



A Grand Coalition of Iranian Opposition Groups - Abroad

In Defense of Human Rights & Democracy in Iran

“Declaration of Facts”

Statement

The Islamic regime of Iran, after forty years of isolation is now focusing its attention in attracting foreign investments in Iran, especially from Europe. With an economy in shambles, unemployment at a staggering high rate and a population disenchanted with the “Islamist” policies at home and abroad, the regime is trying to open new avenues for its survival, by sacrificing on national interests of the nation and granting concessions to European, Russian and Chinese entities.

The Iranian people, young or old, men or women, any religious minority or Muslims have endured years of total isolation and repression at the hands of the most backward regime in the area. Disrespect for the most basic civil liberties sacred to all and complete denial of freedom of press, assembly and speech has been the motto of the clerics in Iran. Any voice of opposition and chants for democracy and desire for a civil society is silenced immediately by incarceration, torture and murder of opponents by the ruling regime. Writers, intellectuals, newspaper editors and student leaders are kidnapped and imprisoned or killed upon voicing their discontent.

The Iranian nation is seeking genuine reforms in the form of government, leading to a genuine democratic system of governance in Iran. **INLF** has structured and organized a common platform of understanding and cooperation amongst the peace loving people and political entities, concerned with the repeated violations of human rights and the political developments in Iran.

*At present time, the Islamic regime of Iran, through the use of systematic terror and intimidation of opponents **has lost its legitimacy to be the representative of the Iranian people** and we need to bring this matter to the attention of the world community for the defense of people in Iran. Iranians believe that the volatile situation in the region demand immediate attention by the international community. Although the present regime is trying to legitimize its power through its sham legislative bodies created, or adopting a new tactic on Nuclear Energy policies, it should be noted however that the supreme ruler, Vally-Faghih, has the veto power over the government or any law! Therefore, at present, any agreement, loan or investments by foreign organizations in Iran will not only give credibility to this regime but it will be in defiance of the majority of people. These investments will only prolong the rule of the Islamic regime, and its support for terrorist activities in the region.*

The Islamic Regime of Iran with their illegitimate rule in the country, has tried to influence the politicians in Europe and the United States, and fund the terrorist activities, from Malaysia to Argentina, Germany to Middle Eastern countries and the U.S. to pursue its subversive activities, and fueling the turmoil in the Middle East, to create political instability in the region. It is time for the democratic countries to protect their own national interests by cutting diplomatic ties with this illegitimate regime, and recognize the will of people in Iran towards establishing a democratic system of governance. Any negotiations, deals or agreements, political or economic, open or secret, with the existing illegitimate Islamic regime will only prolong Islamic regime’s power-grip on the nation, and is therefore, condemned and declared **VOID** by Iranian people.

Facts about the Islamic Republic's Record on Freedom & Human Rights

- **On Revolution, Religion and Rights**

Since the revolution of 1979, the cleric elite has ruled in Iran, establishing an “Islamic Republic” based on the principle of Velayat-e-Faqih, or “guardianship of *Jurisconsult*”, which is a totalitarian and autocratic form of governance. The clerics insist that this guardianship is necessary to guide the Iranian people towards justice and virtue defined in Islamic terms. The clerics claim a monopoly on the right to interpret Islamic texts. In the name of Islam, the Islamic government has violated the Iranian People’s human rights for more than four decades.

- **On the Rights to Free Association and Expression**

The clerics have banned associations, parties, press and unions except those pledging to support the principles of Velayat-e-Faqih. The Ministry of Information and Security monitors the activities of groups it suspects may threaten clerical supremacy. The government has even impeded efforts by artists, lawyers, physicians and writers to form professional associations. Those articulating views outside the state-sanctioned Islamic discourse do so at their peril. During the last year, numerous intellectuals have been murdered, while others have disappeared mysteriously. Among them were activists Daryoush and Parvaneh Forouhar, Essayist – poet Mohammad Mokhtari, writer and scholar Mohammad Jafar Pouyandeh, Editor Majid Sharif, General Rahimi, General Jahanbani, and many students and journalists. These murders provoked the loudest public outcry, because of the brutality involved. The Forouhars, for example, were stalked for weeks, stabbed repeatedly on 22 November 1998. In the aftermath of the crimes, the government declared that...”a few official agents within its own Ministry of Information and Intelligence, were directly involved in planning and execution of these murders”. Yet, no one has been officially charged or indicted for the crimes, and the suspected murderers were freed upon the embarrassing results of recent parliamentary elections.

- **On the Rights of Religious Minorities**

The Islamic Regime has harassed Iran’s Christian, Bahai and Jewish minorities. Besides desecrating their holy sites, the government inhibits their religious gatherings as well as their travel outside the country, or attending schooling. These groups are routinely accused of being agents of the Western powers and Israel, despite their historical roots in the Persian plateau and surrounding areas. Iran’s Bahai’s in particular have confronted a worst fate. Persecuted as heretics, the clerics have confiscated their property, arrested them on groundless charges, deprived them of higher education and killed them in large numbers. Consequently, most Bahai’s have fled Iran; those staying in Iran live in constant fear.

- **On the Rights of Ethnic Minorities**

The clerics have obscured Iran’s ethnic-cultural and linguistic diversity, claiming that the majority of Iranians are Muslims first and foremost. The central government has used force to quell ethnic unrest in different parts of the country, namely Baluchistan-Sistan, Khuzistan, and Kurdistan provinces. Not coincidentally, many residents in these provinces are Sunni Muslims, while most Iranians are Shi’as. The clerics have subjected these minorities to religious re-education, “Shi’izing” them and even destroying their mosques.

- **On the Form of Government**

Iran is ruled by three separate form or apparatus of governing. A supreme leader and his own shadow-cabinet that are actively pursuing all subversive activities across the globe, and negotiating “Deals” with foreign powers in secret, or reject any agreement its façade government might arrange. Then there is a judiciary system with their own independent rulings and financial dealings! And lastly, a puppet government to serve as a front or window dressing towards the world community, with no real power of financial control over the fate of the country.

- **On the Rights of Women**

The clerics have forcibly veiled Iranian female, denying them access to unilateral divorce, sole custody of their children, higher education, certain professions, and legal resources through the judicial system. In addition, Iran’s Parliament has signed into law legislation to segregate hospitals along gender lines and to forbid female unveiled images from appearing in print!

In the past years, women have been stoned to death for adultery charges, a medieval law practiced regularly by the Islamic regime of Iran.

State sanctioned patriarchy has filtered into the Iranian society at large, as witnessed by the government attacks on universities to silence the students, male or female alike. Islamic Vigilantes claiming to protect the government interests beat these students, stripped off their clothes and took them into the center of the city to hurl insults at them publicly. The initial government response to such incidents are to hide them from the domestic and international press.

- **On the Rights to Subsistence and Socio-economic Development**

With the population hovering over 75 million and almost 55 percent of that under the age of 30, the Iranian people are experiencing unemployment and inflation rates of 35 and 45 percent, respectively. Despite promises to the contrary, the ruling clerics have failed to diversify Iran’s economy, which remains primarily dependent on oil exports and is thus vulnerable to vagaries of the global market.

- **On Fear, Faith and Freedom**

In short, **INLF** intends to alert the international community to the Islamic Republic’s human rights abuses. The Islamic Republic’s rule is based more on fear of the state’s coercive apparatus than on faith they profess. The clerics have misused faith to justify behavior that violates both the spirit of Islam and established international human rights values. Despite their economic woes and isolation in the world, the Iranian people - Muslim or non-Muslims, Persian or ethnic minorities, women or men, poor or wealthy - know that they are entitled to pursue human dignity and live in freedom. The international community must recognize that Iranian people are striving to vindicate their human rights, need every assistance toward their goal.

In the name of Humanity and Justice

Pleading for your support

“Position Paper”

Ever escalating turmoil in the Middle East, which is being fueled by the terrorist regime of Iran, is the major source of political instability in the region. The grave political situation in the area, which is endangering the well being of nations and the interests of the free world can not and will not be resolved unless the roots of the problem - The rule of “Fadayeen Islam”, which is another branch of Moslem Brotherhood in Iran, are terminated. Peace and political stability in the civilized world is endangered by on-going support of the state terrorism being conducted by the illegitimate “Islamic Regime” of Iran. A popular democratic government in Iran, which would be a true representative of the people, could contribute to the world peace and political stability of the region.

We condone to the Iranian sovereign rights in defending their interests by deciding on the type of technology or political structure to adopt, provided the people have the freedom of choice, discussions, and expressing their view points in a secular democratic environment. While political leaders are imprisoned and tortured for their peaceful opposition, or being assassinated for organizing an opposition to the regime, or journalists are being murdered for voicing the public opinion, Iranian nation does not have the privilege of participating in a peaceful dialog to discuss the faith of the country, whether it is nuclear energy or fueling the terrorist activities in the neighboring countries. The recent sham elections in Iran were a manifestation of the fear of the Islamic Regime in listening to the voice of the people.

We are asking all freedom loving people of the world to assist the Iranian nation in their quest to establish a secular democratic system of governance and free all political prisoners, students and journalists alike. We do not advocate a military solution or even economic sanctions on the suffering people, which hinders any attempt by the Iranian people in their political struggle to implement democracy in Iran. We strongly advocate a major reform in the charters of the United Nation to apply **Political Sanctions** against non-democratic regimes that are not true representative of their people. Iranian people demand a free and democratic election in Iran, with support of the United Nations.