

ONWARDS TO FREEDOM IN IRAN

BIPARTISAN VOICES CALL FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE



A Special Report Prepared by The Washington Times Advocacy Department and the Organization of Iranian American Communities – U.S.

Iranian dissidents call for regime change

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

LE BOURGET, FRANCE | Tens of thousands of supporters of a dissident Iranian opposition group filled a vast convention hall here over the weekend to call for the downfall of Iran's theocratic government.

The massive and boisterous event, which occurs annually in this town just north of Paris, was led by the controversial National Council of Resistance of Iran, a

whom also voiced support for the plight of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

Yet the most vitriolic remarks at the rally, which occurred Saturday, came from the American delegation, which included former governors Bill Richardson and Tom Ridge, former George W. Bush administration U.N. Ambassador John R. Bolton — and included a presentation of video statements from several current members of Congress.

Mr. Gingrich stoked the crowd by la-

Saturday's rally was a marathon that included more than nine hours of speeches and musical performances. The National Council of Resistance of Iran has come to be known during more recent years as perhaps the only dissent group on the planet with enough money and political juice to rally tens of thousands of supporters in the heart of Europe each June behind a collective call for the overthrow of Iran's Shiite Islamist government.

No one disputes that the National Coun-

She also referred broadly to a "resistance" movement that she claimed has grown inside Iran during recent years even as the government has cracked down on opposition.

"Despite the intensification of the suppression over the past couple of years, we have witnessed a growing interest among the Iranian people, especially women and youth, toward the Iranian Resistance," Mrs. Rajavi said. "The opposition to the regime is expanding. The Resistance's network inside Iran is much more active in terms of organizing strikes, protests, sit-ins and other protest acts inside the country and even inside prisons. The Resistance has had numerous achievements in this regard."

She also pushed back against characterizations of the National Council and its various affiliate organizations as acting like a cult.

"The source of these allegations is the Iranian regime's intelligence ministry," she said. "The regime's lobbies in the West paint the Iranian opposition as a 'cult' or 'terrorist group' lacking popular support. By doing so, they want to perpetuate the notion that there is no other alternative for Iran except dealing with the ruling religious dictatorship."

"I have said repeatedly that we are not fighting to obtain power in Iran," Mrs. Rajavi said. "We are not even fighting for a share of power. We are fighting to create a situation where the people of Iran are able to freely elect the people they choose. I and our movement will certainly support anyone who is elected through the ballot box in the course of free and fair elections monitored internationally."

On a separate front, the National Council leader said that state political freedom and human rights have only worsened in Iran since the inking of last year's nuclear deal.

"The pace of executions has intensified," she said.

While the Obama administration lifted many economic sanctions on Iran under last year's nuclear accord, the State Department has continued to list the nation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and international sanctions remain on the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

But Mrs. Rajavi suggested the remaining sanctions were irrelevant.

She criticized, for instance, the prospective agreement that has made headlines recently between Boeing and the government in Tehran, asserting that if the deal goes through, planes made by the American aerospace giant "will directly or indirectly be used by the IRGC" and "will facilitate the regime's activities for sending forces and arms to Syria and other countries in the region."

This article is excerpted from a staff report that appeared in The Washington Times on July 11, 2016.



PHOTO: TME

France-based umbrella group for Iranian exiles that brought dozens of former U.S., European and Middle Eastern officials together to speak out on its behalf.

A bipartisan clutch of Americans, including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, former FBI Director Louis Freeh and a host of others was on hand.

But perhaps the most eye-opening speech came from a key figure of the Saudi royal family, whose posture toward Iran's leadership has grown increasingly tense during the year since world powers put in place a major nuclear accord with the Islamic republic.

Prince Turki bin Faisal Al-Saud, the former longtime Saudi intelligence chief, drew loud cheers and applause from the Iranian dissident crowd when he exclaimed that he too wants the government in Tehran to be overthrown and that their "fight against the regime will reach its goal sooner or later."

In a sign that Arab frustration toward Tehran reaches far beyond Saudi Arabia, Prince Turki was preceded on stage by a delegation of several other former and current officials from 12 Arab nations — all of

menting the Obama administration-backed nuclear deal. The accord went into effect a year ago this week and saw many economic sanctions on Iran lifted in exchange for an agreement by Tehran to curtail its long-disputed nuclear program.

The "dictatorship" in Iran "cannot be trusted," Mr. Gingrich said, adding that "the agreement made with it is insane."

Mr. Bolton went even further. "There is only one answer here: to support legitimate opposition groups that favor overthrowing the military theocratic dictatorship in Tehran," he said. "Let me be very clear: It should be the declared policy of the United States of America and all its friends to do just that at the earliest opportunity."

Both men appeared on stage with Mr. Richardson, a Democrat, who said he was "proud to be here with Speaker Gingrich and Ambassador Bolton," and told the crowd that American "Democrats and Republicans are together here fighting with you."

All three were flanked by multiple movie screen-size displays carrying the slogan: "Free Iran. Our Pledge: Regime Change."

cil has influence — some even describe it as the largest Iranian dissident group in the world. But the organization's persistence and tactics have given it a double-edged reputation even among some of Iran's Western critics.

National Council leader Maryam Rajavi headlined Saturday's rally with a demand that Washington abandon the Iranian nuclear accord and take a far more aggressive posture toward Tehran.

Mrs. Rajavi has led the movement since its founder — her husband, Massoud Rajavi — went into hiding in 2003. In an email interview ahead of the rally, she said participants "represent the voice of millions of Iranians who are being oppressed in their country and who seek regime change and the establishment of a democratic, pluralist and non-nuclear government based on the separation of religion and state."

"Their expectation of the next U.S. president, as with other Western leaders, is to abandon the policy of appeasement, which emboldens the Tehran regime to intensify the suppression of the Iranian people while continuing the policy of exporting terrorism to the region," she said.

The Iranian people will eliminate the dictatorship

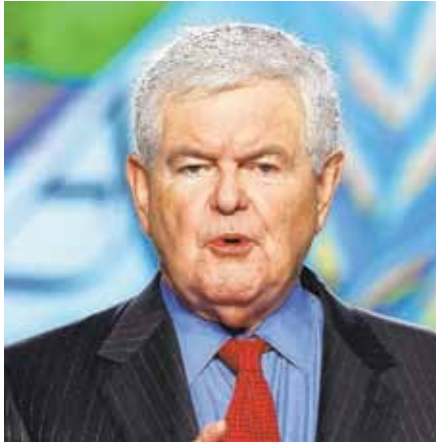


PHOTO: TME

Newt Gingrich

Let me say for the years we've been together, the times we have met both here and in America, it is a particularly great honor to have the opportunity to follow Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud, who being here sends such a powerful signal that everyone who is opposed to

the dictatorship is coming together to end the regime and bring freedom back to Iran.

We are in the middle of an election campaign in America, and the nature of the Iranian dictatorship is a big key issue in that election. There are no moderates in the dictatorship. The dictatorship cannot be trusted. The agreement made with it is insane. Giving money to the leading state sponsor of terrorism makes no sense, and every single day, when they rejected the U.N., the dictatorship has said to the West, "We'll sign anything you want. It just has no meaning. Give us the money." They have methodically outmaneuvered the diplomats of the United States and European countries.

We have an obligation with your help to communicate one key fact — with support, with encouragement, with a systematic effort: The people of Iran will rise against the dictatorship, and we will eliminate the dictatorship

as a threat to civilization.

What you are doing by being here — by bringing all of these delegations who

We are in the middle of an election campaign in America, and the nature of the Iranian dictatorship is a big key issue in that election. There are no moderates in the dictatorship. The dictatorship cannot be trusted. The agreement made with it is insane.

come from all around the world, by getting the news media to pay attention to the importance of your cause — I want each of you to know that being here is an

important act of citizenship... that you are making a difference, that you are part of history, and that with your continued commitment you are winning the argument.

And that's part of what having Prince Turki Al Faisal meant. The fact that he would come here is a tribute to your commitment, it's a tribute to your involvement. And so I want you to know that the message I will take home to America is that there are thousands and thousands of Iranians who are prepared, who are ready, who are committed and who believe that we can truly bring democracy to Iran.

.....
Mr. Gingrich, a Republican, is former speaker of the House of Representatives and former U.S. representative of Georgia's 6th Congressional District. These excerpts are from remarks he gave at the July 9 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME

Howard Dean

We appreciate Madame Rajavi and all of you for the opportunity to find common ground. And I hope we can do that more after this coming election.

War criminals 'should be treated' as such

I also want to congratulate the resistance on the size of this crowd. I do want to thank the State Department. I've had a lot of harsh words for the State Department over the years on the issue of keeping their word to the people now at Liberty and before at Ashraf. And the State Department still has a long way to go. We still have about a little over a thousand people who are political prisoners held in Iraq — supposedly our ally whom we're giving billions of dollars to every year — and for some reason we can't seem to get these folks out in a timely way. But at least we have made progress since the last time we were here. And I very much hope that we are here

next year, and next year will be the last year we're here, because the year after next year we're going to be having this convention in Tehran.

We've heard a lot about it, and I'm not going to go through all the statistics, but not only have they murdered 2,500 of their own people in the last three years under the supposed moderate Rouhani, but they have helped murder 250,000 Syrian civilians by supporting the Butcher of Damascus, Bashar al-Assad.

And let me remind my Americans at home that this is not just a matter of something that is going on in Iraq or Iran.... Rafsanjani and Khamenei were in the room when the decision was

made by the Iranian intelligence community to blow up the Jewish center in Buenos Aires in Argentina. These people are war criminals and they should be treated as war criminals.

We want somebody who just happens to be here, with a 10-point plan in Iran, to support people of all religions. We want in Iran what you are asking for, which is a secular government that respects Christians, as well as Muslims as well as Zoroastrians, as well as Jews.

.....
Mr. Dean is a medical doctor, former governor of Vermont and former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. These excerpts are from remarks he delivered at the July 9 rally in Paris.

Iranian freedom has worldwide support



PHOTO: TME

Bill Richardson

Was that a great speech by President-elect Rajavi? [applause with YES] Was that a huge accomplishment, a huge message, by having a member of the Saudi royal family here? [applause]

In America, Democrats and Republicans are fighting each other in the election. But today, Democrats and Republicans are here with you. And you have so much support from around the world, from parliamentarians, from leaders from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the United

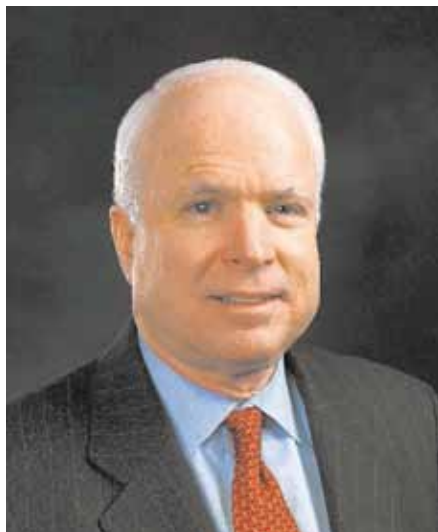
States — they're all here. The movement grows; you've grown enormously.

Can there be change in Iran, and can you be the agents of change? [applause with YES] Can the mullahs be the agents of change? [No!] You know, they continue their support of terrorism, they continue the executions and human rights violations, they continue to help Bashar Assad in Syria. There are no internal reforms in Iran. Will you be the democratic alternative in Iran that will bring human rights and freedom and democracy? [applause with YES]

The world must stand with the Iranian people and demand the end of the human rights violations and suppression in Iran. Iran should remove their forces from Syria. And we should stand behind the men and women at Camp Liberty. Free 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. These excerpts are from his remarks to the July 9 rally in Paris.

'It's time to say enough' to human rights abuses



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**Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY);
Chairman, Senate Democratic
Policy Committee:**

To all of those gathered in Paris today attending this conference calling for a free and democratic Iran, I express my solidarity with you... The Iranian culture is an amalgam of traditions with ancient and unique roots. So many people in that nation are hard-working, well-educated, and family-oriented people. But for too long, the Iranian regime has not reflected the qualities and desires of its people... If only the Iranian people could be set free from the awful regime they have, they would be a beacon of strength not only in the Middle East and Central Asia, but to the whole world.

**Sen. John McCain (R-AZ);
Chairman, Armed Services
Committee:**

As you boldly call for democracy and human rights in Iran, the American people stand with you in your fight against violence, oppression and terrorism in Iran. Your display of unity is an inspiration to our nation and its people, who like you, sacrifice blood and treasure in pursuit of freedom.

Unfortunately, the nuclear agreement has not tempered Iran's behavior nor has it improved human rights conditions in Iran. Instead, this dangerous agreement has empowered Iran to be more aggressive in its malign activities and hegemonic ambitions in the region, all while receiving tens of billions of dollars in sanctions relief... We must do more to counter the dangerous threat that Iran's actions pose. We must resolve to stop the spread of radical terrorism and we must stand united with our friends at this dangerous hour.



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**Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ);
Member Foreign Relations
Committee:**

We come together to demand that the people in Camp Liberty live in safety and security — no longer the targets of terrorist acts...



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I'm heartened that foreign governments, U.S. officials, UN representatives, and Iraqi leaders recognize the importance of the security of the people of Camp Liberty... But, clearly, the danger is real... We were reminded of it again in the attacks on Camp Liberty on July 4th...

I call on Iraqi officials to do everything in their power to prevent further attacks... and be part of a safe, secure, rapid resettlement process. Let's not forget the role the MEK leadership played in exposing the duplicity of the Tehran regime... and the important work you are doing to raise awareness of Iran's nuclear program...

I intend to introduce legislation that will hold the regime accountable for its blatant support of terrorism... We all know Iran's leadership deliberately arms and trains Iraqi Shia militias to destabilize Iraq; they're backing a dictator in Syria who drops barrel bombs on his own people; and they're backing a rebel movement in Yemen that refuses to consider any political process that could end the civil strife.

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

Let us hope and pray that, inshallah — God willing — the work we are doing will improve the safety and security of the MEK members at Camp Liberty. For that, we stand in solidarity today.

**Sen. John Boozman (R-AR);
Member Appropriations
Committee:**

As you know, I am an active member of the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus, which aims to shed light on the efforts of the Iranian people to bring change and democracy to their country. I am disturbed by the rising number of human rights violations in Iran and the fragile situation in Iraq, which endangers your loved ones at Camp Liberty.



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The U.S. remains committed to democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law, and supports the Iranian people in their calls for a democratic government that respects these rights and freedoms. I also remain committed to preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapons program. Yours is a noble cause and it is very important that we continue the

dialogue on this matter.

**Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC); Member
Armed Services Committee:**

I am deeply troubled by the escalation of human rights violations in Iran and the fragile situation in Iraq, which places your loved ones at Camp Liberty in grave danger. Fortunately, through strong bipartisan support in Congress, we are making some progress to ensure the safety and security of the brave men and women at Camp Liberty.



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Camp Liberty is not only a humanitarian issue, it is a symbol of hope and inspiration to young people in Iran. A spirit of defiance and resistance is alive and well at Camp Liberty, thanks to the brave men and women who live there, and it is especially important that this spirit continues to thrive. We must do everything we can to ensure that these brave people are safe and secure while they remain at Camp Liberty, and to hold the government of Iraq accountable for their actions.

Since the implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement in July of last year, Iran's military and intelligence operatives have stepped up their destabilizing activities across the Middle East, sowing sectarian tensions and increasing their influence in places like Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Bahrain. Clearly, this must stop, and this is exactly what your event is about. It is about enacting real and positive change and bringing democracy and freedom to the people of Iran.

Unite in support of a free, democratic Iran

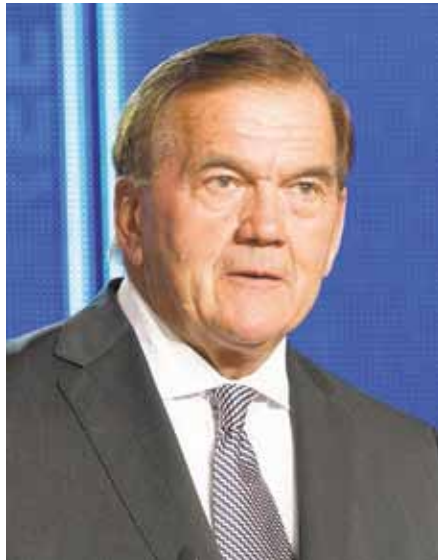


PHOTO: TME

Tom Ridge

In response to the Iranian regime's brutal crackdown on the 2009 public protest, your beloved Iranian poet and patriot, Simin Behbahani wrote the following: "Stop this extravagance. Stop the reckless throwing of my country to the wind. Stop the screaming, the bloodshed, the mayhem. Stop doing what makes God's creatures mourn in tears." [Amid] retaliation for her exercise of what she believed was her civil right and her civic duty to challenge authoritarian evil, she courageously observed the following: "You may wish to have me burned or decide to stone me, but in your hand, match or stone will lose the power to harm me."

The Ayatollah and his handpicked leaders have been throwing the great country of Iran to the wind since 1979. Now is the time — today, and at this place — for the world to recognize that since the behavior of the leaders

clear and specific platform to bring a democratic Iran to existence, and I'm proud to join you and Madame Rajavi in support of that goal.

This extraordinary organization, under the steady hand and inspiring

The NCRI has created the single most visible, most credible, and most effective democratic movement with a clear and specific platform to bring a democratic Iran to existence, and I'm proud to join you and Madame Rajavi in support of that goal.

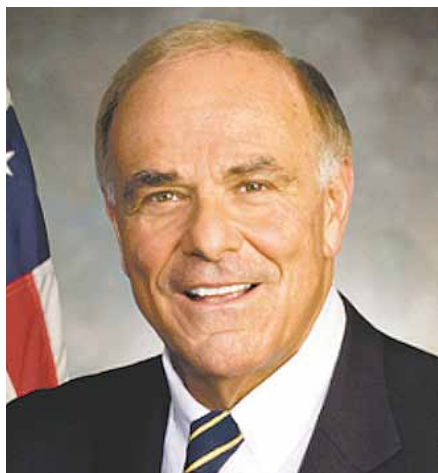
in Tehran won't change, it's time to change the leaders. Now is the time for free democratic societies to unite in support of a free Iran, a democratic Iran, a republic based on universal suffrage, the guarantee and protection of civil and human rights, the separation of church and state, the rule of law and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.

The NCRI has created the single most visible, most credible, and most effective democratic movement with a

leadership of Mrs. Rajavi, has resisted the regime's murderous efforts to silence, no yet exterminate, the opposition. And we all know that all of their tools of repression — stones or matches — have lost and will continue to lose the power to harm or quash this movement toward democracy.

.....
Mr. Ridge is a former secretary of the U.S. Homeland Security Department and former governor and member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

No question: You will see a free Iran



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Ed Rendell

I wanted to say how sorry I am that I could not be with you this year. But as some of you may know I am the chairman of the host committee for the Democratic National Convention here in Philadelphia, which is going to be held in a few days.

But I wanted to tell you that my commitment is as strong as it has ever been — in fact, even stronger. First, my commitment is to all of you to help you some day see a

free Iran. I believe that we'll achieve that one day; thanks to your commitment and the leadership of Maryam Rajavi. There's no question in my mind that we will live to see a free and prosperous Iran again. I also wanted to tell you that our commitment to the wonderful people in Camp Liberty is as strong as it has ever been.

The United States gave you a commitment, and I believe that we have a legal obligation as well as a moral obligation to protect the safety of the residents of Ashraf who are now in Liberty. We, the American friends of the MEK will keep the pressure on to make sure that we do it without any further bloodshed.

I want the residents of Liberty to know that what you did in Ashraf and what you're doing in Liberty, the way you've conducted yourselves and the way you've stayed in there under tremendous pressure has been a beacon for people all over the world. You've gained the admiration and respect of not only the people in America but throughout the world.

.....
Mr. Rendell is a former governor of Pennsylvania and former chairman of the Democratic National Committee.



PHOTO: TME

Former Rhode Island Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, a Democrat, and Linda Chavez, chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity and a Republican who served in the Reagan administration, both presented a bipartisan, 10-point statement at the Free Iran Rally held in Paris on July 9, 2016. More than 30 prominent Americans signed the statement, which calls for a closer, stronger relationship with the people who fighting for democratic change.

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‘We in the Muslim world stand with you, heart and soul’



PHOTO: TME

Remarks by High Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Faisal Al-Saud

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. There is a tradition that states that the Prophet Muhammad, (PBUH), once gestured towards his Persian companion Salman and said, “Even if faith were near the Pleiades, men from among the Persians would attain it.”

This tradition points to a few fundamental truths about Persian history and identity. In the pre-Islamic world, the Persian Sassanian Empire extended from Turkey and Egypt in the west to the Indian subcontinent in the east; it was a cultural and political force rivaling that of ancient China, India or Rome.

Eventually, the Persians embraced Islam; the Persian language adopted its own version of the Arabic script and borrowed heavily from Arabic vocabulary. The Persians of greater Khorasan, the name that the Arabs took to designate the geographic area that includes present-day Iran, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, were a key factor in the development of the politics of the Islamic Umma and became an important component in another Golden Age alongside the Arabs; one with far more geographic breadth and cultural diversity than before.

As Europe struggled in its Dark Ages, Khorasan produced some of the Islamic world’s most famous scientists, mathematicians, theologians and poets. Al-Ghazali, the theologian, scholar and mystic often referred to as one of the most important Muslims after the Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) companions, was from a city near Mashhad. The legendary polymath Avicenna (Ibn Sina), the greatest scientist and medical scholar of his age, the author of over 400 texts and a master of the Greco-Roman and Indian scholarly traditions, made time to compose poetry in his native Persian.

But even in the cosmopolitan Islamic Golden Age, alongside Arabs, Turks and others, Persian culture held some nostalgia for the purity and power of their own history. The poet Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*, or *Book of Kings*, an epic of Persian legends and history from the dawn of time

until Islam, was written around the year 1000 AD. As he wrote the *Shahnameh*, Ferdowsi was careful to avoid Arabic influence on his vocabulary — he wanted a Persian epic to be represented in undiluted Persian prose.

The Iranian Revolution of 1979, which installed the powerful yet polarizing Khomeini as Supreme Leader, was a new and vastly different articulation of Iranian identity.

Khomeini’s claim to rule was based on his interpretation of the concept of *vilayet-i faqih*, the “guardianship of the jurists,” a Shi’ite doctrine articulated in the late 19th century in face of a perceived increasing Europeanization of the Iranian imperial elites, which gave varying degrees of civil authority to religious

scholars trained in Shi’ite Islamic law as opposed to the westernized imperial administrators and imperial family.

Of course, despite this isolationist and interventionist foreign policy, the first and foremost victims of Khomeinism have been the Iranian people themselves — not only the political activists opposed to his all-encompassing, authoritarian and totalitarian ideology, but also to the ethnic and religious minorities of Kurds, Arabs, Azaris, Turkmans, Baloch, Sunnis, Ismailis, Bahais, Christians and Jews of Iran against the clerical Twelver religious-political elite of the Revolution.

Today, the lofty beauty of the Pleiades can seem very far indeed from the reality of daily life in Iran. The country is marked not by worldliness or even by religion but by isolation; in contrast to the travelling artists of the Sassanians and the multilingual scholars of the Islamic Golden Age, many famous and well-respected Iranian artists today

Alawites themselves, Iranian interference is increasingly despised for the ruin it perpetuates and requires to be useful for the regime in Tehran. Elsewhere, the regime has supported groups from Sudanese Islamists, to the Japanese Red Army, the sectarian armed militias of the Iraqi Dawah Party, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas in Palestine and Islamic Jihad in Israel, the global organization of Al-Qaida and the Hizballah in the Hijaz — all for the purpose of destabilizing Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, so as to assist sectarian and revolutionary militants in these countries to replace the existing governments with proxies and puppets of the Khomeinist regime.

Khomeini wore the black turban that signified his pride in his long and noble Arab lineage. Today Khamenei and even Nasrallah wear it also. But the Iranian leadership’s meddling in Arab countries is backfiring. The recent popular protests

in all Iraqi cities, from Basra, where the Shi’ah make up the majority, to Kirkuk, where they don’t, carried banners saying and they chanted: Iran, get out. Just this week, popular demonstrations in Abadan chanted, leave Syria.

In conclusion, the Islamic conversation is richer with the Iranian voice in it — likewise, the Muslim world too benefits from a strong, proud and influential Iranian presence; however, their approach must be one of mutual cooperation, exchange, and respect — as has proven necessary in all epochs of history with a strong Middle Eastern world.

The Khomeinist regime has brought only destruction, sectarianism, conflict and bloodshed — not only to their own people in Iran, but across the Middle

East. The people of Iran should no longer suffer this humiliation. Khamenei and Rouhani believe that if they fix their relationship with the big Satan, their problems will be solved. They should pay heed to fixing their relationship with the Iranian people.

And you, Ladies and Gentlemen, your legitimate struggle against the Khomeinist regime will achieve its goal, sooner rather than later. The uprisings in various parts of Iran have ignited, and we in the Muslim world stand with you, heart and soul. We support you, and we pray to God that He guide your steps so that all components of the people of Iran get their rights.

And you, Maryam Rajavi, your endeavor to rid your people of the Khomeinist cancer is an historic epic that, like the *Shahnameh*, will remain inscribed in the annals of History.

The above are excerpts from Asharq al-Awsat, July 9, 2016.



PHOTO: TME

Camp Liberty: Symbol of 'hope and inspiration' to youth in Iran



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat:

Greetings to the friends, supporters and advocates gathered for the 2016 Paris Rally for Democracy and Freedom in Iran. Freedom-loving people everywhere have a moral obligation to protect human rights. This international gathering honors that responsibility.

We must champion the building blocks of peace and prosperity and freedom of speech, religion and the press in Iran and around the world. I'm proud to say that my state of California is home to more than a half of all Iranian-Americans. Their energetic contributions make America more American.

Women, students and minorities all have a valuable role to play in moving Iran forward. Their persecution must end. This gathering is important to advancing the cause of human rights and freedom. The United States is committed to achieving progress in the international community in this respect, and the Iran Nuclear Agreement signals a new era of security and stability in the region and around the world.

Until the contributions of all Iranians are valued in Iran, we still have work to do. Thank you for your work and leadership, thank you for your service, and thank you for your commitment to democracy.

Rep. Edward R. Royce, California Republican and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee:

Our committee remains focused on the threat posed by the radical regime in Tehran. This is a threat you know all too well — stripping the rights of the Iranian people has been a consistent policy of this brutal regime since it seized power.

Over the past three and a half decades, thousands of Iranians have been taken from family and friends and convicted of vague charges without due process, often in closed trials. As we know, tens of

thousands have been killed [and] thousands have been tortured in Evin prison. It doesn't have to be this way.

Recent reports found that, under President Rouhani, the government of Iran has incarcerated hundreds of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience while executing nearly 1,000 people last year. That's why my colleagues and I in Congress continue to press for sanctions on senior Iranian officials involved in these human rights abuses. Some of you also have family and friends who have been murdered or maimed by Iranian government proxies in Iraq for too long.



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It is time to say enough, and that's why the Foreign Affairs Committee passed House Resolution 650. This critical resolution publicly pushes back against the Iraqi government's failure to effectively protect the residents of Camp Liberty and calls for their immediate resettlement. We must continue to push back against the Iranian government abuse of human rights at home and abroad, and I thank you.

Rep. Eliot L. Engel, New York Democrat:

I admire everyone at this gathering because you are fighting for freedom in Iran. So I want everyone to know that I believe that the United States and a free Iran could be, and should be, natural allies; the quarrel is not with the people



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

of Iran but with the oppressive regime.

We're all going to keep fighting until we have freedom and independence for the people of Iran. Just recently, the people at Camp Liberty were harassed and attacked. We need to put a stop to that. That must end as well.

So let me conclude by saying, I wish you all again a very, very good conference. My heart is with you, and we will keep fighting for a free and democratic Iran.

Rep. John Lewis, Georgia Democrat:

I grew up in rural Alabama, but in 1955, only 15 years old, I heard of Martin Luther King Jr., heard of Rosa Parks. And in 1957 at the age of 17, I met Rosa Parks, and next year I met Martin Luther King Jr., and I got involved in the American civil rights movement, and I have not looked back since.



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I want to just salute each and every one of you for standing up, for speaking up, for finding a way to get in the way. And I want more than ever for each and every one of us to look deep within and recommit ourselves to peace, to nonviolence, to patience, and the way of love — and be hopeful, be optimistic and never, ever give up. And never, ever give in. You must keep the faith and keep your eyes on the prize.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida Republican:

I wanted to say a special note of greeting to all of you who are at the 2016 Paris rally for freedom and democracy in Iran. I stand in solidarity with you, and we call attention to horrible human rights abuses occurring in Iran each and every day.

I want you to know when I went with Speaker [John] Boehner to the region last year, I raised the problem of Camp Liberty and the egregious human rights violations against those residents with every public official with whom I met.

That is why I am so proud to pass



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

and support the resolution of Foreign Affairs Committee, House Resolution 650, supporting the residents of Camp Liberty, and calling for more international help, to make sure their human rights are respected.

Rep. Brad Sherman, California Democrat:

I want to commend the MEK for the critical role it played in exposing the Iranian regime's nuclear weapons program. Following the attack on Camp Liberty last year, my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs committee and I passed a resolution about demanding the safety of the MEK residents of Camp Liberty.

We did this to make it clear to the government of Iraq how serious this issue is and its need to fulfill its obligations under international law. The current Iranian regime is not only an existential threat to the U.S. allies in the Middle East and the peace of the world, but is also a defiant proliferator of terrorism and extremism...



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

I remain committed to ensuring that Iran does not get nuclear weapons. That's why I broke with my own political party and opposed the recent Iran nuclear deal. I am sure that the Iranian regime will cheat on that deal and we will then move forward with new sanctions which will force a new policy and hopefully a new regime in Tehran.

FREE IRAN
PARIS 2016



IRAN LIBRE
PARIS 2016



PHOTO: TME

Mrs. Rajavi with delegations from Albania, Algeria, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Turkmenistan.

**Excerpts of remarks by
Maryam Rajavi
President-elect of the National
Council of Resistance of Iran**

I cannot find any words capable of describing the trust you are bestowing on me other than to say that I am humbled and that your outpouring of emotion is a reminder of the great responsibility that you have put on my shoulders.

Every single day and night, my mind is preoccupied with the hope and anticipation that I will one day be able to fulfill this responsibility, a responsibility that I have to you, the Iranian people, to history and to God Almighty.

I have come to convey the words of those who have not been heard, those who are the decisive force in Iran; the words of those who have been oppressed, but whose resolve will change the face of Iran. In this endeavor, I rely on your determination and conviction and I want you to know that I rely on and need each and every one of you.

One year has passed since the signing of the nuclear agreement between world powers and the velayat-e faqih regime (absolute clerical rule) in Iran.

The events of the past year can be summed up by the following: Ali Khamenei's faction failed to find a way out of the crisis engulfing the entire regime. The faction led by (former regime president) Hashemi Rafsanjani and Hassan Rouhani, who viewed this agreement as a ladder on which to climb, fell headfirst instead.

Western governments and corporations that were dreaming of seeing a golden city in Iran instead found

Iranian people reject the turban, whether it is white or black

Religious tyranny must be toppled

In the year since the nuclear accord, many of the sanctions were lifted and oil exports increased. But the generated revenues were poured into the inferno of the Syrian war. Dozens of political and business delegations visited Tehran, where they found a bankrupt, unstable and totally corrupt system.

themselves among the wreckage created by the velayat-e faqih system.

Indeed, both factions failed in subduing a profoundly discontented society. In 2011, near the end of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's tenure, Khamenei realized that his regime was in peril. To save it, in his own words, he turned to the United States through "a reputable regional intermediary" and expressed readiness to abandon the nuclear program.

In September 2013, as the news of the nuclear talks was being made public, Khamenei ordered the massacre of Camp Ashraf residents, engaged in back-channel deals and resorted to slaughter to save Bashar al-Assad in

Syria... He ultimately retreated or in the very least temporarily abandoned the nuclear weapons program. But the crisis engulfing the regime could not be contained. To the contrary, it was exacerbated, pushing the regime deeper into the quagmire of the Syrian war.

Simultaneously, the Rafsanjani-Rouhani faction sought to portray itself as the savior of the regime through the slogan of moderation. They assumed that after the nuclear deal all doors would instantly be opened for the regime, enabling them to find a way to contain the protest movement inside the country.

In the year since the nuclear accord, many of the sanctions were lifted and oil exports increased. But the generated

revenues were poured into the inferno of the Syrian war. Dozens of political and business delegations visited Tehran, where they found a bankrupt, unstable and totally corrupt system.

The country's economy was supposed to be fixed. But instead it plunged into recession more than ever before. The banking system is in ruins and factories closed down like autumn leaves.

The regime wanted to improve its relations with the rest of the world, but instead expanded its intervention in neighboring countries. As a result, at least six regional and neighboring governments severed their relations with the regime. In the end, they staged a sham election and resorted to massive propaganda about the victory of illusory moderates. But the result was the continuation of the Supreme Leader's domination over both Assemblies, which Khamenei engineered and to which Rafsanjani consented. Indeed, this is the reality of masquerades about moderation and reform in Iran.

Today, Iranian workers say that Rouhani's administration has imposed the most repressive policies against workers. Artists and musicians say that the scale of restrictions and pressures in the three years of Rouhani has been unprecedented since the revolution.

Our Kurdish, Arab and Baluchi compatriots, as well as the followers of other religions — especially our Sunni sisters and brothers — say that they have been subjected to repression and discrimination as never before... The number of executions each year is two to three times the figure during Rouhani's predecessor.

» see **RAJAVI** | C9

RAJAVI

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In other words, neither the deception about moderation nor the hoopla about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has succeeded in opening doors for the regime. Even if the international community had provided the regime with the greatest opportunities, Tehran would still remain feeble and incapable of resolving the crises engulfing it.

Owing to explosive public discontent, the regime is constantly gripped by fundamental instability. Additionally, it has come face-to-face with a capable and vigilant alternative force. It is aware that this very alternative has the ability to steer crises in the direction of overthrowing the entire regime.

Looking at what transpired in the past year, we can ascertain three fundamental realities:

First, both factions failed to find a way to preserve the regime. What is more, why should the Iranian people jump from the frying pan into the fire? The Iranian people reject the turban, whether it is white or black. The velayat-e faqih regime must be overthrown in its entirety.

The second reality is that because of the Iranian people's simmering desire for freedom and their readiness to fight on, the overthrow of the religious dictatorship is possible and within reach.

The third reality is that a real solution stands out, which entails that no other solution exists within the ruling religious dictatorship itself. As a result, the solution offered by the National Council of Resistance of Iran, namely the overthrow of the ruling theocracy, is the most viable one.

This solution is underpinned by the existence of a democratic alternative. It is a solution based on the Iranian society's simmering state and readiness. The suffering that political prisoners endure after staging lengthy hunger strikes exemplifies this resistance.

Our nation's workers are flogged and teachers are given long prison terms, but they refuse to give up and continue to fight. Our nation's young women and men are being arrested and humiliated every day, but they continue to defy the mullahs' impositions. Mothers are imprisoned and endure a multitude of pressures, but they continue to demand justice. The combatants of freedom in Camp Liberty, Iraq, are shelled, and face death by attrition because of hardships and a crippling siege, but they refuse to surrender, symbolizing resistance against the ruling regime. This demonstrates our movement's endless prowess. Our nation has arisen to secure its liberty even if it means "plucking it out of the dragon's mouth."

Today, therefore, the question is not whether the ruling theocracy will be overthrown. The question is how we can

reach that goal more quickly. To achieve a free and just republic in Iran, we do not expect any miracles to happen. Nor do we expect any coincidental or chance occurrences in our favor. Our entire asset base consists of the Iranian nation and its vanguard children.

We are full of hope because we have a history that has supplied the backbone needed to achieve freedom; because our nation has within it the capacity to produce major change, and because we have an organized movement that has built a bridge to the future through its sacrifice and resistance.



PHOTO: TME



PHOTO: TME

International stakeholders assumed that the nuclear deal with Iran would bring tranquility and calm to the region. But, instead, it rained down barrel bombs and 70,000 Revolutionary Guards on the people of Syria. It resulted in ethnic cleansing of Sunnis by the terrorist Quds Force in Iraq. And it led to the spread of extremism under the banner of Islam in the whole region.

The Iranian Resistance stands with the brother nation of Syria and its brave combatants. It is honored to act as the voice of solidarity between the two nations.

In confronting us, the mullahs and Daesh are reading from the same script. Both espouse a similar reactionary ideology, which is diametrically opposed to the pristine teachings of Islam. They have a similar modus operandi when it comes to barbarity and savagery. They need to rely on one another to survive. For this reason, so long as the regime's occupation of Syria, Iraq and Yemen continues,

we cannot confront Daesh effectively.

Regrettably, the notion of practical coordination with the terrorist Quds Force is being justified on the pretext of confronting Daesh. I warn that any silence vis-à-vis such an approach or any collaboration with the mullahs would enable them to commit genocide and to infringe upon the national sovereignty of countries in the region.

We offer a solution that presents the only effective, the most indispensable and the most attainable option: the right of the Iranian people to overthrow the religious dictatorship and attain freedom and democracy. This must be recognized.

This solution does not only benefit the Iranian people. It also amounts to a breakthrough for the region and for the world. Many elected representatives of people throughout the world as well as senior U.S., European, Australian, Canadian, Asian and Middle Eastern personalities and dignitaries — who support freedom and democracy in Iran and the security

of, and protection for, the residents of Liberty — proudly attest to this reality.

Throughout history, no obstacle and no barrier, however impenetrable and fortified, has succeeded in hindering this mandate. And in this light, the ruling religious dictatorship cannot withstand the power of the Iranian people's Resistance.

Indeed, a new era will dawn in Iran; a society based on democracy, separation of religion and state, and gender equality will blossom.

To achieve this glorious objective, we have chosen to resist. We have chosen to resist anywhere and in any form to bring the ideal of freedom to fruition. We have chosen to resist so long as oppression and tyranny persist. And we are honored and proud to have made this choice.

We will not relent until the day when freedom, democracy and equality roar like a powerful torrent from Azerbaijan to Balochistan and from Khorasan to Khuzestan.

We will not relent until the day when Iranians of all persuasions and divergences can join hands to hoist the flag of victory, the flag of a free and democratic Iran.

These excerpts are from Mrs. Rajavi's remarks to the July 9 rally in Paris.

Victory means change of regime in Tehran



PHOTO: TME

Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey:

I can't begin these remarks without telling you what an enormous privilege it is to be here with you and also to witness, as we all did, the appearance and the speech of Prince Turki al Faisal of Saudi Arabia. That was not only an important achievement, it was a historic achievement, and it is your achievement. And as you heard from him, it is Mrs. Rajavi's achievement as well. And it shows how important and how strong the support is for you and how much it is growing all over the world.

I'm really here to speak, not simply on my own behalf, but also on behalf

of Mayor Rudy Giuliani, whom you all know and love. Unfortunately, he could not be here today because of a death of a very close friend of his and of mine.

government. And we're willing to do that until the residents of Camp Liberty — and what a terrible name for a prison — have left and until we achieve

That fight, unfortunately, is going to have to include fighting not only the mullahs but also sometimes our own government.

But he wanted me to tell you that he is very much in the fight. And that he will remain in the fight until it ends successfully for you and for us all.

That fight, unfortunately, is going to have to include fighting not only the mullahs but also sometimes our own

complete victory. And complete victory means not only them leaving, it means a change of regime in Tehran; it means the victory for you and for all of the Iranian people, and really for all freedom-loving people in the world.

Madame Rajavi — a 'constant anchor and beacon of hope'



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

Former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh:

You know, so much changes and so much remains the same. A short time ago we were here trying to rationalize why the United States government would put this democratic movement on a foreign terrorist list. Absolutely insane. That has changed, and it was a product of your work and your inspiration, your faith, the struggle of those of your brothers and sisters in Iraq.

The policy of my country, unfortunately, has not dramatically changed. We have led an absolutely insane agreement with a terrorist regime with respect to our nuclear safety.

The policy of my country, unfortunately, has not dramatically changed. We have led an absolutely insane agreement with a terrorist regime with respect to our nuclear safety.

U.S. sailors are stopped and their ship is captured by IRGC. They're held at gunpoint — and we discipline the sailors for dereliction of duty!

This week marked the 20th anniversary of the IRGC Hezbollah

bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Twenty years ago this week, 19 Americans and dozens of Saudis were killed by the Saudi Hezbollah, which was trained by the IRGC; their passports they received in the Iranian embassy in Damascus; the bombers were trained in the Bekaa Valley.

One thing that has remained constant, and we are very fortunate and lucky and proud that it's been constant, is the bravery, the leadership, the dedication, the sacrifice that you have all made in the spirit of freedom. And Madame Rajavi, thank you for being a constant anchor and a beacon of hope and faith for all of us.

Activists for freedom, rights found in prison



PHOTO: TME

Pastor Saeed Abedini

Hail to resistance and freedom. I salute my dear friends and your great and beautiful enthusiasm. My presence here shows that all resistance is victorious and steadfast, amen.

I am happy that today we can celebrate a future for Iran, a free future and glorious future. It has not happened yet, but I am hopeful that right now we can begin to celebrate this future with happiness.

I remember the moments I spent with my dear friends from the PMOI, from other political groups, and to be here and be the voice of those

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political prisoners, those who were in our ward, those who were activists for female rights, child's rights, workers' rights, political and prisoners of conscience, Sunnis, etc. It is interesting that all the various groups of Iran

were represented in prison.

I have hope the day will come when the people of Iran will be able to choose their own leaders... the people of Iran have the right to live freely.

I go back to the eloquent words of Maryam Rajavi which she said today, and I really enjoyed these words, when she said, we will attain freedom even if it entails plucking it from the mouth of the dragon.

Excerpted from remarks at the Free Iran Rally.

Standing for freedom against 'a misogynist regime'



PHOTO: TME

Former Homeland Security Adviser Frances Townsend:

It's incredible to me that Rouhani, the "moderate," the man who claims to be a moderate leader, in his three years in office is responsible for 2,500 executions, more than any other leader in Iran in the last 25 years. And can you imagine the U.N. sanctioned him for the execution of children? It doesn't get much worse. And so your work, the work of Mrs. Rajavi, and the principles that you all stand for here are increasingly important.

In the face of violent extremism

and an oppressive regime, you in the face of dogmatism stand for freedom.

I look out at the women here today and I am so proud to stand with the women of this movement, with the women in Camp Liberty.

You stand for gender equality, Mrs. Rajavi, against a misogynist regime. You have suffered for that. I look out at the women here today and I am so

proud to stand with the women of this movement, with the women in Camp Liberty. When I think of the rise of acid attacks against women in Iran, meant to intimidate and silence them, I say I am proud to be your voice and I stand with you.

You here today, those in Camp Liberty and in Ashraf before them, you are the future of Iran. You are the voice of Iran. Tehran hears you today and the world.

Excerpted from remarks at the Free Iran Rally.

Speak truth to power, as poet Ferdowsi wrote



PHOTO: TME

Kerry Kennedy, human rights activist:

We are here today because we believe in freedom. We stand in solidarity with the Iranian people. We stand against the mullahs who have caused untold terror to your beloved country with their oppression and reign of terror. The mullahs denied the people of Iran the pride of their extraordinary heritage, a heritage admired across the globe.

So today in recognition of the great gifts of the great land of Iran, it is time for the mullahs to live up to the legacy of respect for freedom and human rights, which are the legacy and the proper inheritance of the Iranian people. The mullahs target refugees in Camp Liberty

and Iraq, freedom fighters in Syria, and dissidents, journalists, protesters, ethnic and religious minorities, and human rights defenders in Iran.

The largest group the mullahs target

Heaven's vengeance will not forget. Shrink, tyrant, from my words of fire, and tremble at a poet's ire." Today let us all take up Ferdowsi's call.

makes up fully half the population of the country and that is women. There has been a horrific increase in acid attacks against women perceived to be

in violation of the dress code. Recently special forces known as the promoters of virtue (and preventers of vice), the morality police, attacked with batons those who dared protest against these policies. It is time to free Iran.

Ferdowsi was the greatest Iranian poet. When he turned in the manuscript that took 35 years to write and the king abused him, he spoke truth to power. He wrote, "Heaven's vengeance will not forget. Shrink, tyrant, from my words of fire, and tremble at a poet's ire." Today let us all take up Ferdowsi's call. Let the mullah tyrants tremble and shrink as we join with the people in Iran and speak truth to power. It is time to free Iran.

Only mullahs benefited from nuke deal



PHOTO: TME

Ambassador John Bolton:

We meet at the first anniversary of the Vienna nuclear deal and as was entirely predictable, the hopes that that deal would bring peace and stability to the Middle East and the wider world have been proven to be mere illusions. Iran has changed neither its policies nor its behavior in the years since Vienna.

The oppression inside Iran continues. Tehran's drive for hegemony in the region continues unabated. It's making what's left of Iraq into a satellite of the ayatollah's regime. It is aiding

the Assad regime in Syria with other 70,000 regular forces from the revolutionary guards and militias and paramilitary troops. It continues to fund and arm Hezbollah and Hamas, and it's aiding the Houthis in Yemen.

The proposed sale of Boeing aircraft from the United States, for example, demonstrates the error of the Vienna deal. The military uses of that Boeing equipment are as plain as can be.

German intelligence has published a comprehensive report that shows that the mullahs are still trying to get sensitive nuclear technology only applicable to a nuclear weapons program.

The fact remains that Iran got tangible benefits by the lifting of the economic sanctions that benefit the mullahs directly and those who have favor with them. They don't benefit the average people of Iran. They benefit the rulers.

So I say again, there is only one answer here: To support legitimate opposition groups that favor overthrowing the military theocratic dictatorship in Tehran, and it should be the declared policy of the United States of America and all of its friends to do just that at the earliest opportunity.

Iranian people eager for freedom



PHOTO: TME

Former Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird:

The great struggle of our generation is the struggle against terrorism, and the regime in Tehran is by far the biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. Over the years, billions of dollars have left Tehran to sow fear, violence, death and destruction. From Assad's war against his own people, to a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, from a plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington, to arming Hezbollah with missiles targeting civilians in Israel, we must call the mullahs out on it.

The people of Iran suffer each and every day under this regime... We must call out this slick public relations campaign for what it is: a lie. We have so many allies in the fight against this brutal regime. But you know who our biggest ally in this struggle is? Friends, it is the people of Iran. Make no mistake whatsoever that the people of Iran do not support this regime and they want to see it overthrown. Each and every one of us need to stand in solidarity with the people of Iran and come together and state clearly that the notion that Hassan Rouhani is a moderate or is a reformer, simply put, is a fraud.

Former Undersecretary of State P.J. Crowley:

For many years those of us here on stage have been coming here to show our solidarity for the people of Camp Ashraf and Liberty. The recent rocket attack in Baghdad just reminds us of the urgency of moving them to safety. When we are here next year in Paris, we can celebrate the fact that all of the residents, will finally be out of harm's way... God bless Albania.

As the existing order disintegrates, putting the Middle East back together again will be the work of a generation.

But just when we think there is no hope for the region, we return to Paris. When we wonder where we're going to get the energy to rebuild the Middle East, we return to Paris. When we wonder where we're going to get the ideas to build the Middle East back better, we return to Paris. We return to you!

The future will reward those who govern based on not what they are trying to prevent, but what they are trying to build, based on the foundation that is here in Paris, the ideas that you have embraced, the determination and inspiration that you have shown to see this struggle through to the end.



PHOTO: TME

Iran will rise again as a country to be admired, not feared; as a country to be supported, not contained; as a country that unites, not divide the region; as a country that believes that the people, that you, should be empowered, not oppressed. We support you and let me assure you, you inspire us.

Robert G. Joseph, former undersecretary for arms control and international security at the State Department:

The intensity that I feel from this massive gathering of freedom fighters is overwhelming, as is your demand for freedom. As Madame Rajavi has pointed out, and others have stated, it's been a year since the nuclear accord was concluded and the regime of mullahs in Tehran is even more dangerous than before.

Have no doubt that the regime retains its option of having a nuclear weapon at the time of its choosing. It is using billions of dollars to support terrorism ... to support the proxy wars in Yemen, in Lebanon, in Iraq and elsewhere. It's also using that same funding to continue to brutalize the people of Iran and to deny them their freedom.

The regime cannot reform, neither from within or from out; it must be overthrown by the people of Iran.



PHOTO: TME

We must pressure the regime from all directions; retain and impose new sanctions for its ballistic missile activities and for its support of terrorism; stop all economic transactions with the IRGC related entities; counter Iran's presence and its influence in the region economically, diplomatically, and when necessary, militarily; highlight Iran's abysmal human rights practices. And most important, we must support those who seek to tear down this barbaric regime and in its place establish a democratic, secular and non-nuclear Iran. You, the Iranian Resistance, are the vehicle for this historic change. You are the future of Iran.

Ambassador Marc Ginsberg:

I want to talk to the young people, the most important people here who for the next generation are going to carry the message of a free Iran. I want



PHOTO: TME

all of the young people to stand up and join me and say, "We will prevail!"

You, my friends, are the agents of

change.... Those of you who have come here, who have joined your parents and grandparents, who are fighting for the future of a country whose people desperately want freedom understand the most important power that you have in your hands — your telephone, your voice, the call of freedom, Madame Rajavi's message, Prince Turki's message, the message of the delegations that are here.

We believe that change is just around the corner. Let us understand that the Iran nuclear agreement is not a license to empower the ayatollahs in Iran; It is a license for you to destroy the government in Iran.

Former New Jersey Senator Robert Torricelli:

To those who have stood in Camp Liberty, to those who have lost their lives, Iranian children will remember your names for a thousand years. You will deliver a free Iran.

Across Iran tonight, on the internet, on small computers or in handheld radios, the people of Iran by the thousands listen to our words. And here's



PHOTO: TME

what they need to know. The greatest assembly of free Iranians in the world are in this room right now.

One day you will remember you were in this room when a coalition, which begins in America and Canada, stretches across Europe and North Africa, now has a new anchor and a powerful voice: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has joined our ranks and it will never, never be the same.

And finally, every person in this room needs to stand and applaud and thank the people of Albania for taking a stand for the people of Liberty. Thank you, thank you, Albania. Thank you for standing up...The world will never forget.

Violence was planned for Baghdad neighborhoods

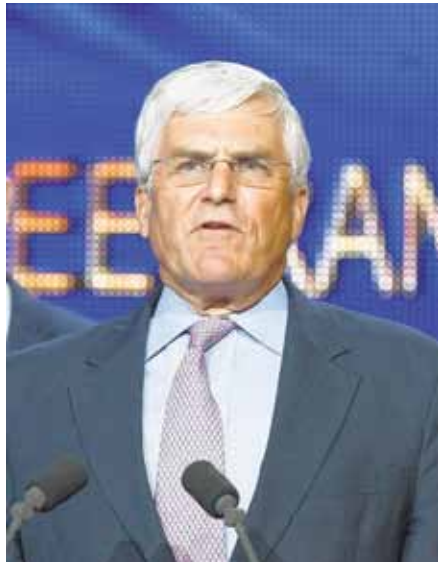


PHOTO: TME

Retired Air Force General Chuck Wald:

I always like to say three things. Number one, it's time for Iran, the mullahs in Iran, to become accountable to the rest of the world. Number two, the mullahs who run the IRGC need to stop sponsoring and paying for terrorism, both in Syria and Lebanon, and in Yemen and the rest of the world. It's time for them to become accountable to the rest of the world. And three, it's time for our people in Camp Liberty, all of them, to go to Albania or other places where they can have their freedom. So I will tell you now that we

Retired General George Casey, former chief of staff of U.S. Army:

In my early days in Iraq it didn't take me long to figure out that the United States and Iran had diametrically opposed objectives. We were seeking to empower a democratically elected Iraqi government that respected the rights of all ethnic and sectarian members of Iraqi society. Iran didn't want a country like that on its borders. They bought political power by giving money to Iraqi politicians and political parties. They bought public support by giving economic aid, particularly in the south of the country, and they continuously fomented sectarian violence.

It is Iran's support for training and equipping the Shia militia in Iraq that allowed the level of sectarian violence to be sustained through 2006 and 2007 and it continues into today. Because of that equipping and training, Iran is also directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of coalition forces and thousands of Iraqis.

When we captured six Quds force operatives in a command center, on the wall was a large map of Baghdad. The neighborhoods were color-coded by their sectarian population. And on the map were large arrows that showed how the Iranians planned to force Sunni populations out of these neighborhoods in Baghdad.

Any regime that uses terror to accomplish its political objectives is a threat not only to its own population, but also to the international community. Change needs to come to Iran.



PHOTO: TME

stand with all of you and what our world needs more today than ever is leadership and I have to commend Madame Rajavi for that leadership.

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

There are ominous developments coming out of the Iran military that I think the world has largely missed in the last six or seven years. Prior to 2010, Iran exported its agenda through proxies, through covert and clandestine activity, through threats in the region. Since 2010 they have become much more active in terms of the exportation of this ideology. Their Navy is more active in the Gulf than it has been really for decades.

Just this week, they are threatening the use of missiles throughout the Middle East, particularly targeting Israel. There are more than 70,000 Iranians in Syria. This marks a dramatic change from what it's been. Iran has done what it has done on an annual basis for the last 10 years with about \$16 billion a year dedicated

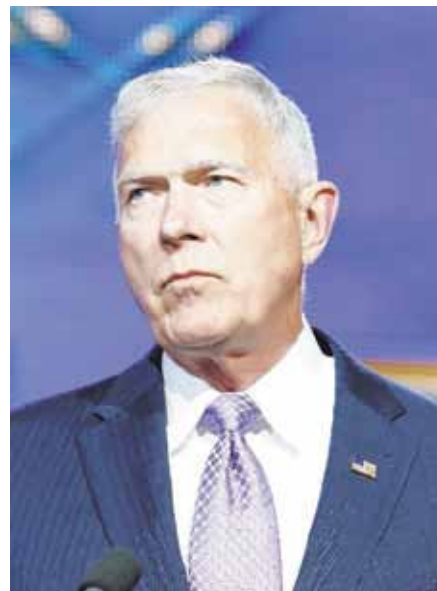


PHOTO: TME

a report that was filled with lies and mullahs' propaganda. I wrote a letter to the president of Human Rights Watch and said I was so confident that the people of resistance at Camp Ashraf were dedicated to freedom, that I offered that my own daughter should go there. I feel so strong that the heroes who are now at Camp Liberty are freedom fighters and will be remembered when Iran becomes free that they were the vanguard, that I would be honored if my own wife went to Camp Liberty today.

Retired U.S. Army Col. Wes Martin:

You are the true defenders of liberty ... To the residents of Camp Liberty, you are the true heroes — despite all the ground and rocket attacks, despite the logistics blockade, despite the Iraqi Government imposing hardships, you remain firm. You are the beacon of light in a graphic region that has been overcome by the darkness imposed by fundamentalists.

towards those activities. Since the nuclear agreement, that \$16 billion can be multiplied by a factor of ten.

We can anticipate much more disruptive activity, not less on the part of the Iranian military. So what's the answer? What is likely and what must happen for there to be change is revolution. And you people represent that effort. What I would say to the representatives of the western nations who are here today is that unlike 2009, when the revolution starts, we have to get behind your effort for it to succeed fully.

Brig. General David Phillips:

Madame Rajavi, members and friends of the Iranian Resistance, and most importantly, those of you who are still at Camp Liberty, I have the distinct honor to get to know you at Camp Ashraf. In 2004 the Human Rights Watch published



PHOTO: TME

Whether Al Qaeda, Islamic State, or the Iranian regime, their goals are the same — to destroy progressive civilization and individual freedom.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt identified four freedoms: of speech, of worship, from want, and from fear. Extremists wish to destroy those freedoms, yet together, all of us, we stand firm with the residents of Liberty and they are our inspiration. I assure the residents we are working hard to relieve the pressure and bring you out and bring you to safety. We are firm in our commitment to Liberty — both Camp Liberty and the liberty of all humanity.



PHOTO: TM

Dictatorship threatens ‘whole peace of the world’



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

Rep. Ted Poe, Texas Republican:

I believe in law and order, where you do something wrong and you get punished, but not in Iran. Bad guys like the supreme leader and his imams get away with murder; the supreme leader publicly executes those who want freedom for the Iranian people.

You daughters of democracy and you sons of Iran are here today, standing defiantly for freedom. You have that fire burning inside of you, for your desire is to live in liberty, and you have paid the price.... Residents of Camp Ashraf were promised that if they move to Camp Liberty they would be safe. That was a lie. Your friends and family have died in Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf; Camp Liberty is no safer than Camp Ashraf, as it turns out that the long arms of the mullahs in Tehran reach deep into Iraq as well. Attacks have already claimed the lives of 140 residents and wounded 1,300 other individuals and it resulted in the abduction, kidnapping of seven individuals. The Iranian government — those freedom-stealing thugs — are afraid of you. They are afraid of what you stand for — freedom, liberty and justice.

Democracy and freedom will once again flourish in Iran and the freedom fighters can finally return home to join their families and their countrymen and building a new peaceful Iran. Until that day, continue to stand tall, stand in defiance, stand for liberty and freedom and know that your mission is righteous and it is just, and that's just the way it is.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas Democrat:

Thank you for your fights for all of those who remain in Iraq, of those who remain in Iran, who are seeking a place of democratic freedom. It is because ... of the strength of the Persian people that you're now standing in Paris, standing in the name of freedom and justice and opportunity.

I know that freedom is your calling, it is in your heart, it is in your spirit, it is in your soul; it is in mine as well. I know that you're seeking a government of Iran where all can come back and be peaceful with their families, and respect universal human rights, religious tolerance and equality for all citizens. You can only do it if we stand



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united together and stand with Iranian-American communities, who many of them are there today in Paris. We are looking forward to the equality of all people, for women and the respect for the rule of law.

Rep. Tom McClintock, California Republican:

I join with my colleagues in Congress, the half-million Iranian expatriates in the United States, the American people, and freedom-loving people around the world in sending best wishes for the 2016 International



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Convention in Paris of all the groups worldwide that are preparing for the liberation of Iran. From the streets of Tehran where they have fought, to the free cities around the world where they are organizing, the Iranian people have engaged in a noble struggle to restore their liberty.

In the face of rigged elections and a campaign of terrorism by the Iranian government against its own people, the Iranian liberation movement has won the admiration of the world for its valiant fight for freedom and the creation of a true form of a representative government. And I can tell you the Iranian Human Rights and Democracy Caucus within the U.S. House of Representatives is determined to see this happen.

The people of Iran can take confidence that their cause is just, that they are not fighting alone, and that in the full measure of time just causes always prevail.

In 1776, in the darkest hours of the struggle, Thomas Paine offered these words as a promise to those everywhere who struggled for their freedom. He wrote: “These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

“Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: It is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.”

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, California Republican:

My friends who are freedom fighters are struggling to create a freer world and a more peaceful world by ridding Iran of its mullah dictatorship — a dictatorship that oppresses the people of Iran, but at the same time threatens the peace of the world.



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I was very inspired ... that the followers of the MEK have never given up and that they plan someday to free

their country. Even as we talk at this moment, we realize that not only the people of Iran are being oppressed ... being brutalized, but we have people in the desert, in Camp Liberty, who are vulnerable. And just to show how evil a force that they are up against, you have unarmed group of people in Camp Liberty being shelled and being rocket-attacked by the allies of the mullahs' regime. What does that tell you? These are people who threatened no one, people who are isolated yet they are victimized and attacked by this vicious regime.

It's up to us to recommit ourselves ... to the safety of the people of Camp Liberty, but also in the elimination of the mullahs' regime that is the root cause of these problems.... So today my best wishes to the MEK in Paris and to all the people in Iran who would free themselves from the mullahs' regime that not only oppresses them but threatens the whole peace of the world.

Rep. Judy Chu, California Democrat:

I stand in solidarity with you and your fight for freedom, democracy and human rights in Iran. I am so impressed by the many students, scholars, former political prisoners, women's rights advocates and other leaders who have joined together once again for this important cause.



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I strongly support your work to establish a free and democratic Iran that works with the U.S. and others to build a safer world, not one that funds terror or threatens world peace with a dangerous nuclear program.

We must end this humanitarian crisis and find a safe and permanent home for the residents there, and that is why I am so pleased that House Resolution 650, a bill that I have cosponsored to provide for the safety and security of the people living in Camp Liberty, was recently approved unanimously by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.



PHOTO: TME



PHOTO: TME

‘We have one heart ... open for friends like you’

Former Albanian Prime Minister Pandeli Majko

I have come today with friends of mine from the Albanian Parliament, from the right and left wing....

We have one heart, one heart that is open for friends like you.

The Albanian government and Albanian political parties have decided all members of Camp Liberty should come to Albania. And this is the reason that we are here, waiting with all our friends — European and Americans, wishing that soon you will be back in your country in Iran.



PHOTO: TME

A senior delegation from the Syrian opposition addressing the Free Iran Rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME

Delegations from countries in the Middle East attending the Free Iran Rally in Paris.



#FREEIRAN
WE ARE
THE FUTURE
OF IRAN
VICTORY
BELONGS
TO US!

