

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson (D-TX)

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I am Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, this conference is so important that in the midst of my duties here in the United States Congress in the 18th congressional district, I thought it was so very important to salute the 2021 free Iran conference, because we want to free Iran. And we want the democracy that is necessary to empower the women, children, youth and families to say enough is enough.

We demand democracy. Thank you to Maryam Rajavi, who has stood with her 10-point plan to lay out the role that Iran should be playing in protecting Iranian citizens. Thank you, for those who stood against Camp Ashraf, and all of the camps that were detrimental to the people of Iran. I'm excited about the fact that you're holding this conference.

Let me thank the President of the United States, Joe Biden, who understands the value of human rights and your fight, you should never give up your fight. The late John Lewis who came here with me understands that the people who are dissidents, and standing for democracy should never give up, never give out and never give in you who are resisting must never give up, never give out and never give in.

Thank you to my sister for the opportunity for the world to see. I was glad to be part of the fight to take you and the organization off the terrorists list. We made that fight, and we were successful. You are a free and democratic organization who brings about the idea of freedom. I was glad to support H Res 118. To be able to ensure that the world knows the story of the freedom fighters in Iran, not violent, but fighting for democracy. And it is important that our president, President Joe Biden, and the vice president Kamala Harris, have stood up for human rights.

Republicans and Democrats have stood on the record of knowing what an important message you sister Rajavi have, thank you for leading thank you for being unafraid. Thank you for bringing us together, you must stand united because a house divided against itself, just like in the United States will never stand.

We are the United States of America standing with those who believe in democracy in Iran. It is so important again, to reemphasize on it, I am to be here at the 2021 conference. I am sorry, I can't be with you. But I am here in spirit. And I am here to be able to commemorate, celebrate, salute and honor, that democracy be spread around the world, that free people are able to speak about freedom, that you're not denied. If you are a dissident, if you want change, Iran should understand that the change is nonviolently coming. It is coming because the young people are willing to stand up for democracy.

And they're reading and understanding the 10-point plan. So let me close and simply say it is an honor to be able to stand with you, those who love democracy. I love democracy. Just a few weeks ago in the United States of America. We announced my legislation that was introduced to create Juneteenth. What is June T, it is acknowledgement that we had slaves in the United States, but that they were free. It is about freedom, emancipation, and liberation. That is what I believe in. So, as you do your conference in 2021, I hope that you will speak to the issues of liberation, emancipation and freedom for the people of Iran who want freedom and they want democracy. We will get that because you can never deny a free people their right to democracy. Thank you, Madam Maryam Rajavi, for your leadership and all that you do as a leader of the free people of Iran. God bless you, and a free Iran and God bless the United States of America.