.

So, I am speaking to you, my beloved compatriots and women across the nation.

The resistance you wage, your struggle and your solidarity can withstand any other force.

Stand up to the ruling regime and create 1,000 bastions of rebellion, 1,000 Ashraf's in Iran.

Yes, the time has come when your protests would spur major uprisings. And the army of rebellion and liberation will be the harbinger of Iran's freedom for the whole world to see.

Dismantling the regime's bomb-making infrastructure

Unfortunately, Western governments, the United States in particular, violated UN Security Council resolutions and offered major concessions, thrusting the regime closer to the bomb.

Therefore, I must remind Western governments that the Iranian people and resistance will not accept any agreement that does not dismantle the regime's bomb-making infrastructure.

Therefore, UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented fully. Uranium enrichment must be halted completely.

All suspect sites, military or otherwise, must be inspected.

And the regime must provide answers regarding the military dimensions of its nuclear project and make its nuclear experts available for IAEA questioning.

Failure of the regime's nuclear strategy

The nuclear program that was one of the velayat-e faqih regime's means of projecting power for the past quarter-century has now become a source of the mullahs' weakness and impasse.

Why did Khamenei acquiesce to the Geneva Accord despite being only two to three months away from nuclear weapons capability?

The answer is simple: because he feared the eruption of another major uprising, because his nuclear strategy has run aground, and because in the words of his foreign minister, the regime's strategic capacity has been eroded. This explains why the Geneva Accord destabilized the regime while the subsequent Lausanne Agreement accelerated that trend.

Unlike his predecessor Khomeini, who "drank from the chalice of poison" by accepting a cease-fire that ended the Iran-Iraq War in 1988, Khamenei could not agree to a comprehensive deal with the P5+1. He says, "I neither agree nor disagree." This simply means that his regime is at an impasse.

The same circumstances dominate the atmosphere for the final comprehensive agreement. Whether or not Khamenei agrees to it, the regime cannot escape the prospects of being overthrown.

The regime's grave situation reveals itself in the failure of his policies. The regime's impasse and the crises in the region, and the confrontation with ISIS and terrorism, are the harbinger of Iran's freedom for the region.

The Iranian people want regime change, not appeasement, which is striving for freedom.

You are gravely mistaken in thinking that there is no other solution. There is a solution for ending the mullahs' nuclear weapons program: regime change by the Iranian people and resistance.

Failures of the regime's supreme leader

The regime's grave situation reveals itself in Khamenei's failures and the erosion of his power and authority. Khamenei has failed to unify ranks among the ruling clique. His acquiescence to Rouhani's presidency is a reflection of that failure.

At the root of such political impotence, however, were neither international sanctions nor the economic crisis. The most important reason for it was the uprisings and the resistance waged by you, the Iranian people.

Today, the regime's supreme leader and his president have faced off, bashing one another on a daily basis.

The power struggle has reached the tipping point. Rafsanjani has openly called for dividing up the powers and authorities of the supreme leader. For the first time, a rival faction has taken hold against Khamenei in the Assembly of Experts. The pro-Khamenei faction is burdened by profound divisions and ruptures. As a result, the axis that was meant to preserve the regime in times of tension and turmoil is itself crumbling.

Indeed, the ruling theocracy has rotated at its core. All indications point to the end of this decaying regime.

Mullahs trapped in three wars

Today, the clerical regime has found itself trapped in three regional wars, in all of which it can neither advance nor retreat. The bubblelike expansion of the ruling theocracy has put it in a perilous predicament.

In Syria, what the mullahs built is teetering because it was erected on quicksand. Although the clerical regime has spent billions of dollars annually to prop up Bashar Assad, today the Syrian dictator is gasping for air.

In Iraq, the mullahs have been hauled alongside Assad to the International Criminal Court for the slaughter of 300,000 Syrian men, women and children, among other crimes.

In Iraq, the clerical regime has lost its puppet government of Nouri al-Maliki. This is the beginning of the regime's demise not only in Iraq but also throughout the region.

Although the regime continues to
commit genocide against the Sunnis by the Quds Force that meddles in Iraq under the pretext of fighting ISIS, these efforts will ultimately prove futile and will not make up for the regime's losses. And in Yemen, Khamenei sought to take over the country to gain the upper hand during the nuclear talks and amid the regional crisis. This, however, motivated the largest regional coalition against Tehran.

The day Bashar Assad is toppled or when the regime's forces are defeated in Iraq or in Yemen, the regime's entire fortification in the Middle East will collapse. The regime lacks the capability to make advances in these three theaters of war and conflict.

At the same time, if it chooses to retreat, it will implode. So, this is an impasse that also attests to the certainty of the overthrow of the velayat-e faqih regime.

The imperative of evicting the regime from other regional countries

Today, policymakers both in the West and in the Arab world stress that ISIS and Bashar Assad are two sides of the same coin. Let me add to that by saying that the caliph in Tehran is the godfather of both of them.

The fact is that ISIS emerged out of the atrocities perpetrated by Bashar Assad and Maliki on orders from the clerical regime. I therefore call upon Western governments to refrain from siding with the Iranian regime.

In Iraq, do not collaborate with the regime's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or the so-called Shiite militias who are a hundred times more dangerous than the other henchmen.

The solution in Iraq is to evict the mullahs’ forces, to empower Sunni power-sharing and to arm the Sunni tribes.

The solution in Syria is to evict the Iranian regime's forces and to support the people of Syria in overthrowing Assad's dictatorship.

The solution in Yemen is to stand up to Tehran, as the Arab coalition has already begun to do. This course of action must be sustained until the regime’s infiltration is rooted out across the region.

Indeed, the ultimate solution is to evict the Iranian regime from the entire region and to topple the caliphate of regression and terrorism ruling Iran.

An organized movement

When social conditions are ripe for change, there is no element more vital than the existence of an organized opposition movement. This explains why the mullahs fear and attempt to destroy the People's Mujaheddeen (PMOI/MEK) and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). The mullahs have always considered the PMOI's presence in Iraq as an existential threat because the PMOI is spearheading the fight against religious fascism. During the 1980s’ Iran-Iraq War, the PMOI and the NCRI hoisted the banner of peace in diametric opposition to Khomeini's persistence on prolonging the war.

The PMOI formed the National Liberation Army.

The PMOI and the NCRI foiled nefarious conspiracies of the Iranian regime and its appeasers, and nullified the unjust terrorist label by scoring victories in more than 20 courts in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.

The PMOI and the National Council of Resistance discredited and terminated the 15-year-long case launched by the French judiciary. They upheld the Iranian regime's presidential elections in 2013, Khamenei ordered a rocket attack on Camp Liberty. And two years ago, when he decided to sign the nuclear accord, he ordered that Ashraf residents be massacred.

The mullahs' real aim is to annihilate the residents of Liberty or force their surrender to the regime. This explains why the regime is even hindering their relocation out of Iraq.

On the other hand, by repeatedly violating international treaties and reneging on their written obligations toward the Ashrafis, the U.S. and the UN have in practice sided with the religious fascism ruling Iran.

I once again call on the U.S. and the UN to take urgent action to protect Camp Liberty residents and to put an end to the medical and logistical siege on the camp and its prisonlike conditions.

In addition to three dozens current and former U.S. officials, Mrs. Rajavi was joined at the Iran Freedom Rally with world leaders from France, Britain, Canada, Italy, Germany and many Middle Eastern countries. Among the luminaries were: former French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, former British Attorney General Lord Goldsmith, former Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi and former French Defense, Foreign and Interior Minister Michelle Alliot-Marie.

Our constitution respects freedom, democracy and equality

We are determined to build a free and democratic society.

A century ago, the Mujahedeen of the Constitutional Movement sought to realize “justice, freedom, equality and unity.” Afterward, the great nationalist leader of Iran, Mohammad Mossadeq, rose up and proclaimed, “The goal is to facilitate the participation of people in all respects and to empower them to run the country’s affairs.”

Subsequently, the Fedayeen and the PMOI and other vanguard activists opened the path to overthrowing the Shah’s dictatorship.

End of prisons and torture, death, and commitment to ending arbitrary detention in Iran.

On This day, the regime’s constitutional crimes must be terminated and the regime must be replaced by a democratic and reformist movement.

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The imperative of evicting the regime

The imperative of evicting the regime from the entire region and to topple the caliphate of regression and terrorism ruling Iran.

An organized movement

When social conditions are ripe for change, there is no element more vital than the existence of an organized opposition movement. This explains why the mullahs fear and attempt to destroy the People's Mujaheddeen (PMOI/MEK) and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). The mullahs have always considered the PMOI's presence in Iraq as an existential threat because the PMOI is spearheading the fight against religious fascism. During the 1980s’ Iran-Iraq War, the PMOI and the NCRI hoisted the banner of peace in diametric opposition to Khomeini's persistence on prolonging the war.

The PMOI formed the National Liberation Army.

The PMOI and the NCRI foiled nefarious conspiracies of the Iranian regime and its appeasers, and nullified the unjust terrorist label by scoring victories in more than 20 courts in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.

The PMOI and the National Council of Resistance discredited and terminated the 15-year-long case launched by the French judiciary. They upheld the Iraqi and the National Council of Resistance discredited and terminated the 15-year-long case launched by the French judiciary. They upheld the

The solution in Syria is to evict the Iranian regime's forces and to support the people of Syria in overthrowing Assad's dictatorship.

The solution in Yemen is to stand up to Tehran, as the Arab coalition has already begun to do. This course of action must be sustained until the regime’s infiltration is rooted out across the region.

Indeed, the ultimate solution is to evict the Iranian regime from the entire region and to topple the caliphate of regression and terrorism ruling Iran.

Our constitution respects freedom, democracy and equality

We are determined to build a free and democratic society.

A century ago, the Mujahedeen of the Constitutional Movement sought to realize “justice, freedom, equality and unity.” Afterward, the great nationalist leader of Iran, Mohammad Mossadeq, rose up and proclaimed, “The goal is to facilitate the participation of people in all respects and to empower them to run the country’s affairs.”

Subsequently, the Fedayeen and the PMOI and other vanguard activists opened the path to overthrowing the Shah’s dictatorship.

And now, our resistance — with a galaxy of fallen heroes and heroines — has arisen to ensure freedom of choice for each and every one of our fellow Iranians.

We have rejected the ruling tyrannical regime. We have rejected a religion based on compulsion and misogyny, and we have rejected the constitution of the velayat-e faqih.

Our constitution respects freedom, democracy and equality

Our constitution has not been drafted by the Assembly of Experts, which is a collection of criminals. Today, it remains engraved in the hearts of each and every Iranian. Tomorrow, it will be drafted by elected representatives of the Iranian people in a constituent assembly.

This constitution is founded on a free, tolerant and progressive republic. It rests on pluralism, separation of religion and state, women's equality and the active and equal participation of women in political leadership.

We believe in equal rights for all ethnic and religious minorities and a society devoid of torture and executions.

Indeed, with our hope and faith in freedom, we have waged a persistent struggle for a half-century and against two dictatorships. And we will continue this struggle with even greater hope and determination until freedom and democracy reign supreme in Iran.
Inside the Iran Freedom Day Rally

June 13, 2015 | Villepinte, France
American must unequivocally demand a non-nuclear Iran

By Rudy Giuliani

The ayatollah must go. Gone. He and Rouhani and Ahmadinejad and all the rest of them should be on trial for crimes against humanity for the thousands and hundreds of thousands of people they have killed, and it is about time we stop ignoring it.

Where is our decency? Where is our morality? We have allowed this for years and years, thousands of people killed, hundreds of thousands of Iranians slaughtered, more being slaughtered today than before. American soldiers killed by the Quads Force. For how much longer are we going to allow this? A country and an ayatollah who dedicates himself to the destruction of one of our strongest allies, the state of Israel, who almost every week says destruction to the state of Israel.

I say destruction to the ayatollah.

Where are our principles? Where are our values? What happened to the America that supports democracy? What happened to the America that supports freedom? What happened to the America that intervenes when horrible killings are occurring, like in Syria, where 200,000 people are slaughtered and we draw red lines and like cowards step back.

That's not my America. That's not their America. That's not our fathers and grandfathers fought for when they fought for freedom in Europe twice, when they pursued the Cold War to liberate Eastern Europe from communism. It was an America you could count on. Having your country come here? There is an alternative. We have to make this agreement.

The time has come — indeed it is long past — for justice. I propose the convening of an international tribunal of respected scholars, former prosecutors and former judges to investigate and to report on the international crimes of these international criminals. Such a group could be chaired, for example, by the former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, (Louisa Campo), or it could be chaired by former Canadian Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler, or by the person we heard tonight, the former attorney general of England, Lord Goldsmith. There are so many people who can serve with distinction on such an international tribunal.

But they are exempt from justice because Iran is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Instead of being indicted for their massive crimes, they are being rewarded by the lifting of sanctions in exchange for hollow promises of postponement of their nuclear weapons ambitions.

The world must be made aware of the crimes of this regime and of the criminals who now run the wonderful country of Iran. Knowledge is power. Ignorance of evil is complicit in evil. The world must know as a prerequisite to the freedom of the people that you see up here. A concentration camp, a killing field and another broken promise to the way the Berlin Wall fell. He's going to fail the way the Soviet Union fell. It's going to happen like this. And then we will be able to go to Tehran and have a free and democratic Iran, and you will be able to pursue your dreams and the great legacy of your country.

Mr. Giuliani is a former mayor of New York City and a 2008 Republican candidate for president. The above are excerpts from the speech he gave in Paris on June 13 in which he summarized the sentiments of a bipartisan letter from Americans calling for regime change in Iran.

Mr. Dershowitz is one of America's premier criminal defense lawyers and a longtime scholar at Harvard University.

The Iranian regime's blatant record of war crimes

By Alan Dershowitz

As a professor of criminal law for a half a century, I can attest to you that the current leaders of Iran are the worst international war criminals of the 21st century. They and their surrogates have murdered. They have blood on their hands of thousands, hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children, from Iran to Iraq to Syria to Yemen to Lebanon to Argentina to Israel.

They are guilty of the war crime of inciting genocide. They have hanged gays, dissidents, Jews and Christians for who they are and what they believe. Any reasonable prosecutor with jurisdiction over their massive crimes and who acts on the principle of the worst first would immediately haul these leaders in front of an international court.

But they are exempt from justice because Iran is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Instead of being indicted for their massive crimes, they are being rewarded by the lifting of sanctions in exchange for hollow promises of postponement of their nuclear weapons ambitions.

The time has come — indeed it is long past — for justice. I propose the convening of an international tribunal of respected scholars, former prosecutors and former judges to investigate and to report on the international crimes of these international criminals. Such a group could be chaired, for example, by the former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, (Louisa Campo), or it could be chaired by former Canadian Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler, or by the person we heard tonight, the former attorney general of England, Lord Goldsmith. There are so many people who can serve with distinction on such an international tribunal.

The world must be made aware of the crimes of this regime and of the criminals who now run the wonderful country of Iran. Knowledge is power. Ignorance of evil is complicit in evil. The world must know as a prerequisite to ending the criminality which is the current Iranian leadership. We who know have a duty to teach. I will not stop teaching and speaking out against this injustice until the criminals who now run Iran are brought to justice.

Mr. Dershowitz is one of America's premier criminal defense lawyers and a longtime scholar at Harvard University.
A plan to liberate Iran

By Louis J. Freeh

Maryam Rajavi’s steadfast message, to political and religious leaders around the world over a period of many years, is a 10-point plan for the future of Iran that would resolve Iran’s most dangerous and destabilizing challenges. The plan would restore political legitimacy through universal suffrage, guarantee rights for all citizens and particularly women and minorities, end the cruel excesses of the judiciary and establish the rule of law, end the nightmare of fundamentalist Islamic dictatorship by once again separating church and state, protect property rights, promote equal opportunity and environmental protections and, last but certainly not least, it would seek a non-nuclear Iran, free of weapons of mass destruction.

The idea that Washington should continue in 2015 to disregard a worldwide group of Iranians promoting such a platform is indefensible. The United States should be maintaining a vibrant and constant dialogue with the National Council of Resistance of Iran. It is by now beyond dispute that the regime in Tehran is fomenting instability and conflict throughout the region, most notably in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq. Its campaign to undermine stability was launched because the regime sought to enhance its influence throughout the region and because it feared the emergence of more open political systems in nearby countries that could revive the democratic forces behind the Persian Spring of 2009.

Iran shares responsibility for the rise of ISIS. This phenomenon was cynically fostered by Syrian dictator Bashar Assad and then-Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq to divert the focus from their own divisive sectarian actions, supported by Iran, about which we have repeatedly warned in previous years.

Iran’s regime has sustained a leader against his own people and in defiance of a presidential “red line,” a U.N.-brokered transition process and the united stance of Arab League governments insisting on his departure. It has supplied military-grade weapons to Hezbollah, a Lebanese non-state actor with the blood of American diplomats and Marines on its hands. It has supported and led sectarian militias in Iraq assaulting Sunni villages and towns. It has provided long-range rockets to Hamas in Gaza to be aimed at population centers in Israel, destabilizing efforts at a negotiated two-state solution. And it has supplied arms, explosives and funds to an insurgent group in Yemen that has driven out foreign embassies, including our own, seized power and provoked our own national military conflict.

Mr. Freeh is former director of the FBI.

The above are comments he made June 13 at the event in Paris as he read excerpts from the New Policy Initiative.

America’s moral responsibility to those trapped at Camp Liberty

By Tom Ridge

With a very long history of serving the American people in the U.S. national interest, we stand together today to call for a new approach of our country’s policy toward Iran and Iranian opposition. The initiative we publicly announce today is an independent initiative motivated by our concerns for the U.S. national security as well as justice and opportunity for millions of Arab and Persian citizens whose futures are being shaped by current events and unending suffering of Iranian people who have been deprived of their fundamental rights for over 35 years under the tyrannical regime ruling Iran.

We are also deeply concerned about the safety and security of approximately 2,500 Iranian opposition members trapped, and I say trapped, in Camp Liberty in Iraq whom our government, through our military, pledged in writing to protect their safety while being sponsored for relocation by the U.N. They remain a moral obligation for the United States of America, arising not only from the written guarantee but also from invaluable intelligence, including critical information about Iran’s nuclear program, provided by the opposition members.

Our country’s failure to uphold its solemn promises to these defenseless men and women is inexcusable, and it is a byproduct of our government’s misreading of the Iranian regime’s intentions. We are united in our understanding of the true nature of the regime in Iran, a subject of which many of our colleagues in Washington seem uncertain.

While we share the goals of ending Iran’s nuclear weapons activities through diplomacy, if such an outcome can be negotiated, we believe it is a mistake for Iran’s actions in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere to be overlooked, minimized, excused or even welcomed.

We also believe it would better serve our country’s interest to pay closer attention to the human rights and aspirations of the Iranian people.

You know, in recent years all of us have come to know Mrs. Rajavi and the NCRI, and we know the resistance far better than many in Washington who believe the NCRI should be kept at arm’s length for one reason or another.

We call today as well for immediate pressure by our government on the government of Iraq — which, I might add, depends on the government of the United States military and financial aid — to end the systematic torment of the MEK members still in Iraq that has thus far resulted in 142 deaths. And let me just remind the world, over 100 of them were outright murdered, 15 died of rocket attacks and 26 died because they were simply denied treatment to health care.

We call on Iran to end the consistent denial of livable health, sanitary and nutrition conditions. The cessation of harassment should be followed immediately by their physical removal from Iraq to countries in which Iranian opposition members are already leading productive lives. And we say to the administration of the U.S., that includes the United States of America.

Mr. Ridge is a former secretary of the U.S. Homeland Security Department and a former governor and congressman from Pennsylvania. The above was adapted from remarks while reading from the New Policy Initiative, a plan endorsed by 38 former U.S. officials at the June 13 event in Paris.
More American support for regime change and the Iranian opposition

Joseph Lieberman, former U.S. senator and 2000 Democratic nominee for vice president:

“Let me go back to Thomas Paine, the great American patriot at the time of the American Revolution. A small band of Americans going up against the mighty British Empire — who would have thought that they could succeed? And Thomas Paine said to his fellow American patriots: We have it within our hands, within our capacity, to change the world to begin the world again. And, in fact, they did. I have the same feeling about the resistance to the regime in Iran. You have been an extraordinary leader, Mrs. Rajavi. You have tremendous support from people inside Iran and outside. And hopefully you will have increasing support from the governments in the world, including the United States, because you are in every sense our friends, our partners for freedom and peace.”

Former House Speaker

Newt Gingrich:

“I’ve found every time I’ve been able to come to Paris, to listen to the strong reports of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, to see what people around the world are doing to get to a free and peaceful Iran. I am impressed and motivated. This dictatorship in the end will not stand. The people of Iran will not allow it to stand. You are on the winning side of history. You will form the free democratic, safe government of the future.”

Former U.S. Labor Secretary

Elaine Chao:

“The aspirations of Iranian women and girls who have borne the brunt of the current regime’s most repressive policies must be heard. You know, in the last 50 years women from civilized nations around the world have experienced a revolution in educational and economic opportunity. More women than ever before have obtained an education, enter the workforce, making significant contributions to their family and also of them, should cooperate with PMOI and NCRI and eventually bring about regime change. That is the only way that Iran’s neighbors — Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza — can live in peace, and the only way that the rest of the world can live in peace is if you rather than they are in control.

Excerpt of a New Policy Initiative read by former U.S. homeland security adviser Frances Townsend:

“Ultimately, the core of our approach is to side with the 80 million Iranian people and their desire, along with people everywhere, for freedom and popular sovereignty based on democratic principles. Engaging with Iran today. They know what they lack a real choice. They know what they want a real choice. We know what the people of Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, it’s hard to be optimistic. It’s hard to see hope. Much of this is the work of Iran. But then we come to this building, to this gathering, to this debate, to this image and there is reason to hope. This is why change in the Middle East is inevitable. Intimidation can defer for a time, but power without the consent of the people is simply not sustainable. The people of Iran will hear the message that we are providing today. They know what they lack a real choice. We know what the people of Iran deserve a real choice. … Change is coming to the Middle East. Change will come to Iran.”

Ret. Army Col. Wes Martin, a former senior anti-terrorism/force protection officer in Iraq:

“I thank you for allowing me to be here today. I especially thank the residents of Camp Liberty for allowing me to serve at their side at Camp Ashraf. We’re in the fight together, we’re in the fight together on the deserts of Diyala Province, we’re in the fight together today. We’re going to say in this fight.”
By John Bolton

This year, much of Europe — although not France — will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. This decisive moment in history ended the Napoleonic era and effectively ended centuries of French domination of Western European politics.

It is possible to have a diplomatic Waterloo. It is possible for a great power to make political mistakes that have consequences over time as deadly as a defeat in battle. And that is what the United States of America is on the verge of doing.

The ayatollahs have never been closer to their 30-year-plus objective of getting deliverable nuclear weapons. They are clearly intent on getting an agreement with the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany that will lock in that achievement. This is despite the fact there’s simply no evidence that the people of Iran want the ayatollahs to have nuclear weapons.

The idea that this is a matter of pride for the Iranian citizens is propaganda from the regime. The NCRI platform has long made it clear that in democratic Iran there would be no nuclear weapons, no weapons of mass destruction. The MEK over time has done more to make the world aware of the clandestine nuclear weapons program of the ayatollahs than anyone else.

There’s simply no evidence that the mullahs have made a strategic decision to give up nuclear weapons. Indeed, all of the evidence is to the contrary. The fact is that negotiations and sanctions have not slowed down the nuclear weapons program at all. Nor have they slowed down Iran’s offensive behavior, its aid to the Taliban, its aid to Hamas, its aid to Hezbollah, its aid to the Assad regime, its aid to the Huti in Yemen, its aid to the Baghdad government. All of this is evidence of a belligerent aggressive attitude on the part of the ayatollahs even before they get nuclear weapons.

It is critical that the world understands the consequences of what happens if on June 30 or thereafter, just days after that Waterloo anniversary, the United States and others sign an agreement with Iran. This agreement is fundamentally flawed. There’s no baseline declaration of Iran’s nuclear capability, there’s no inspection of the baseline that doesn’t exist. The agreement doesn’t cover the ayatollahs’ ballistic missile program. It doesn’t deal with their weaponization efforts. It doesn’t provide for adequate inspections after the agreement is signed, any time, any place, at all suspect sites.

This regime has been lying for 35 years. Who in his right mind thinks they’re going to change their behavior now over such a critical priority? The fact is, this deal will legitimize the mullahs’ enrichment program. It will give them a “peaceful program” that will easily be converted into weapons.

And, I fear, it has already launched a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that ensures Saudi Arabia and Egypt and Turkey will also get nuclear weapons. The people of Iran fundamentally understand that nuclear weapons in the hands of the ayatollahs does not make them more secure, does not make the region or the world more secure. It makes it far more dangerous, especially for them, because of the onward proliferation consequences.

That’s why this diplomacy is leading to a political Waterloo. It won’t simply be an Iran with nuclear weapons. It will be three or four other countries in the region with nuclear weapons. It will mean the effective end of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It will tell everybody else in the world who aspires to nuclear weapons that with a little time and a little energy, you too can have nuclear weapons.

Now, there’s not much that we can do under present circumstances other than to urge everybody who can to sign on to the notion that the real solution to the ayatollahs’ nuclear weapons program is to get rid of the ayatollahs.

It is possible for a great power to make political mistakes that have consequences over time as deadly as a defeat in battle. And that is what the United States of America is on the verge of doing.

By James Woolsey

We do not have, in my judgment, a reasonable chance of persuading the ayatollahs to agree with us on any sensible approach toward nuclear weapons.

The agreement that is being negotiated is worse than worthless, and will only add to the impetus behind moving toward more and more nuclearization of the Middle East as well as the outside world. We need to stop that.

If we cannot bring about a change of regime through the brave operations of those in this room and their friends and allies in Iran and elsewhere, the only way to keep Iran and the mullahs themselves from having this kind of horrible power is war. I do not welcome it. I do not urge it. I do not wish it.

But some things are worse than war. And the control of the types of nuclear weapons and the program that the mullahs are engaged in, as far as I am concerned, are worse than war.

Mr. Bolton is a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The above was excerpted and adapted from remarks he gave June 13 at the event in Paris.

Mr. Woolsey is a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The above was excerpted and adapted from remarks he gave at the June 13 conference in Paris.
I see a day when Iran rejoins the nations of free people

By Rep. Dana Rohrabacher

Lovers of liberty, I salute you. I see a day coming when thugs riding motorcycles will not beat up peaceful people in the streets in order to silence them in Iran. I see a day when no longer will women asking for their rights be thrown into jail, beaten, raped and murdered in Iran. I see a day when elections will be held in Iran and the mullahs won’t be choosing the candidates. I see a day when Iran will rejoin the family of nations of free people. I see a day when the people of Camp Liberty will be welcomed home as heroes into a free Iran.

Lafayette and the French supporters who were given to us to help us during our revolution remind the American people that we owe a debt to others who helped us win our freedom. and fanatic belief in their own religion.

Today, it is my honor to join you in reminding the corrupt and brutal mullahs who control Iran today that their day is coming and it will come soon.

There are only two pictures on the wall on the floor of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress. One, of course, is of George Washington. The other painting is a very prominent painting on the floor of the House of Marquis de Lafayette. Both were essential to our founding, and over the years why has Congress honored Lafayette?

Because Lafayette came at a time when we were struggling for our liberty and our independence, and he joined with the people of the United States and helped us cast off the tyranny of the British monarchy. And today I say, Lafayette, I am here to join in that battle with these brave people who struggle for liberty.

Lafayette and the French supporters who were given to us to help us during our revolution remind the American people that we owe a debt to others who helped us win our freedom. It is our obligation to work with you who struggle to promote freedom in your country, and I make that pledge to you today that we in the United States Congress will not be satisfied with negotiations that leave brutal, corrupt tyrants in power because of their aggressive and fanatic belief in their own religion. We will not back away from your cause to join us as free democratic people who have a right to express themselves and live in liberty and justice.

When that day comes you can be satisfied, like the Founding Fathers of the United States were, that you have done your part. I am proud to stand with you today.

Rohrabacher is a senior Republican House member representing California and chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and emerging threats. The above is excerpted and adapted from remarks he delivered to the June 13 event in Paris.

Standing against the Ayatollah, extremists and tyranny

By Rep. Robert Pittenger

I bring you greetings from the American people from the United States Congress. We stand with you in solidarity against three decades of tyranny, against the ayatollah, against Islamic extremists, against the harsh rule of tyranny, against stifling the freedom of the speech, against the harassment and the persecution, the political decadence, against journalists, against women, against minorities of all kinds. We stand against this, and we stand for you. We stand for those who are imprisoned today because they stand for truth.

We, the American people, the American Congress, will make sure that we have the final word on any agreement concerning a nuclear agreement with Iran. We stand against terrorism, we stand against the role that Iran is playing to spread terrorism throughout the world. We are your partner. We will be here for victory. We will be here to make sure that the Iranian people live in democracy. So today let us join together in full commitment, in full spirit, that truth will prevail.

The Iranian people will see freedom. They will see liberty. They will see democracy, and I congratulate you. I congratulate Madam Rajavi in her leadership. Let us go forth looking to Him, who has given us all life and breath and liberty.

Pittenger is a Republican House member representing North Carolina and a member of the Committee on Financial Services. The above was adapted and excerpted from remarks he gave at the June 13 event in Paris.
The Iranian regime remains a threat to liberty

By Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

The Iranian regime remains a threat to liberty, a threat to peace and a threat to stability in the region. Iran continues to support terrorism, to suppress all forms of free expression, violates human rights and seeks to build nuclear weapons that undermine the security of the United States and our allies in the region.

Iran’s supposed moderate leader, Hassan Rouhani, has presided over a repressive regime that has executed over 1,500 Iranians, frequently without affording them any due process of law. Iran also continues to use its murderous proxies in Iraq to attack Camp Liberty residents. I remain concerned that the government of Iraq and the U.N. made promises to Camp Liberty residents, but these promises have not been fulfilled. Hundreds of protective walls have not been installed, and many individuals at Camp Liberty lack the necessary medical attention they desperately need.

In Washington, I will continue to urge and pressure the State Department and the administration to push the Iraqi government and the U.N. to take immediate steps to protect these residents from future attacks and to safely relocate residents of Camp Liberty.

Mrs. Ros-Lehtinen is a Republican House member from Florida and chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa. The above is adapted and excerpted from videotaped remarks she delivered at the June 13 rally in Paris.

Time to free MEK members from their Iraqi prison camp

By Ed Rendell

I know many of you are frustrated that 2,500 of your comrades are still in prison at Camp Liberty. We have been here many times and talked about getting them out to safety, and nothing seems to change. But I want you to know that we are frustrated too. Myself and many people behind me, many of my colleagues, were part of persuading the people of Ashraf to go to Liberty because we were told by the U.N. and U.S. that it would be a temporary transit camp and everyone would be immigrated as fast and humanely as possible. That was over two years ago, and only 200 people have been moved out of the camp.

As I was coming on a plane last night, I saw a news program which reminded me that 125,000 Vietnamese were taken out of Vietnam by American troops and sent to Guam, where their personal safety was assured, while they were going through the immigration process. It took four months to get 125,000 people out of Vietnam to safety in Guam. It should take four weeks to get 2,500 members of MEK out of Iraq to personal safety.

The U.S. promised each one of those citizens that we would protect them, and it is clear we cannot protect them in Iraq, so we need to get them out. We have a moral and legal obligation to get them out to Guam, or the great country of Albania, which has opened its arms to the first 200. We’ve got to get them out of Iraq quickly.

Mr. Rendell is a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and former governor of Pennsylvania. The above was adapted and excerpted from remarks he delivered at the June 13 rally in Paris.

Iran is a ticking time bomb that must be disassembled by regime change

By Rep. Ted Poe

Your organization (the National Council for the Resistance of Iran) is a pillar for democratic change in a time of turmoil.

Human rights are nonexistent in Iran, and there is no such thing as freedom of the press, freedom of speech or freedom of religion. Iran is not a land of freedom; it’s a land of oppression. Groups like the MEK that have risen up in opposition have seen this firsthand. You have been jailed, exiled, and some members have been executed for protesting the dictatorship.

The United States is holding nuclear weapons talks trying to make a deal with Iran. A nuclear Iran is not only a threat to the Middle East but to America as well. In my opinion, any deal with Iran is going to be a bad deal. On all fronts, Iran is a ticking time bomb that must be disassembled.

Recently, my subcommittee held a hearing on ISIS and its radical Islamic belief. Madame Rajavi testified and told the world how ISIS and Iran have a lot in common, and I want to thank her for outlining to the world the threat of ISIS. She is a true inspiration for all who believe in freedom, and her leadership makes the tyrants in Iran tremble at night. In combating Iran’s Islamic extremism, she said that the ultimate solution is regime change, and I agree. Change must happen by the Iranian people and the resistance.

Mr. Poe is a Republican House member representing Texas and chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on terrorism and nonproliferation. The above are adapted and excerpted from videotaped remarks he gave at the June 13 rally in Paris.
Retired Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, ex-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reading excerpts of the New Policy Initiative:

We recommend the following ... initiatives to our government and to presidential candidates and prospective candidates in both parties, aimed at de-escalating conflict throughout the Middle East, in part by recognizing these realities, standing for American principles and basic international norms, and opposing the destructive role of Iran in the region.

First, on the nuclear issue, we support a peaceful solution if it can be achieved through diplomacy. However, we strongly believe that such a solution cannot be achieved by making concessions to Iran, but rather by making clear that Iran will be denied any potential opportunity to obtain a nuclear bomb.

Second, Iran's destructive role throughout the region must be curbed and deterred. Far from being part of the solution, Iran is a major part of the problem. There should be no direct or indirect cooperation with Iran under the pretext of fighting ISIS.

Third, we should be more vigilant and vocal about the serious human rights abuses by the regime that continue inside Iran. Our policy on Iran's internal and external transgressions against universal international norms can no longer be held hostage to the nuclear issue.

Retired Gen. James Conway, former commandant of the Marine Corps:

We could return to the sanctions. We could exercise a policy of containment. We could execute military strikes. There is a fourth option. And that comes from the wellspring of hope that we have in this room tonight. That option is change from within. My observation is that you have the leadership, you have the resources, you have the determination for regime change. You can and must make that happen.

Retired Gen. George Casey, former chief of staff of the Army:

For me, by the middle of 2006, it was clear that the Iranian regime was providing military training and lethal equipment to the Shia militias. This was the major factor in inflaming and sustaining the sectarian violence that wrecked Iraq in 2006 and 2007 and continues to this day. This support was provided by the Quds Force, the regime's destabilizing arm, and it is directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of coalition forces and thousands of Iraqis. I know the Quds Force was involved because we caught them red-handed. We captured six of them in a safe house in Baghdad with maps showing sectarian population movements and records of weapons shipments in and out of Iraq. There can be no doubt that the Quds Force is doing the same type of thing across the region today.

Retired Air Force Gen. Chuck Wald, former deputy commander of the U.S. European Command:

I have two things I want to say, and then three simple messages. Number one, I want to commend Madame Rajavi for her leadership. She is demonstrating what I consider some of the top leadership in the world, which we're very void of, and you have a great leader. Number two, I commend all of you for your courage to stand up for freedom in your country.

My three points tonight that I will give to our government and continue to talk about for the next year or so is number one, we need to continue to protect, we need to start protecting, our friends in Camp Liberty and live up to our promises as a nation. It's embarrassing we're not doing that. Number two, we need to tell Iran you will not have a nuclear weapon, period. There isn't any alternative, there isn't any option, you're not going to have a nuclear weapon. I'm afraid they will, but if we don't have that message, they're going to have a nuclear weapon and the mullahs are going to be very, very emboldened. Lastly, we need to get our friends and families and colleagues out of Camp Liberty and get them in a free place.
WE ARE THE FUTURE OF IRAN.
WE NEED REGIME CHANGE NOW.