

ONWARDS WITH THE IRANIAN RESISTANCE

REGIME CHANGE WITHIN REACH



Maryam Rajavi,
the President-elect of
the National Council of
Resistance of Iran (NCRI)

Iranian dissidents rally in France for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

VILLEPINTE, France — Thousands of supporters of an Iranian dissident group rallied here Saturday for the overthrow of Tehran's theocratic regime at an event that featured speeches by several Trump administration allies — including Newt Gingrich and Rudolph W. Giuliani — as well as the former head of Saudi intelligence.

The boisterous event, held annually in this town just north of Paris, was organized by the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a France-based group of Iranian exiles that brings dozens of current and former U.S., European and Middle Eastern officials together to speak out in support of regime change in Tehran.

While the Trump administration's posture on the issue is elusive, Mr. Giuliani drew loud cheers by asserting that the new U.S. president's view is far different from that of his predecessor, who led world powers to ease sanctions on the Islamic republic with the 2015 Iranian nuclear accord.

Mr. Trump is "laser-focused on the danger of Iran to the freedom of the world," said Mr. Giuliani, who was perceived by many at the rally to be an emissary for Mr. Trump despite holding no formal Cabinet position in the administration.

Unlike the Obama administration, Mr. Trump "is not in a state of denial" on Iran, the former New York City mayor said.

"Iran must be free," said Mr. Gingrich, a former House speaker who rallied the crowd by condemning Tehran's record of human rights abuses.

The two, who were advisers to Mr. Trump's election campaign, headed a U.S. delegation that included several former Democratic lawmakers as well as three active Republican congressmen — Reps. Ted Poe of Texas, Thomas A. Garrett Jr. of Virginia and Robert Pittenger of North Carolina.

But it was an appearance by Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud, the former longtime Saudi intelligence chief, that may have been the most significant part of the rally.

"I salute you," said the prince, who was in attendance for the second year in a row. His presence suggested that Saudi Arabia's Sunni Muslim monarchy openly supports



PHOTO:TME

A cheering crowd of tens of thousands welcomed National Council of Resistance of Iran President-elect Maryam Rajavi to the July 1 Free Iran Rally.

regime change in Iran — the Middle East's Shiite powerhouse and Riyadh's main rival.

Prince Turki bin Faisal's appearance prompted speculation that the Saudis may even have helped finance the rally, although organizers flatly denied that, asserting instead that funding for the National Council of Resistance of Iran comes entirely in the form of donations from Iranians who are disgusted with the government in Tehran...

The rally was a marathon of speeches and musical performances... In attendance were more than a dozen current and former officials from EU nations, including former French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner...

The most aggressive speech came from Maryam Rajavi, leader of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, who condemned the "religious dictatorship" of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and asserted that the regime is run by "executioners" who have imprisoned or killed tens of thousands of opposition figures since coming to power in 1979...

"Overthrow is possible and within reach," she said. "Iranian society is simmering with discontent, and the international community is finally getting closer to the reality that appeasing the ruling theocracy is misguided."

"The only solution is regime change," said Mrs. Rajavi, who has led the National Council of Resistance of Iran since its founder — her husband, Massoud Rajavi — went into hiding in 2003.

In an email interview with The Washington Times last year, she said the organization "represent[s] 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."

Supporters of the council say it is the most influential organization on the Iranian opposition landscape.

No one in the Iranian opposition "stands out the way the NCRI stands out" in terms of their "day to day engagement with the

Iranian public," said Ramesh Sepehrrad, a longtime Iranian-American women's rights activist who works with George Mason University's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Ms. Sepehrrad told a panel ahead of the rally that it is difficult to measure the council's popularity inside Iran because the "regime has made the price very, very high for the Iranian people to express their support" for the movement.

"Thousands of their supporters and their family members have been executed and imprisoned by the regime," she said.

Shahin Gobadi, a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's foreign affairs committee, said the group has become more active inside Iran over the past year. "People are realizing more and more, especially young people, that regime change is the only answer," Mr. Gobadi told The Times.

This excerpt is from a Washington Times staff-written news article that first published on July 1, 2017.

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'A freer Iran is on the horizon'

Rudy Giuliani

I am so overjoyed by the focus of this conference, the theme of this conference, the hashtag of this conference. #Free Iran.

It's been a long road, and there is still a few more miles to travel. And the road has been littered by the blood of your sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, relatives and friends. That book contains 20,000. There have been over 120,000 that have been martyred. ... So let's just take a moment to think about them because we wouldn't be here today without them. We also wouldn't be here today without the leadership of Madame Rajavi through the difficult times and the good times and the horrible times. She has always remained hopeful that we could stand up and say free Iran.

Under President Trump's leadership, I believe he can help us rid the Iranian people of the oppression that has subjected them for so long. You only need to read his speech in Saudi Arabia to see that he is laser-focused on the danger of Iran, not just to the freedom of the region, but the freedom of the world. He understands how it would be extraordinarily dangerous for the world to have a nuclear Iran. He realizes how dangerous for the world it is to have an Ayatollah who is a theocratic dictator and a madman. And he also realizes, as we do, that the only way we're going to have stability in the Middle East and stability in the world is exactly

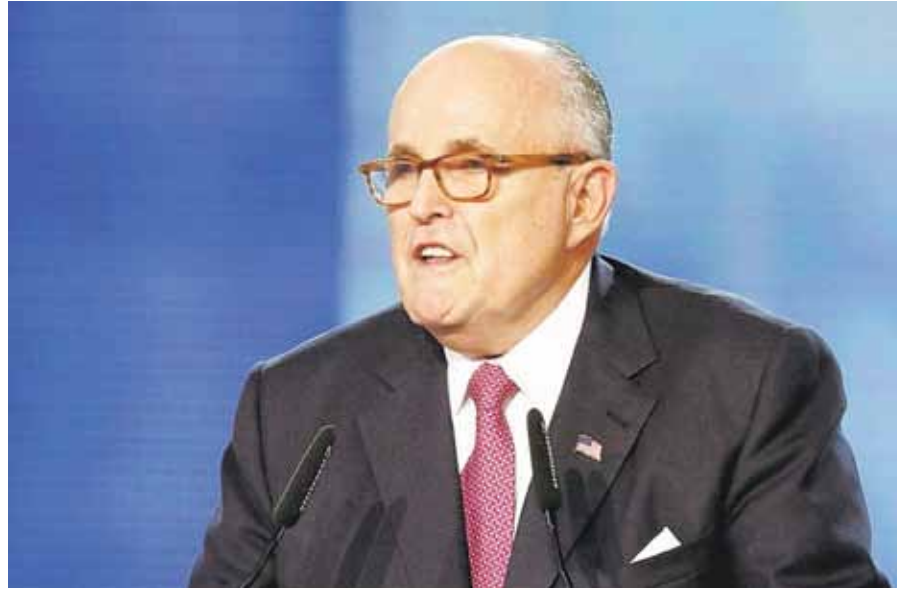


PHOTO: TME

the theme of your conference: a free Iran, built on the principles that we all share.... You stand for freedom of religion, you stand for freedom for women, you stand for free elections, you stand for the rule of law, you stand for respecting human dignity and human rights. That's what we need in Iran, and that's why you're the hope of Iran....

Without Madame Rajavi, people sitting there, all of you, we wouldn't be where we are. We can see being able to convince the world that there are no moderate members of the present Iranian regime. When I hear the word moderate

and I hear the name Rouhani, I think of the fact that he has actually killed more people in Iran than Ahmadinejad. He is a complete phony. He presents a moderate image to the world and to the Iranian people he is a violent, vicious murderer, so they're afraid of him.

As Madame Rajavi said, it is long past time to declare the Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization. They have on their hands the blood of so many of your people and they have on their hands the blood of my people too, whom they helped to kill in Iraq. We should declare them a terrorist organization so we

can cut them off of support around the world. And time has come for regime change in Iran....

Not only do we have regime change, but we have an alternative, and that alternative is you. It's a democratic alternative. It's a force for change. It's well organized. It has popular support. And it has a vast network of supporters. And whoever doesn't believe that, I ask them to do two things: Take a look at how many of your fellow compatriots are murdered by the regime. Think of how frightened the regime in Iran is of the MEK. That will tell you how strong you are.... And second, supporting the MEK is one of the reasons and one of the ways to break that loose under the leadership of a great hero, Madame Rajavi.

I truly believe ... that a freer Iran is on the horizon. But I'm happiest to be here because finally I can say, and I can probably say this with a good deal of authority, that the government of the United States supports you, we're behind you, we agree with your values.... And finally, I can stand here and say to you, I, my government and your leadership, we see Iran in exactly the same way. The regime is evil and it must go. Free Iran.

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Former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. "Rudy" Giuliani is a cybersecurity expert and an informal adviser to the Trump administration. This is an excerpt from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.

U.S. should prepare to 'help freedom win' in Iran

Newt Gingrich

I come today to bring you a very simple message. Iran must be free. The dictatorship must be destroyed. Containment is appeasement, and appeasement is surrender. The only practical goal is to support a movement to free Iran. After all, a dictatorship that appoints as its justice minister someone who killed 30,000 people is telling you everything you need to know about the core nature of that dictatorship. This is a regime which thinks it's justice to kill 30,000 people ... it's justice to have an election where no one is allowed to run ... threatens all of its dissidents, all of its critics, with jail at best and death at worst.

I've come here several years and I have been impressed with the growth of the movement, the dedication of the movement. The 3,000 people you just saw in Albania are an enormous victory over the dictatorship.... And the dictatorship was determined to kill everyone. And when they failed, they now have 3,000 warriors for freedom in



PHOTO: TME

Albania, who understand that we have to replace the dictatorship, and that is a serious defeat for the current leadership in Tehran.

Freedom ultimately involves

charismatic leaders who communicate both a sense of hope, a vision of a better future, a moral cause, and an ability to connect with people. In our country, that was George Washington and his young supporter, the Marquis de Lafayette. In Italy, it was Garibaldi. I can tell you from years of having come here that in history, the name of your president-elect, Maryam Rajavi, will go down in the same tradition of fighters for freedom as Washington, Lafayette, and Garibaldi. And she's a great leader because she has great followers, because so many of you are so dedicated. I know that this movement is going to be a movement that goes down in history as one of the great examples of the human spirit defeating the evils of dictatorship. And so I thank each of you on her behalf for helping make her a truly historic figure, because that's what you're doing.

All of us have an obligation to recognize that while you have a great interest in winning because it's your country, we in America have a great interest in

winning because freedom is threatened everywhere as long as this dictatorship stays in power. And so we are allies, just as much as Washington and Lafayette. And I'm here with my fellow Americans to pledge to you that we're going to take the story of the hope that is embodied in the one thousand Ashraf strategy, and the potential that the next time that there is popular dissent, it will be across the whole country, it will be organized, and that at that point, unlike what happened last time when the American government shamefully did nothing, at that point the Trump administration needs to be prepared and leaning forward and ready to do everything it can to help freedom win and dictatorship lose in the great struggle that is underway in Iran.

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Newt Gingrich, a Republican and former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, represented Georgia's 6th Congressional District for 20 years. This is an excerpt from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.

‘Your efforts to confront this regime are legitimate’

Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

I am honored and thankful once more for inviting me to participate in your annual meeting. It is the forum where the sons of Iran, who have left Iran due to the injustice of the Velayat al-Faqih rule, meet with representatives from many countries of the world who have suffered the terrorism of this government, the largest sponsor of terrorism. This meeting is to remind the world of the crimes of this regime against its citizens, its neighbors and of its threat to regional and global security and stability....

When Khomeini came to power, and after carrying out the executions of opposition activists in prisons, the very people who played a role in the revolution, the same colleague reminded him of the mosquito story and Khomeini's fear of killing insects while he is now killing human beings after the revolution. Khomeini's response was that these people are the enemies of Islam. This means that whoever opposed or stood up to Khomeini was an enemy of Islam, a traitor, and death would be their fate....

He wore the robe of “Imam,” but even

Imam was not immune from his wrath, as he also conferred other titles on himself like the “Leader” and the “Guide.” As soon as Khomeini arrived in Tehran, he turned against all his Iranian allies who accomplished the revolution. They were suppressed, imprisoned, assassinated or killed. You were the first to be stabbed in the back by Khomeini.

Khomeini promised the Iranians democracy, and the regime today brags about holding elections. What is the meaning of these elections whose candidates cannot enter the race unless they go through the filter of the Vali-e Faqih? These elections are not considered a certificate of good conduct.... The behavior of the regime in Tehran does not make it a democratic system, but a murderous dictatorship. The executions carried out by the butcher regime and the deaths of thousands of Iranian prisoners in 1988 still resonates and will bring an eternal curse on this regime and its leaders. These executions prove that war criminals must be brought to justice by the International Criminal Court....

The first victims of Khomeini and his followers are the Iranian people, who have suffered horrors and are still forced to endure the sick ideas of the system of Velayat-e Faqih, which is in need of



PHOTO: TME

continuous crises in order to survive. Consequently, Khomeini's successor has been keen to establish paramilitary forces and militias in order to use them as armies in capitals dominated by the Revolutionary Guard forces. These include the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon and militias in Syria and Iraq. They want to make these militias as subservient as the Revolutionary Guards in order to create tools in the hands of the Vali-e Faqih, to whom the Iranian constitution has granted absolute powers as the successor to Khomeini.

Dear brothers and sisters!

Your efforts to confront this regime are legitimate, and your struggle to rescue all sectors of the Iranian society,

including Arabs, Kurds, Belukha, Azeris, and Persians from the oppression of the Velayat-e Faqih rule, as was said by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, is legitimate and an imperative.

Therefore, advance with God's blessings. May God bless you.

Turki bin Faisal Al Saud is a statesman and diplomat. A member of the House of Saud, he currently serves as the chairman of King Faisal Foundation's Center for Research and Islamic Studies. From 1977 to 2001, Prince Faisal was the director general of the Kingdom's intelligence agency. This excerpt is from remarks to the Free Iran Rally on July 1, 2017. It is translated into English from the original Arabic text.

History shows that freedom takes courage, sacrifice

Ed Rendell

And now the next step is to free Iran. And regime change is up to the people of Iran, and that means you, that means the people who are in Albania, and it means Iranian dissidents in Iran, in Tehran, and all of the different cities....

But the United States has to stand firm and stand behind this movement. And I believe we will. Not only will we, because we do admire people who fight for their freedom, are willing to die for their freedom, we'll stand behind you because it's also in our self-interest. Because what will a free Iran ruled by Madame Rajavi mean to the Middle East? It will mean peace and security. It will mean an end to extremism. It will mean an end to Iran being a hotbed for terrorism. It will mean that women will no longer be persecuted....

In my public career, I have never felt a better feeling than knowing that my

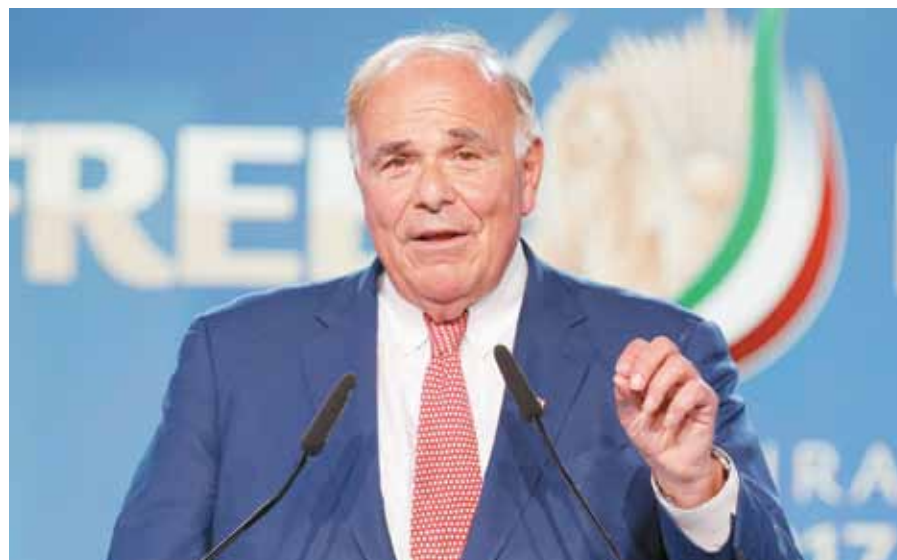


PHOTO: TME

work and my energy somehow contributed in some small part to getting the people of Ashraf out of Iraq to safety.

I've never felt prouder of anything I've done in my public career...

And when Madame Rajavi went over

and placed that sign near the memorial saying the price of freedom, well, in Philadelphia, there's a park called Washington Square Park ... There are 2,000 dead colonial American soldiers under the ground in Washington Park. And there's a monument, and it says, “Here lies evidence that the price of freedom isn't free.” And I pledge to you today — and Madame Rajavi — I want her to understand that Americans — Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Americans, Progressives, Tea Party-ites, Americans from red states, blue states — we all stand behind her because all Americans have one thing in common. We're behind you because you're fighting for all the same things. Thank you.

Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell also served as mayor of Philadelphia and chairman of the Democratic National Committee. This excerpt is from remarks he gave to the July 1 rally in Paris.

Iran's youth hold the key to freedom

Rep. Ted Poe

The fact that many of you are here today is proof that one day soon we will see freedom and democracy in Iran, your original home. We will see it.

The path to democracy is always long. It's always hard. But important things do take time; they are not easy. Have faith and hope that one day the people of Iran will be able to throw off the shackles of the supreme leader and become a nation committed to the rule of law and freedom for everybody. And that will happen soon. I mean there's Iranian dissidents and exiles — two and a half million throughout the world. And I think we have all two and a half million right here in this room, it seems like.

Thirty years ago ... the government, Khomeini, murdered 30,000 people because they were political dissidents. They wanted a regime change. And here we are, almost 30 years later. It's time to have a day of reckoning for



PHOTO: TME

Auvers-sur-Oise, France, July 1, 2017: Rep. Ted Poe, Robert Pittenger and Tom Garrett presenting Mrs. Rajavi with a congressional memorabilia.

those people that were murdered.
So I say to you, you daughters of

democracy, you sons of liberty, do not
give up. Do not despair. Because on the

horizon, the sun is rising for a new Iran ... And so I encourage you young people and the young people of Iran ... take to the streets in peaceful demonstrations and make sure that the ayatollah knows that you want a free and independent country and free elections.

As we celebrate in the United States Independence Day, we will think about independence for Iran, so that they can be a free people. And the day is coming when the mullahs will reap what they have sown. They will be held accountable for their crimes. They will be tried in international courts of justice. And the people of Iran will be free. Do not give up. Be strong and courageous. Be bold, because it's important.

.....
Republican Rep. Ted Poe represents the 2nd Congressional District in Texas and is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.

Americans support freedom-loving Iranians

Rep. Robert Pittenger

The American people love and support the freedom-loving people of Iran.

I would like to ask you today, are you ready to hold the mullahs accountable? Are you ready to hold Khamenei accountable? Are you ready for regime change?

Are you ready to get rid of the greatest sponsor of terrorism in the world? Are you ready to restore freedom to Iran? Are you ready for honest elections? Are you ready for a democracy in Iran? Are you ready for equality in Iran? Are you ready for human rights in Iran? Are you ready for religious freedom in Iran?

Now is the time. When our forefathers met 241 years ago this time, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor, for a Declaration of Independence for a new America. Yes, from that we found life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And that's what we want for Iran today.

.....
Republican Rep. Robert Pittenger represents the 9th Congressional District in North Carolina and serves on the House Financial Services Committee. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.

The time is over for 'business as usual'

Rep. Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.

It is an amazing honor to stand in front of so many people who, like every other person in the world, love freedom. ...

As an American, I tend to break things down into American terms, so if you think that 120,000 people murdered by this regime in 1979 and 1988 and 2009, and you convert for the population difference between the United States, it would be the equivalent of all the Americans who died in the entire Second World War.

Like many of the Millennials, I don't remember very well the events of 1988, but I do remember watching in 2009 during the Green Revolution, first with respect and awe and admiration, and then

with shame and horror and disgust, as people rose up and demanded freedom, and the world community and the American government did nothing. And I will not stand for that — at the very least I will raise my voice and stand united with the people who insist on a free Iran.

I didn't go to Congress to watch. You didn't come here to watch. I came to change "business as usual." You came to change "business as usual."

Let us put our friends and enemies on notice alike — we are many and we will prevail.

There can be no change, however, without addressing the instrument of horror that props up the oppressive mullahs. The IRGC must be eviscerated. The



PHOTO: TME

IRGC controls the entire black market economy ... They use those monies to fund terror literally across the globe, to oppress voices of dissent in Iran and to kill Iranians in their own streets....

And so ... it is my sincerest hope that I see each and every one of you

again next year — in Tehran.

.....
Republican Rep. Thomas A. Garrett Jr., represents the 5th Congressional District in Virginia and serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.

‘You can never enslave a people forever’

Joseph Lieberman

I want to say to each one of you that the size and commitment of this gathering sends a powerful message to both our enemies in Tehran and the people of Iran who are yearning for change ... that every one of you didn't just make a decision to come here to this meeting. By making that decision, you have put yourself into history, and you have identified with a destiny that is a destiny for freedom.

One of the great freedom fighters in American history, Dr. Martin Luther King, said the moral arc of the universe bends slowly but it always bends toward justice. I want to say to you today that the political arc of the universe may bend slowly, but it always bends towards freedom. Sometimes we have to help to bend the arc more quickly, and that is what your presence here today can make possible.

The change in administrations in America has made a dramatic difference in our policy towards Iran. And I speak as a Democrat and somebody who supported Hillary Clinton.

The one thing that hasn't changed in the Middle East is the behavior of the regime in Tehran.... Their aggression continues throughout the region. Their support of terrorism which has killed so

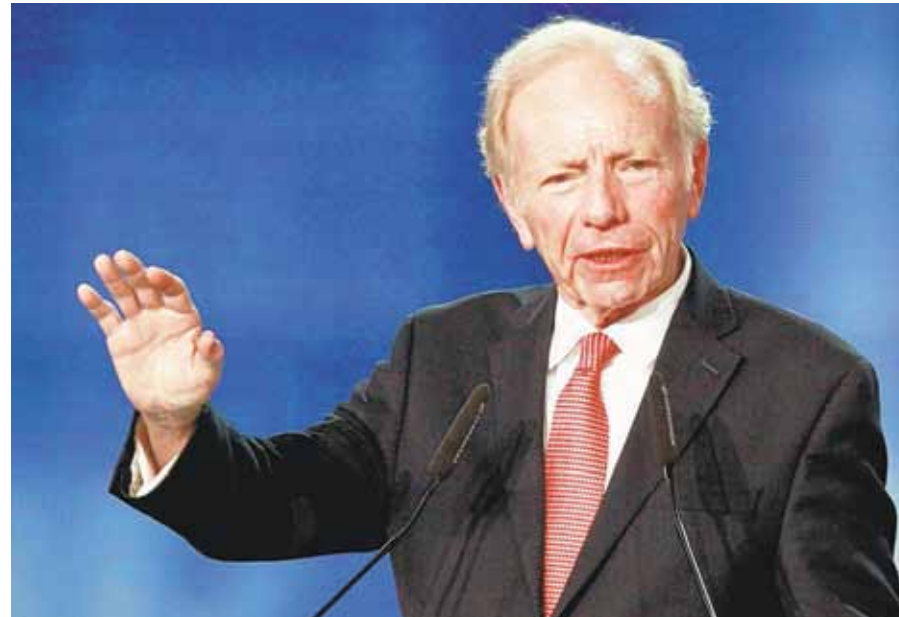


PHOTO: TME

many, including many Americans, continues. Their repression of the human rights of the people of Iran continues.... Raqqa was never the capital of Islamic extremism and terrorism. The capital, since 1979, of Islamic extremism and terrorism has been in Tehran under this extremist regime, and that is why it's got to go.

But some things have changed inside Iran, and that's at the level of the people.

You can never suppress a people, you can never enslave a people forever. The people of Iran inside Iran have shown the courage to rise up. In the past year, there is a social movement that has adopted the cause of bringing to light what happened to the 30,000 Iranians, mostly members of the MEK, who were massacred in 1988... To just talk about that, to just talk about that, to hold Madame Rajavi's picture up

in public places, is a sign of the unrest of the people and the growing confidence of the people that change is near....

Long before the Berlin Wall collapsed, long before the Soviet Union fell, the United States was supporting resistance movements within the former Soviet Union. It is time for America, and hopefully some of our allies in Europe, to give whatever support we can to those who are fighting for freedom within Iran....

It's hard not to see the resemblance between the resistance that you and the people of Iran are part of and those who fought for America's freedom in the revolution in the 18th century. Or those who fought for the freedom of France during the 19th century. Or those who fought against Nazism and fascism and communism during the 20th century. And every one of those fights, every one of those struggles for freedom, ended successfully. And with the help of God and our continued partnership, this one will do. So I end with a prayer that sometime soon, maybe even next year, we are able to hold this meeting in a free Tehran in a free Iran.

.....
Former U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman represented Connecticut for 24 years. This is an excerpt from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.

The world's quarrel is with Iran's mullahs, not its people

Michael Mukasey

Free Iran is right... In the last year since we gathered here, I think it's fair to say that we are grateful for what's happened. In a sense, we're in an entirely new and better place. And just so that everybody understands who I mean when I say we are in a better place, I mean everybody who wants to see regime change in Iran in general, and the MEK in particular.

The most immediate source of our gratitude is that our good friends who were trapped in a camp that was ironically named Liberty are now out of danger. And that happened thanks to the courage and the hospitality of the Albanian nation and the Albanian people, to whom we are and will remain eternally grateful.

In May, the United States and the Arab states in the Middle East held a historic summit meeting in Riyadh,

where the United States joined many others in abandoning the policy of hallucinating goodwill in the Iranian regime, and where it recognized in the words of President Trump that the Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims are its own people.

Although we're in a better place, I think it's no exaggeration to say that now comes the hard part. Now comes the part where other countries must combine to delegitimize the Iranian regime, to isolate it internationally, to designate the IRGC as what it is, a terrorist organization. And to take other steps that will bring about the pressure, both from inside and from outside Iran, to get rid of the mullahs.

The best way for both Iranians and non-Iranians to do that is to align with the Iranian resistance, so as to make it clear to the oppressed citizens of Iran that the world's quarrel is not with Iran but with the mullahs who have subjugated Iran. The PMOI members within Iran have



PHOTO: TME

provided both an example and a tool with their daring publicity campaign within Iran, urging regime change, and posting photos of Mrs. Rajavi and slogans opposing the clerical regime. They've been writing slogans on walls to support this gathering. It's up to us to ensure that the energy behind that effort remains focused on the goal of regime change.

Now that Arab states, including the premier Sunni state of Saudi Arabia, are focused on the danger from Iran — even to the point of two years in a row having sent a representative of the royal family to this gathering — we must

join together with them and with the entire civilized world in changing the uncivilized regime in Iran and in Tehran. We now have governments in power in both the United States and Saudi Arabia and elsewhere who are willing to do it. Thank you very much.

.....
Former U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey served as U.S. Attorney General under President George W. Bush. This excerpt is from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.

Only one group is ready to lead ‘Persian Spring’

Tom Ridge

A couple moments ago, I was walking outside and had a brief conversation with a woman who has lost six family members in the struggle for a free Iran. It's an extraordinary and a very personal reminder as to why we are all here together. It's an honor and a privilege for all of us to join you in this cause. We join you in solidarity to raise our voices in support of a free Iran, regime change, and certainly the strong and inspirational leadership of Madame Rajavi.

Only the light of liberty can overcome and replace the darkness of the tyrannical Iranian regime. That light of liberty, ignited and sustained by the martyrs, by the men and women of Ashraf and Liberty, and those who've managed to survive that terror and now in Albania. The poet and patriot and human rights advocate Simin Behbahani envisioned the new Iran and the end of the darkness when she wrote, "My country, I will build you



PHOTO: TME

again, if need be with bricks from my life. I will build columns to support your roof, if need be with my bones. I will inhale again the perfume of flowers favored by your youth. I will wash

away the blood off your body with torrents of my tears. And once more the darkness will leave the house." The darkness will leave the house with a free Iran.

There's only one popular, organized, and magnificently led organization that can provide the democratic alternative to the existing regime. Only one group with proven leadership. Only one group with an exciting and clear vision for the future of Iran. A group led by an inspiring Muslim woman who mirrors the aspirations of the Iranian people who seek a secular republic with gender equality, separation of church and state, respect for human rights and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. A new Iran so that someday the spirit of freedom, a Persian spring will erupt through a regime change led by you, by the martyrs who have preceded you, under the leadership of Madame Rajavi. I join with you, and we need to join the entire global community to raise their voices, sustain their voices and call throughout the international community: We want a free Iran.

.....
Former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge served as Secretary of the U.S. Homeland Security Department. This excerpt is from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME

Linda Chavez

There is a growing conviction throughout the world that the only way to counter the extremism and the fundamentalism in the theocratic regime in Iran is to replace that regime. And you — you, the free people of Iran — are the hope for the future of all of the Iranian people.

You are the ones who can eradicate this scourge on humanity and who can stop the export of terrorism that is from

the regime in Tehran. Your movement, under the leadership and the direction of Madame Maryam Rajavi, is the one true movement that can replace this regime. I want to salute you today for your courage and for your perseverance of the MEK and the NCRI. You are the ones who remain committed to freedom and to democracy for Iran, and to eradicate the suppression, the terrorism and the regime's demonizing campaign that has been directed at you.

Your perseverance gives us hope that we shall in the end defeat the phenomena of Islamic fundamentalism, whose heart beats in the clerical regime in Iran.

.....
Linda Chavez is founder and chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity and a syndicated columnist. This excerpt is from remarks she gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.

‘Rajavi’ is now synonymous with freedom, hope

Robert Torricelli

Before me is the largest gathering of Iranians in the world who woke up this morning breathing free, speaking free, worshipping free, living free.

It is my honor to be with you. It is my pleasure to serve as master of ceremonies, to introduce to you people from around the globe who share this struggle, shoulder to shoulder, with Iranian people in their desperate moment fighting for freedom.

But we must all be mindful that while this is the largest gathering of free Iranians in the world today, tomorrow morning that responsibility rests on a brave few in Tirana, Albania. To those

who survived Ashraf, fought through Camp Liberty, you are now the point of the spear in Albania.

Our hopes, our prayers rest with you to destroy the mullahs and create a free Iran.

My friends, in Iran the name Rajavi is synonymous with freedom and a hope for a better future.

.....
Robert Torricelli, a Democrat, served as a U.S. Senator from New Jersey for six years and U.S. Representative from New Jersey's 9th Congressional District for 14 years. This excerpt is from remarks he gave at the July 1 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER



OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO

Louis Freeh

Thank you to our brothers and sisters in Tirana who are watching us tonight....

‘Dad, these people are really heroes’

I am here particularly this year to congratulate you, and thank you and thank Madame Rajavi for the freedom and the life-saving gift that 3,000 of your brothers and sisters have received and are enjoying tonight for the first time.

I visited them a few months ago, and I brought with me my oldest son. And what struck me immediately was their spirit and their strength... My son talked to a lot of your colleagues and friends, I talked to a lot of our brothers and sisters... And when we left, my son said, “Dad, these people are really heroes.”

And you are all heroes and most importantly, your leader, Madame Rajavi, is a great hero. Through the darkest days,

— and I was thinking about several years ago during the different attacks in Ashraf and then later at Liberty — Madame Rajavi stood so strong and so true and made very, very difficult life-and-death decisions moving to Liberty, what to do once we got to Liberty, negotiating the safe passage and resettlement. Madame Rajavi, you not only embody the democratic principles of a free Iran, but you are a wonderful and charismatic leader in crisis. So this year, you are closer than ever to achieving your goal.

In many ways, the heroism and the survival of the freedom-loving brothers and sisters in Liberty and Ashraf have given the movement now the

opportunity to reach its final goal. So, we thank them for their survival and their heroism...

Now we are poised to achieve the final outcome. And the final outcome is what all of this has been about — the suffering, the death, the destruction — to find a free Iran and to have a democratic alternative to the regime in Tehran. You are that democratic alternative And you will prevail because you never, never have given up and the end is in sight.

.....
Former U.S. District Judge Louis J. Freeh served as FBI Director under President Bill Clinton. This excerpt is taken from his remarks at the July 1 rally in Paris.

Why Iran’s quest for ‘arc of control’ must fail

Ambassador John Bolton

For the first time in at least eight years that I’ve been coming to this event, I can say that we have a president of the United States who is completely and totally opposed to the regime in Tehran...

Now there is underway, as there often is in a new American administration, a policy review to determine what U.S. policy will be on a whole range of issues, including how to deal with the regime in Tehran.... The outcome of the president’s policy review should be to determine that the Ayatollah Khomeini’s 1979 revolution will not last until its 40th birthday.

The Tehran regime is the central problem in the Middle East. There’s no fundamental difference between the Ayatollah Khomeini and President Rouhani. They’re two sides of the same coin.

And it’s clear that the regime’s behavior is only getting worse. Their continued violations of the agreement, their work with North Korea on nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles only continues to grow....



PHOTO: TME

But in the region as well, we face a very, very dangerous point. As the campaign to destroy the ISIS caliphate nears its ultimately successful conclusion, we must avoid allowing the regime in Tehran to achieve its long-sought objective of an arc of control from Iran

through the Baghdad government in Iraq, to the Assad regime in Syria, and the Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon. An arc of control, which if it’s allowed to form, will simply be the foundation for the next grave conflict in the Middle East. The regime in Tehran is

not merely a nuclear-weapons threat, it’s not merely a terrorist threat, it is a conventional threat to everybody in the region who simply seeks to live in peace and security. The regime has failed internationally, it has failed domestically in economics and politics; indeed, its time of weakening is only accelerating.

There is a viable opposition to the rule of the ayatollahs, and that opposition is centered in this room today. I have said for over 10 years since coming to these events that the declared policy of the United States of America should be the overthrow of the mullahs’ regime in Tehran. The behavior and the objectives of the regime are not going to change, and therefore the only solution is to change the regime itself. And that’s why before 2019, we here will celebrate in Tehran.

.....
Ambassador John R. Bolton, who represented the United States at the United Nations under President George W. Bush, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This excerpt is taken from his remarks at the July 1 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME



#FREEIRAN

Among the tens of thousands of people who attended the July 1 Grand Gathering of Iranians were delegations of attendees from numerous nations. These delegations included (1) Syria, (2) women leaders from several nations, (3) Germany, (4) Jordan, (5) Italy, (6) Belgium, (7) Ireland, (8) Poland, (9) Palestine, and (10) Romania.





PHOTO: TME

Villepinte, France (July 1, 2017) — NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi (center) with dozens of senior former and current officials at the Free Iran Grand Gathering.

Onwards to a Free Iran

Speech by Maryam Rajavi at the Grand Gathering of the Iranian Resistance in Villepinte, Paris

EXCERPTS

I am humbled in the face of your love and passion for freedom. And I pay my respects to the distinguished personalities who have joined us from five continents around the world in solidarity with a free Iran and to voice support for freedom in Iran.

Three major developments impact this gathering:

First, the relocation of thousands of MEK members out of Iraq, which foiled the mullahs' supreme leader Ali Khamenei's plots to annihilate the Resistance movement. Second, the failure of the policy of appeasing the regime by the United States and Europe. And third, Khamenei's defeat in the sham elections, which means the defeat of the regime in its totality.

Three fundamental truths

The light of change is shining on Iran. The ruling regime is in disarray and paralyzed as never before. Iranian society is simmering with discontent and the international community is finally getting closer to the reality that appeasing the ruling theocracy is misguided.

These intense circumstances speak to three fundamental truths related to obtaining freedom and liberty in Iran, as well as peace and tranquility in the region:



PHOTO: TME

First, overthrow of the ruling religious dictatorship is an imperative. Second, the regime's overthrow is within reach. And third, a democratic alternative and an organized resistance exists, which is capable of toppling the theocracy in Iran.

Regime change, the only solution

Now, what do these mean?

The first truth answers the question "what must be done regarding a regime that has held Iran and all Iranians in chains and is the driver behind war and carnage in the region?"

Is this regime really capable of reform? The answer is NO, because claimants of reform were in power for 20 years out of the 38 years of the regime's

rule, and they accomplished nothing but serving the Velayat-e Faqih regime.

Would giving concessions to the regime ever lead to its change of behavior? The answer is NO. This is something that has already been tested repeatedly for the past three decades by the US and Europe.

Finally, is it possible to contain this regime? NO, because what has been described as a policy of containment in effect does nothing but obstruct the path towards the adoption of a firm policy against the regime.

Therefore, the conclusion is what the Iranian Resistance has emphasized since the outset and many in the world have reached today: The solution, the only solution, is regime change.

The greatest threat to the regime: The revolts waiting to erupt across Iran

The second truth is that the regime's overthrow is possible and within reach, because the regime is besieged by extensive social discontent. As one of the commanders of the State Security Force has acknowledged, nearly 11,000 protests ... took place in Iran last year.

Consider "grave dwellers," the 10 million unemployed, the 20 million shanty-town dwellers and the 30 percent of the population who are starving. The mullahs are encircled by these very people. The hand-picked candidates for the sham presidential election admitted this regime belongs to 4 percent of the population while 96 percent of the people despise it. Indeed, despite the regime's deafening propaganda, the greatest threat to the regime is not a foreign enemy, but social revolts waiting to erupt within Iran itself.

The reality is that the overthrow of the religious dictatorship is possible and within reach because of the regime's ineptitude and failures, including its inability to contain the country's economic disintegration and environmental disasters, the failure to provide for the most basic needs of our enraged people ... even its failure to consolidate the regime.

Regime change is within reach because the mullahs find themselves stuck in three wars of attrition in the Middle East. Their withdrawal from these conflicts ... will undermine their own existence.

» see **RAJAVI** | C11

The force for change and the democratic alternative

The third truth is the existence of a force for change and a democratic alternative. This alternative's power emanates from its capability to thrust the regime from a state of crises to ultimate overthrow. In 2009, this democratic alternative formed the main nucleus of the uprisings and transformed the chants of "where is my vote" into "down with the principle of *velayat-e faqih*."

Additionally, since last July, the Iranian Resistance has hoisted the banner of seeking justice for the victims of the massacre of political prisoners 29 years ago, turning it into the main focus of

Thanks to the efforts and risk-taking of members of the Iranian Resistance, we exposed the mullahs' secret nuclear sites when no other government was able to even become aware of them.

Now, why is this alternative reliable and can be trusted? Because we have always stood by what we have said and promised. Not a day goes by without the movement fighting relentlessly for the cause of freedom. Some 120,000 members and sympathizers of this movement have been executed, and the movement has been subjected to massive repression and a continuous barrage of propaganda since June 20, 1981. Still, as even the metaphorical mountains could not stand under the heavy weight of all this, your Resistance movement remained steadfast. And it will not relent until it uproots the medieval mullahs' Caliph, Khamenei.

aspirations for a free Iran, represent significant components of the democratic alternative's wherewithal.

This alternative is the appropriate response to the most significant political and social divides in Iranian society: It responds to the differences among various ethnic groups. It responds to discord and divide between Shiites and Sunnis ... to the tensions among Iran and the countries in the region.

The main demand of this democratic alternative is freedom and democracy for Iran. ... From the outset, the regime was at war with the people of Iran. All the other wars waged against foreign countries have been designed to cover up this main conflict. But these wars are not an indication of the regime's strength. They are an indication of the fact that no government in the region has ever attempted

people want a constitution based on freedom, democracy and equality. The time has come for the international community to heed the demands of the people of Iran.

Our demands reflect the demands of Sattar Khan, the revered leader of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution, and Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, the leader of Iran's Nationalist Movement in the 1950s. As I have reiterated repeatedly, we want neither money nor arms.

We say that the struggle of the people of Iran for regime change is legitimate, righteous and imperative. We urge you to recognize "resistance against oppression." The same notion that is stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in France's Declaration of Human Rights and Citizens' Rights. This right has also been enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence, where it says, "Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of" the people's rights, "it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government" of their liking. And the Iranian Resistance is determined to uproot the regime which the people of Iran despise.

The solution to the crisis in the region

We have welcomed the statements made at the Arab, Islamic, American Summit in Riyadh against the Iranian regime's terrorist and destabilizing activities. Nevertheless, we emphasize that the ultimate solution to the crisis in the region and to confronting groups like ISIS lies in the overthrow of the Iranian regime by the Iranian people and Resistance.

Accordingly, to the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and countries in the region, we say:

Recognize the resistance of the Iranian people to overthrow the mullahs' religious dictatorship. Expel the regime from the U.N. and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and hand over Iran's seats to the Iranian people's Resistance.

1. Designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization and evict it from the entire region.

2. Khamenei and other leaders of the regime must face justice for human rights violations and for committing crimes against humanity, particularly for the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran and for their war crimes in the region.

The mullahs' time is up, the time has come to march forward.

I rely on your enormous power and on your restless and passionate quest for freedom and equality. I count on you, the women and youths of Iran, the Kurds, the Balouchis, the Arabs, Azeris, Turkomans, Lors and Bakhtiaries.

There is a power in you that has made the ruling dictatorship desperate in the face of your resistance and protests; there is a power in you which can certainly overthrow the religious fascist regime.

This excerpt is from the speech given by Maryam Rajavi at the Grand Gathering of the Iranian Resistance in Villepinte, Paris on July 1, 2017.



PHOTO: TME

political discourse in Iran today. In the recent sham elections, our slogan of "No to the executioner, no to the charlatan" ("*na Jallad, na Shaiyyad*") was widely embraced by the public to the extent that Khamenei reacted furiously, asking why the place of the executioner and the victims have been swapped.

Yes, the time has come for exposing the executioners ... they will be held to account before the Iranian nation.

What force is this alternative relying on? It is relying on an organized and united movement with thousands of trailblazing and selfless members ... It relies on political prisoners, who reaffirmed their support recently for this gathering from the depths of their cells and torture chambers.

It relies on women, workers, teachers, professionals and selfless youths. It relies on their unsparing love and generous financial support, those who borrow money and sell their houses and properties to help keep this Resistance stay independent, strong and resilient.

When a nation offers a political alternative, it means that it already possesses a major asset in its quest for freedom. Therefore, in its battle against the beast of religious tyranny, the Iranian nation is proud to have created a democratic alternative by way of resistance, enduring enormous suffering and making sacrifices. This decisive asset, a guide marker, did not exist at the time of the Shah. Otherwise, Khomeini could not have hijacked the Iranian people's 1979 Revolution and turn it against them and the peoples of the region.

An appropriate response to Iran's most significant schisms

Our unwavering belief in universal suffrage and the people's free choice, our commitment to the separation of religion and state, our emphasis on women's active and equal participation in political leadership, and our defense of the autonomy of various ethnic groups in the framework of Iran's territorial integrity, as well as our people's democratic

to prevent the regime's belligerence.

Two years ago, everyone saw that the clerical regime suffered a defeat at the hands of the Syrian opposition forces. If it were not for foreign air strikes, the regime would have been evicted from Syria altogether. Likewise, today, the Iranian regime lacks sufficient power to mobilize and send Iranians to Syria. It has placed the country's economy at the service of war in the region.

The flag-bearer of peace and freedom, defense of Syrians, and a non-nuclear Iran

Over the past 38 years, the mullahs engaged in war with Iraq for eight years, have been at war with the people of Syria for the last six years, and have pursued confrontation with the international community for more than ten years in their pursuit to build an atomic bomb.

In our view and in the view of the freedom-loving people of Iran, the Constitution of the ruling religious tyranny is illegitimate, discredited and void. Our

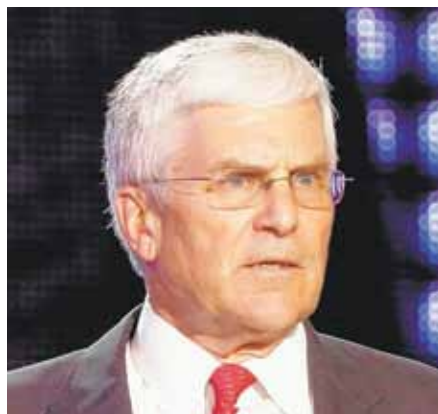


PHOTO: TME

Gen. George Casey

I can't tell you how moving it was for me personally to see the people

of Ashraf free, safe and prosperous. A commitment was made in 2004, and we were finally able to deliver on it, with the support of the Albanian government and the courage and perseverance of a lot of people.

Back to Iran. From the moment that I went in there, it was clear to me that Iran's objective was to stop the Iraqi people from building a free, democratic society that respected the rights of all Iraq's ethnic and sectarian groups.

And I watched them as they bought political support by contributing to Iraqi politicians and political organizations. I watched as they built public

support by providing economic aid to communities in the southern part of the country. And I watched as they actively trained Shia militias and fomented sectarian violence that swept Iraq from 2006 to 2007.

There could be no doubt that Iran was the principal accelerant of that sectarian violence and that they are directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of coalition forces and thousands of Iraqis.... So my experience tells me that they're not done. That this regime will continue to export terror and foment sectarian violence to accomplish their political objectives around Iraq,

in Syria, in Yemen and in Lebanon. And countries that use terror to achieve their political objectives are threats, not only to their internal populations but to the international community at large.

And today no government that supports and exports terror can become a productive player in our world. Change must come to Iran.

.....
Retired U.S. Army Gen. George Casey is a former chief of staff of the U.S. Army. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.

Iran cannot be permitted to threaten world peace



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER

Gen. Jack Keane

I'm absolutely honored to be here with you today. I have never been with a group who has had such a singular and overwhelming focus as you do. I'm proud to be among you.

We assemble today as people who

respect freedom and liberty, with one cause and one cause only, to free Iran. Since 1980, the mullahs have stated their strategic objective every single year: Spread the Islamic Revolution throughout the region. And to succeed at that, No. 1, drive the United States out of the region....

Iran is on the march in the region, encouraged and financed by the nuclear deal. Make no mistake about it.... Iran is building a land bridge from Iran, through Iraq, through Syria, through Lebanon, to the Mediterranean. It is their No. 1 strategic objective.

That is why Iran moved so quickly into Syria to prop up their client, the Assad regime. The facts are these: The Iranian generals run the civil war for the Syrian regime. They direct the ground campaign, and they direct the use of Syrian air power and selected use of Russian air power in support of the ground campaign. They make up the largest forces on the ground. Their generals lead it on

the ground. They have had some fairly significant casualties by the thousands, and they have had a number of generals killed, as well.

Just a few weeks ago, President Trump went to the Middle East and had a historic visit. He had 55 leaders from the entire region sitting in front of him in Riyadh, when he stood up and said the No. 1 strategic threat to you and to your people and to this region is Iran....

He said we must stand together in an alliance against this evil regime. That is historic. We have not had a president make a statement like that to leaders in the region since the Islamic Republic of Iran gained power in 1980, almost 38 years ago.

I'm hopeful and optimistic for two reasons. One is the resistance is growing, not only in size and scale, but in determination, dedication and conviction. And that is a credit to you and to all others who are a part of this movement.

And second, the United States government has already declared the Quds Force a foreign terrorist organization. I think the Trump government will declare the IRGC a terrorist organization.

The United States government will no longer appease or accommodate Iran, but will confront Iran. The United States government will not permit Iran to have nuclear weapons with ballistic missiles, which are not only a threat to the region but a threat to world peace. The United States government knows Iran ... is not capable of fundamental change. The United States government knows that Iran is evil to its core. The United States government, in my judgment, will support the people of Iran to change the regime. Free Iran. Free Iran.

.....
Retired U.S. Army General John "Jack" Keane is chairman of the board of the Institute for the Study of War. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME

Gen. James Conway

Good evening to the freedom-loving people of Iran, both here and in Albania. Much has been spoken at this conference about the idea of regime change. What does regime change look like? And how

do you know that you will be successful? What must you do to be successful?

Whether or not that change comes three months from now, a year from now, three years from now, those questions will remain the same and they must be addressed.

The key to regime change is the army — the 350,000 Iranian soldiers in the Iranian army. Why are they critical? Because those men, many of them inductees, are closest to the people on the street. They are the fathers and the sons and the brothers and the sisters of the people who are dying in the street, and they are most likely to be able to turn and resist supporting the government if they're having to kill their own people. We've seen it happen that way time and again.

How will it happen? It can happen with a peaceful demonstration that turns into conflict. The more successful the demonstration, the more likely people are to be shot.

Now those countries represented here, to include my own, are also critical to the equation. We cannot do what we did in 2009, which is exhibit a lack of moral courage and indecision and sit on our hands. Good people died in the streets in 2009 and we did nothing. I honestly think they were that close. I honestly think that the [Iranian] army was evaluating, "What should we do?" But the lack of support from other nations in America, in Europe, in the Middle East caused those people to feel very much alone and, in the end, they lost.

That cannot happen if those generals are to not risk their troops, not risk their families, not risk themselves. They have to feel like they can be supported and make a good decision for what is good for a free Iran.

I wish for you that the gods of freedom-loving people everywhere support your efforts. I encourage you. Your objective should be the overthrow of those ayatollahs who have created a dark period in Iranian history.

.....
Retired Gen. James Conway is a former commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. This excerpt is from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.



PHOTO: TME

10-point plan offers hope for justice



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER

Sir David Amess MP

For evil to prevail, all it needs is for good women and good men to do nothing. Now the British delegation joins with you today at this inspirational rally to make sure that something happens: On the platform, we have members of the House of Commons, members of the House of Lords. And our Parliament is the mother of all Parliaments, and we feel very strongly on democracy. But this year is different from past years in that the Iranian regime

— particularly its leader Khamenei — has been severely weakened. The mullahs are internally and externally very isolated. In Iran, society is in an explosive state. People are crying out in the streets for change. The country’s official opposition, the Iranian resistance, is expanding its activities inside the country. Internationally, it has emerged as the only democratic alternative to the theocratic regime. Today, we do not want to talk about condemnation of the mullahs’ crimes; we want to talk about regime change,

which is at long last within our grasp. We want to talk about a future Iran with Maryam Rajavi’s 10-point plan. The plan which gives freedom and human rights to all the people of Iran. Let us hope that, in the future, freedom and justice will be secured for the people of Iran and their vanguards, the PMOI members. Madame Rajavi, you have our full support. Sir David Anthony Andrew Amess is a Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom.



PHOTO: TME

A delegation of United Kingdom political leaders offered support for regime change in Iran.

Thousands of Albanians cheer for the Paris rally



PHOTO: TME

Pandeli Majko

We are so honored coming here in Paris in such a special space where East meets the West. Where East meets the West under the umbrella of the Iranian spirit, and we all together dream about the future.

We all together are here for a simple reason: Words are words; acts and facts speak more than words.

The Albanian acts are telling you, my friends, that all relations between Albanians and Iranians now have a very special quality. Our 2,700 people

that are part of the Albanian family, they are Albanian citizens. They are refugees that have come from Ashraf camp, but they are part of Albanian family.

These are the words that came from the heart of each of us, but the view that you have seen on the screen — thousands of people in Tirana applauding the meeting here today — speak more than everything, more than every speech, speak the truth, the real truth. That you never ever will be tired ...

You are the example of what can

happen when a man, when a woman, when a sister, when a parent, when the kids, believe to the relations with truth, believe to the freedom. Thank you very much.

.....
Former Albanian Prime Minister Pandeli Majko also served as Albania's Defense Minister and a Member of Parliament. This excerpt is taken from his remarks to the July 1 rally in Paris.

Strive for a vote for the future of free Iran



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER

Chairman Fatmir Mediu

It is a great pleasure and honor to be with you today here once more. Now is time to stand all together and do the best for free Iran and help that we all together work for the people of Iran.

I've had the privilege to get to know your wonderful and great leader, Madame Rajavi. You have a leader that knows the way, a leader that goes the way, a leader that shows the way. Her actions have inspired you and us to dream more, to learn more, to do more, and to become more. Free Iran.

To love your nation and to love Iran as your family. More I get to know you, more I love you. The more I get to know

your history, my heart is filled with pain but also my spirit is filled with hope and all together to work for the future. The more I meet and listen to you, I see the future belongs to the people that fight for the right cause. God of life and liberty is a God that we all have to pray.

Your fight for life is your fight for what God has given to you. Your fight for freedom is the fight to meet and fulfill God's will. Your fight for pursuit of happiness is what godly people have to build the future with what God has offered and provided to us, that we have to work all together.

You are fighting for liberty, for life, and to build your future. Please, stand, keep your face always towards the sunshine

and the shadows will fall behind you. And I want to build that bridge of Madame Rajavi about the Declaration of Independence and the member of Congress, [Rep.] Garrett.... That to secure the right that government is instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of governed.

You are the people that have to give the vote for free Iran; you have to decide with your vote what the future of Iran will be. God bless you all. God bless Iran.

.....
Albanian Republican Party Chairman Fatmir Mediu has served as Albania's Minister of Defense and Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration.



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER



PHOTO: TME



PHOTO: TME

Iran's current leaders are not 'moderates'

John Baird

Madame Rajavi and friends, it is a distinct honor and privilege for me to join you in the fight for freedom and in the fight against religious fascism.

The people of Iran demand and deserve better than the brutal repression that they face at the hands of the mullahs in Tehran. Increasingly, the good news is that the West is abandoning the failed policies of engagement, of accommodation and of appeasement. These policies have failed the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom.

We must also put lie to the myth that [Iranian President Hassan] Rouhani and company are moderates. Look at their record: Eighteen hundred executions. Increased support for terrorism in the region and beyond. Brutal military support against Iran's neighbors, and responsibility for crimes against humanity in Syria.

Rouhani has ... been a leader in this regime for 38 long years. We must speak out strongly against the legitimacy of the recent elections. They are a farce. They are a sham; they are a fraud. Only friends and supporters of the regime were able to stand for election, and no women were allowed to run for president.

Instead of engagement, accommodation and appeasement, there is a better way.

The time has come for the Iranian



PHOTO: TME

Former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird led the Canadian delegation to the Free Iran rally in France on July 1.

people to take charge of their own future. The time has come for regime change in Iran. The crowd at this rally today is the best indication of the desire for the Iranian people to seek a new path. Let freedom-loving people everywhere support the aspirations of the Iranian people.

I was so thrilled to hear U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson proclaim, "We must support the elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government." And in conclusion, I'd like to acknowledge the courageous leadership of all of you in this hall today and especially

the courageous leadership of Madame Rajavi. Thank you for your courage, and next year let's meet in Tehran. Free Iran.

.....
Former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird also served as a Member of the House of Commons in Canada.

Regime change portends the end of religious extremism



PHOTO: VALTER SCHLEDER

Dr. Bernard Kouchner

We are all in agreement that you deserve to be free, independent and democratic. We are that for sure. Well, unfortunately, the people of Iran have been suppressed for 38 years. Thirty-eight years. Suppressed by your theocratic regime, Islamic extremism and fundamentalism.

Meanwhile, we are coming. Why?

Because in current form, it started with the regime of the ayatollahs. The regime of the ayatollahs is the base of extremism. So the people of Iran are very right and deserve to get at least a better regime. They deserve to have freedom and democracy. They deserve to have free elections through which they can elect their true representatives and not those who have been elected by the supreme leader.

Change in Iran will open the way to end the extremism in all the regions — the extremism born in the name of Islam throughout the region. This is not because Islam is a good ground for terrorism. These people are using Islam as a tool for extremism and murdering.

You have not only your role and a necessity of changing Iran, but changing Iran is certainly the beginning of a real change for democracy in the whole region.

I want to also congratulate Madame Rajavi because it's always a lesson, and if I was very imprudent, I would say a lesson of charm, but I can't say so. It's a lesson of political truths, talking in the name of the mujahideen, Madame

Rajavi is a good example. She is not only a good example but the beginning of a real perspective to change the regime for democracy. An Islamic lady to be president of Iran should be the beginning of a huge, immense change. So another time, Madame Rajavi, congratulations and thank you. Muslims who are calling for gender equality, separation of religion and state — we have the

example of what Madame Rajavi said. And another time for the third time, thank you.

.....
Bernard Kouchner, M.D., is a former French minister of foreign affairs and founder of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) and Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World).



PHOTO: TME

'We must do everything we can' for freedom

Excerpts from video messages by Members of Congress



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Sen. Robert Menendez, New Jersey Democrat

Every day, you're a voice for the voiceless, you fight for the rights of Iranians who remain silenced under a suppressive, brutal regime. I'm proud to stand with you and share your vision of a brighter future for Iran. A future in which all Iranians live their lives without fear and enjoy a thriving democracy that respects human rights and the rule of law.

Across the region, Iran continues to threaten the national security interests of the United States. It continues to pursue a belligerent ballistic missiles program. It continues to align itself with Putin and it continues to prop up Bashar Assad's brutal regime in Syria. And even as it continues to supply terrorist across the region with money, weapons and resources, the people of Iran continue to suffer under a repressive regime with absolutely no respect for the basic human rights of its people.

We must do everything we can to support the [Iranian people] in their quest for freedom. Students and scholars, artists and political prisoners, men and women who believe in the rights of all people to basic human dignity.

Thank you for coming together and making their voices heard. I'm proud to stand with you in this fight for justice

and human rights for peace and security and, above all else, for a free Iran.

Sen. Menendez serves on the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; and Finance.

Sen. John Boozman, Arkansas Republican

I'm deeply troubled by the increased human rights violations in Iran, along with the regime's continuing nuclear ambitions. I remain staunchly opposed to the Iranian nuclear deal that was negotiated under the previous administration. I was proud to recently support additional sanctions legislation in the Senate that will penalize the regime for its non-nuclear-related activities and abuses.

Yours is a noble cause and it's very important that we continue the dialogue



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on this matter. I hope it is a productive gathering. I wish you the best of luck, and I assure you that Americans stand with you in the path for democracy, freedom and human dignity.

Sen. Boozman serves on the Senate Committees on Appropriations; Budget; Environmental and Public Works; Veterans' Affairs; and Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.



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House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat

The American people stand in solidarity with the Iranian people in your mission to build a democratic, free and non-nuclear Iran.

We stand with you to support the right of every Iranian man, woman and child to speak freely, without fear of persecution or arrest. We stand with you to support Iranian women, students and minorities as they drive progress towards a more democratic and free country.

We stand with you to support the aspirations of Iran's young people. We stand with you in your efforts to advance peace and stability in Iran. And we stand with you to denounce the horrific 1988 massacre of political prisoners by the death committee.

The treatment of women is especially concerning. Every country benefits when it recognizes talents and contributions of women and girls to our future.

Minority Leader Pelosi represents the 12th Congressional District of California and has served in Congress since 1987.

House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce, California Republican

My colleagues and I are deeply concerned about the ongoing threat posed by the Iranian regime which brutally mistreats its own people and exports violence abroad by sponsoring terrorism. The regime also continues to limit free speech and foster violent discrimination against religious minorities.

During the election this spring, the Iranian people were given a false choice



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between a hardliner and a hard hardliner, both of them handpicked by the ayatollah. What does it say when close to 3,000 executions took place during the first term of the so-called reformer, Hassan Rouhani?

My colleagues and I in Congress will continue to press for sanctions on senior Iranian officials involved in these human rights abuses in this past year.

The people of Iran deserve a government that treats them with dignity and respect. Which is why the U.S. Congress will continue to push back against the regime's cruel and illicit behaviors. I thank you.

Chairman Royce has represented the 39th Congressional District of California since 1992.



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'The Iranian people deserve better'



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Rep. Eliot Engel, New York Democrat

The government of Iran must stop imprisoning political prisoners. It must stop and release all its Americans. It must stop being the No. 1 sponsor of terrorism around the world.

The Iranian people again deserve to be free and, by your rally today, you are sending a clear message to the world that we will not stop until Iran is completely free and the Iranian people have the freedom that all of us hold so dearly all around the world.

Iran has been the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism and has worked with all the worst nations of the world, in terms of the human decency and the human well-being.

The Iranian people deserve better, and that's why I support the gathering today.

Free Iran to the great Iranian people. That's what we all want to see. And that's why we work together and congratulations for your courage.

Rep. Engel is the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas Democrat

I applaud all of you in Paris gathering today to say no to Islamic fundamentalism and to advocate for democracy in Iran. It is very important for us to be united, very important for us to stand together. And I know the strength, the honor, the love, and as well, the respect for freedom and democracy [you have].

Our efforts must now be focused on freeing the people of Iran. And to demand justice for our brothers and sisters inside Iran. I'm so glad that we are free, in the court decision here in the United States has indicated that you in fact are promoting and supporting democracy and freedom as well.

That is why my colleagues and I in the

United State Congress have co-sponsored House Resolution 188, which calls for my country and the United Nations to do the right thing. To hold accountable the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran. We will continue to work with you. As you know, many of those criminals who had a direct role in that crime against humanity are still serving and unfortunately in the highest levels of the Iranian government.

I want to salute and thank my sister, Maryam Rajavi, who again I had the privilege of meeting to call as she has done, to call attention to the plight of Iranian women and minorities. She has stood fast, she has been strong.



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Maryam, it's so wonderful to know of your leadership and your fight for women and families and your leadership of free people. Thank you for your 10-point plan for a free and democratic Iran as a model for the entire Middle East. Your plans call for the ballot box to serve as the only measure of legitimacy for a future government in Iran. You are absolutely right. The precious right to vote is something so precious to all of us here in the United States. So let us work together to help transform Iran, this beautiful nation, into a nation that respects the rights of all people, the rights of journalists and human rights activists, families, men and women and children, college students, everyone in a nation where its citizens can flourish in freedom.

Rep. Jackson Lee is the Ranking Member on the House Judiciary subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, California Republican

I want to make sure that Maryam Rajavi and all of you and the MEK know that I'm one of your team. I'm someone who wants to work with you in the future



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to make sure that the people of Iran are given a choice as to what government they are going to have.

This mullah dictatorship has thus corrupted that society. This mullah dictatorship has been financing terrorism. This mullah dictatorship has suppressed the people of Iran themselves. It's up to us to stick together. The people around the world, especially those of you and the MEK, with the rest of us in the outside world, stand together to what? Not reform the mullahs. They are not going to be reformed. We need regime change.

The United States should be doing everything we can to support those people who believe in democracy and want to eliminate their oppressors and the mullah regime — this radical Islamic regime that does not reflect the heart and soul of the people of Iran.

When Iran is free of this mullah domination, we know that the people there in Iran, like the people of MEK, are a step above. They are educated people,



PHOTO: TME

there are people there who are very responsible, and have very sophisticated business, scientific endeavors, etc. Well, we have one obstacle in our way, that's the mullahs' regime.

Today, I'm very pleased to join you in Paris with holding our fists high and the people of Iran deserve to be free. And the people of the United States and other countries of the world that are free countries should stand with those people in Iran who are struggling for freedom.

Rep. Rohrabacher is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.



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Rep. Brad Sherman, California Democrat

I'm especially honored to know that Madame Rajavi is in the audience.

I look forward to a democratic, secular Iran that all civilized nations will view as a worthy partner. The Islamic Republic regime is among the worse human rights violators in the world.

Human rights abuses are not new in Iran. In 1988, Iran executed thousands of political prisoners. That is why I co-sponsored recently a resolution condemning the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 1988 massacre and calling for justice for the victims.

I want to commend Madame Rajavi for her advocacy of democracy and human and women's rights in Iran. Only the ballot box determines who holds power, when both women and men can speak freely and parties can debate. Only when there is a secular government that allows all to practice the religion of their choice, only then would the Iranian people be able to govern the country for the benefit of all.

Rep. Sherman is Ranking Member of House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

A call for justice for victims of 1988 massacre

Rep. Steve Cohen, Tennessee Democrat

To my friends at the Iran freedom rally, I send greetings. As the co-chair of the Congressional Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus, it's an honor to greet you today.

I have long been a supporter of the Iranian people for a free Iran. I strongly support an Iran that is democratic, secular and non-nuclear. The Iranian people deserve a government that respects their



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fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, and gender and religious equality.

I continue to condemn the Iranian regime's abuses of human rights and its support of terrorism. I'm sponsor of a resolution that condemns the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and calling for justice for the victims.

To my Iranian-American friends, thank you for being here and for your unwavering support for the fight for democracy and human rights in Iran. Your courage is an inspiration to me and all members of Congress.

.....
Rep. Cohen is the Ranking Member on the House Judiciary subcommittee on The Constitution and Civil Justice.



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Rep. Tom McClintock, California Republican

The Iranian liberation movement has continued to grow and spread throughout the years. As the tyranny of the mullahs has become more oppressive, the international resistance to it has become more resolute. The more the story of Iran is told, of its proud ancient heritage of freedom and civilization, and of its current curse of despotism and terror, the more the world has rallied to your cause.

We have seen this in the liberation of the MEK freedom fighters trapped in Iraq....

Today, the world is awakening to the danger of a nuclear-armed Iranian regime.... Gone are the days when our government freed billions of dollars for the Iranian regime to finance its terrorist operations around the world. The next popular uprising in Iran will be met not by ambivalence from the United States, but by its wholehearted support, both moral and material.... There will be no more pallets of cash for the mullahs, no more undermining the position of the Iranian resistance, and no more patience for the atrocities of Islamic extremists.

.....
Rep. McClintock is chairman of the House Natural Resources subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Rep. Paul Gosar, Arizona Republican

It is my pleasure to wish you a successful conference and to thank you for all your efforts to reform Iran.

Your platforms respecting human rights, women and religious minorities are badly needed in Iran.

Your hard work and patience will pay off.

History is on your side, so stay the course. The eyes of the world watch your work and appreciate your efforts.



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.....
Rep. Gosar is chairman of the House Natural Resources subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources.

Rep. Judy Chu, California Democrat

From here, in Washington D.C., to all of you in Paris, I want you to know that I stand in solidarity with you in your fight for freedom, democracy and human rights in Iran.

I'm so impressed by the many students, scholars, former political prisoners, women's right advocates and other leaders who have joined together once again for this important cause.



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Like you, what I truly want is for all Iranians to be able to return to a free and democratic Iran that respects human rights. That begins by opposing this repressive regime.

Iran may have just had an election, but we know power still rests with the clerics.

And under Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran continues to be a world leader in cruel and inhumane punishments. Hundreds are senselessly executed every year....

That is why I thank you for speaking out against Iran's human rights abuses. We cannot let up. I believe that the Iran nuclear agreement is a historical opportunity, but it cannot be a lifeline to Iran's repressive regime.

So long as Iran's leaders continue to kill their own people and support terrorists who kill others, I will continue to support sanctions and pressure. I strongly support your work to establish a free and democratic Iran.... not one that funds terror or threatens world peace, with a dangerous nuclear program.

.....
Rep. Chu serves on the House Committees on Ways and Means, and Small Business.



PHOTO: TME

STATEMENT OF U.S. LEADERSHIP SUPPORT FOR A FREE IRAN

This is an excerpt of a June 29, 2017 Declaration, which was delivered by members of the American delegation to the Free Iran Rally, held July 1, 2017.

With a long bipartisan history of serving the American people, we stand together today to express our views regarding United States policy on Iran and the Middle East. We do so in solidarity with thousands of Iranians gathered in Paris on July 1, 2017 for the annual rally of the Iranian opposition.

The Iranian regime bears historic responsibility for the instability and crisis in the region today. The regime has preserved its grip on power for 38 years due to widespread repression and blatant disregard for human rights at home and the export of extremism and terrorism abroad....

Tehran has been responsible for a series of deadly terrorist attacks against the United States. These include the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut killing 241 along with bombings of the U.S. Embassy and later the Embassy Annex, the Khobar Tower bombing in Saudi Arabia in 1996 killing 19 U.S. Airmen, and, more recently, aiding and abetting the deaths of hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq....

Four years of experience with President Hassan Rouhani has established that this regime is incapable of fundamental change or moderation.... His Justice Minister is guilty of a crime against humanity — directly authorizing the mass executions of 30,000 prisoners in August-September 1988. His Defense Minister oversaw the creation of Hizballah in Lebanon and directed the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Barracks at Beirut Airport. Our colleagues in Washington, and the American media, must stop referring to such people as reformers or moderates. The Iranian people have every right to demand an end to the clerical dictatorship, and take responsibility for their own governance.

The Tehran regime is uniquely vulnerable. The infrastructure of the economy has been neglected for decades, and most of the private sector has been taken over by religious foundations and military holding companies. There is a fierce power struggle within the regime....

We believe that change is within reach, not only because the regime is becoming engulfed in crisis, but also because there is a large and growing movement organizing for positive change. A viable organization capable of ending the nightmare of religious dictatorship by establishing freedom and democracy, tolerance, and gender equality has steadily gained visibility, popular support and international recognition. Under the leadership of Maryam Rajavi, a Muslim woman standing for gender equality, which is an antidote to Islamic fundamentalism and extremism, it is working every day to bring about a tolerant, non-nuclear Iranian republic based on separation of religion and state, that will uphold the rights of all.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran, pursuing its long journey that began more than a half-century ago, has the vision, leadership and courage to lead the way to the creation of a new Iran. The obligation to stand up to this corrupt and illegitimate regime and say “no more” rests with the Iranian people alone, but the international community must meet its responsibility by condemning the Mullahs’ oppression and embracing the Iranian people’s aspirations for a free and prosperous Iran accepted and respected around the world. Today, we join with the Iranian people and colleagues from many other countries in pledging our support to this great cause.

Amb. J. Kenneth Blackwell – Former U.S. Representative, United Nations Human Rights Commission

Hon. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., – Former Special Envoy and Assistant Secretary of State

Hon. John Bolton – Former U.N. Ambassador

Col. (Ret.) Thomas V. Cantwell – Former U.S. Military Commander for Camp Ashraf, U.S. Army

Gen. (Ret.) George W. Casey, Jr. – Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff and Commander of Multinational Forces – Iraq, U.S. Army

Linda Chavez – Former Assistant to the President for Public Liaison; Chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity

Gen. (Ret.) James T. Conway – Former Commandant U.S. Marine Corps

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) David Deptula – Former Deputy Chief of Staff For Intel, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, U.S. Air Force

Alan Dershowitz – Professor of Law, Emeritus, Harvard Law School

Hon. Louis J. Freeh – Former Director, FBI

Hon. Newt Gingrich – Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Marc Ginsberg – Former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco

Hon. Rudy Giuliani – Former New York City Mayor, Presidential Candidate

Gen. (Ret.) James L. Jones – Former U.S. Marine Corps Commandant, NATO Commander, National Security Advisor to the President

Hon. Robert Joseph – Former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

Hon. Patrick Kennedy – Former Rhode Island Congressman

Hon. Joseph I. Lieberman – Former Connecticut Senator

Col. (Ret.) Wesley M. Martin – Former U.S. Military Commander for Camp Ashraf, U.S. Army

Hon. R. Bruce McCollm – President, Institute for Democratic Strategies

Col. (Ret.) Gary Morsch, M.D., M.P.H. – Former Senior Medical Officer at Ashraf, U.S. Army Reserve

Hon. Michael B. Mukasey – Former U.S. Attorney General

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) David D. Phillips – Former U.S. Military Commander For Camp Ashraf, U.S. Army

Hon. Mitchell B. Reiss (Ret.) – Former Ambassador, Former Special Envoy to the Northern Ireland Peace Process

Hon. Edward Rendell – Former Pennsylvania Governor, Democratic National Committee Chairman

Hon. Tom Ridge – Former Pennsylvania Governor, Department of Homeland Security Secretary

Hon. John Sano – Former Deputy Director CIA, National Clandestine Service

Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan – Retired Federal Judge

Hon. Raymond Tanter – Former Personal Representative of Secretary of Defense to Arms Control Negotiations

Hon. Robert Torricelli – Former New Jersey Senator



#FREEIRAN

WE ARE THE FUTURE OF IRAN

