



FREEIRAN

MARCH FOR REGIME CHANGE BY IRANIANS

THE STATE DEPARTMENT & THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC JUNE 21, 2019

www.oiac.org



Address by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi,

the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

March in Solidarity with the Uprising and the Iranian Resistance for Regime Change

June 21, 2019

Washington, D.C.

Greetings to you, to the elected representatives of the American people who are here, and to personalities and long-time friends and supporters of the Iranian people's Resistance for democracy and human rights. They have all come today to stand with you.

Congratulations on the anniversary of the resistance, June 20, the Day of Martyrs and Political Prisoners, and on the anniversary of the founding of the Army of Freedom; a movement that has unceasingly forged ahead in all theatres for four decades, relying on its own toil, struggle and sacrifice.

To fend off the people's fury, for forty years, the murderous mullahs have pointed their fingers at the U.S. as the enemy. But we were not deceived. As the Iranian Resistance' Leader Massoud Rajavi has said: "When we declared 'down with the reactionaries,' we stood by it. We have and will continue to declare that what we seek is the regime's overthrow, overthrow, overthrow."

Now, the people of Iran cry out in every street and alley that "our enemy is right here; the mullahs lie when they say America is the enemy."

The absurd comments made by the mullahs and their Foreign Minister about the so-called "B Team" in the United States was a bid to hide their own "Bomb team": From developing a nuclear bomb to bombings and planting of mines on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, to the explosions, drones and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and targeting of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

When the mullahs are not held accountable and do not pay a price for their actions, they become more emboldened and intensify their belligerence. Launching Katyusha missiles in Mosul and Basra and the missile attack against a US drone are very telling examples of this fact.

For the past forty years, the regime has persistently waged wars against the people of Iran and the world. Still, regime apologists and those who benefit from its continued rule feign concern for war. They use this as a pretext to dissuade the world from adopting any form of decisiveness, and instead urge appeasement of the ruling murderers in Iran.

The main victims, however, are the people of Iran. The experience of the past 40 years has demonstrated that the mullahs' theocratic regime is incapable of any reform or change of behavior. Indeed, as a (Persian) saying goes, "a viper will never give birth to a dove." Khamenei says that change in the regime's behavior is tantamount to regime change.

Consider the American Declaration of Independence. The question before George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and their comrades and supporters was the same. And, similarly, our answer is the same: To resist and fight until victory.

Three months ago, for the first time in the past 70 years, the President of the United States in his Nowruz (Persian New Year) message to the people of Iran attested to the fact that:
"The Iranian people desire to reclaim their country's proud history, expressive culture, and rightful place on the world stage. They deserve a government that is accountable to them and that treats them with dignity and respect."

He emphasized: "We pledge never to turn a deaf ear to the calls of the Iranian people for freedom, and we will never forget their ongoing struggle for human rights."

Yes, we do not want anything more than freedom and human rights, which will of



course also open the way for us toward development and justice. This will ensue peace and security in Iran and the Middle East; an Iran free of religious fascism, a non-nuclear Iran and an Iran without terrorism and belligerence.

The religious dictatorship is a paper tiger when it comes to facing off with the Iranian Resistance. And its fate is no different from the fate of the Shah's dictatorship. This is the verdict of history and the yearning of the people of Iran. *(Excerpts)*

Congressional Supports

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA)

Hello, I'm Brad Sherman from California's best named city, Sherman Oaks. And with me here is my daughter, Molly Sherman, who is beginning to learn how we need to fight for human rights around the world.

This is a regime known for its mass executions, its jailing of journalists, its fueling of extremism around the region. And Iranians have stood up. At great risk to themselves, they have shouted, "No Gaza, No Lebanon, No Syria, My Life For Iran." We stand in solidarity with brave Iranians who are fighting for a new chapter in this great nation's history. This new chapter will be written by Iranians, not by Americans. Democracy will come to Iran from Iran, not from U.S. military intervention.

This regime may be on its last legs. It is acting with desperation. Desperate to distract people from its own corruption. **I want to also take this opportunity to commend Madame Rajavi for her advocacy for democracy, women's rights, and minority rights in Iran.**

Democracy and equality are not just principles we hold dear, they are rights that belong to people and we uphold these ideals, we uphold them around the world and across Iran. I am the chief Democratic sponsor of House Res. 374, a resolution supporting the people of Iran, free expression, and condemning the Iranian regime for its deprivation for human rights.

I have been dedicated to helping those who are trying to achieve democracy in Iran, whether it be in the meeting with the Prime minister of Albania to make sure that Iranian exiles there are protected, whether it be to fight against hostage taking by the Iranian regime. I look forward to joining all with you as an observer in the next step when we will see a free election in Iran. (*Excerpts*)



Congressional Supports

Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA)

Thank you all. Thank you each and every one of you for being here today. You know, the Iranian freedom movement has not just endured, it has grown dramatically as the injustices and atrocities of the illegitimate Iranian regime have become so widespread and so despised. As the tyranny of the mullahs has become more extreme, the international resistance to them has become more resolute.

The more the story of Iran is told, of this 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've seen this in the liberation of the MEK freedom fighters trapped in Iraq. We've seen it in the growing opposition with the Iranian mullahs from other Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We see it with the 75 of my colleagues here in the House who cosponsored H.Res. 374 to reaffirm our committed support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and nonnuclear Republic of Iran.

Iran is one of the oldest and greatest civilizations in the history of mankind. Yet it has been oppressed and plundered by a gang of thugs who have appointed themselves the rulers of Iran. on an American drone in international airspace are all unmistakable signs of desperation and panic. People of Iran, take courage and take confidence.
(Excerpts)



Governor of New Mexico (2003-2011) Bill Richardson

I want to tell you how proud I am. I've been with you for ten years. And I want to tell you the strength of the movement is an American, and I know there are a lot of Iranian Americans, it's bipartisan. It's Democrats and Republicans. And you've heard today from Republican and Democratic leaders.

You heard Mrs. Rajavi's statement. I'm going to talk positive. You know, we've had the general, we've had so many talk about the issues relating to the regime. We need a new regime. And that regime is you, the MEK, NCRI, the alternative. And I'm going to tell you why. I'm going to tell you why. First, it's a strong organization with a lot of competence, with a lot of commitment, with a lot of leadership abilities. Number two, the top leader, bipartisan, and Mrs. Rajavi is a great leader. And I'll go through the ten points that she talked about. Number three, the platform. In other words, as young people, as those of you here, what do you stand for? You stand for a free Iran. But you stand for democracy. You stand for human rights. You have a platform, you have a plan. Beware of politicians that don't have a plan, that just talk without what they stand for. What else? Take risks. This community, the MEK, takes risks. Being targeted in Europe and America. Taking risk on behalf of people, of freedom, of democracy.



And I want you to absorb what this ten point plan means because if there's a free Iran and a free election, this is what will happen. First, universal suffrage. The future decided by the ballot, not by dictatorships. That's number one. Number two, democracy, human rights. Standing for freedom of assembly, freedom of speech. Standing for human rights of people. Number three, abolition of the death penalty. No executions. (*Excerpts*)

General (Ret.) Jack Kean, Former Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army

Hello, Iran. Hello, the Iranian people. And my fellow Americans. 2018, 2018 was a major turning point for Iran. Why? The United States pulled out of the nuclear deal and for the first time in 39 years, put Iran on notice. Iran, you're malign and aggressive behavior in the Middle East region is now going to be held accountable.

The maximum pressure campaign is working. Iran is choking on the sanctions. Iran's recent provocations tell the story, disrupting the oil flow in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, attacking Saudi Arabia pipeline and its airport, and attacking a U.S. drone just recently. These provocations have two purposes. One, to leverage the international community to pressure the United States to remove the sanctions. Two, to convince the countries in the region that the United States cannot protect them. Both of those will fail. The United States will not back down. To those who say the United States is provoking this crisis, you don't know the facts. It is Iran who blew up two U.S. embassies in Lebanon and Kuwait, killing hundreds.

The United States will do what? The United States will lead a coalition of nations to keep the shipping lanes open in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. That will unfold in the days ahead. United States will not, I say again not tolerate Iran enriching uranium to a threshold capability and certainly to a nuclear capability. This will be a redline for the United States. The United States will not ease off on sanctions until Iran changes. There has never been a time when an American president has been so committed to fundamental change in Iran. (*Excerpts*)



Bob Torricelli, former Democratic Senator from New Jersey

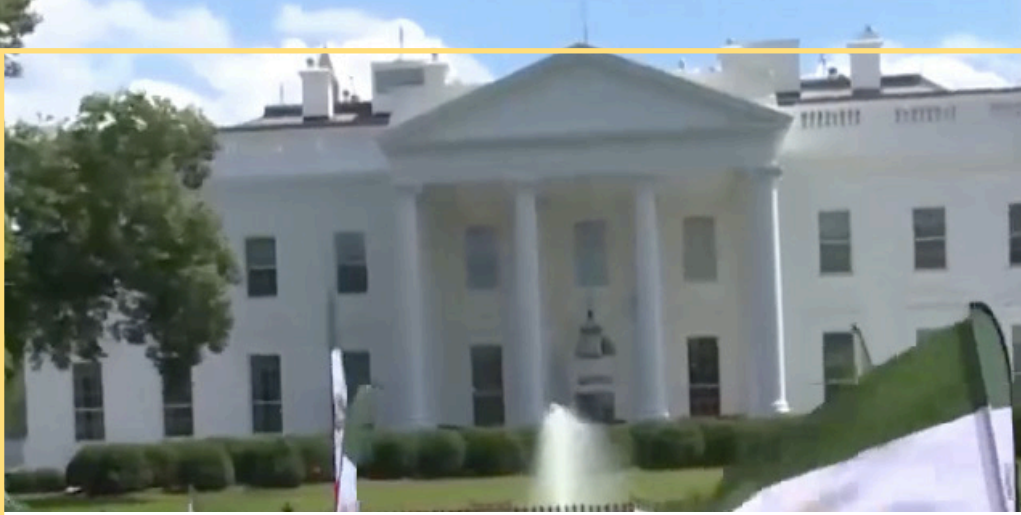
To our friends in Europe and the United Nations, if Iran were a nation in Europe you wouldn't tolerate the mullahs, the theocracy, the death, the jailing, the executions, the terrorism. You wouldn't tolerate it for a minute.

There are many things that I love about America. And one of them is our optimism, our belief in freedom, our belief in peace. These are great qualities of America. But sometimes, sometimes, Mr. Secretary and Mr. President, we need to accept reality. The reality is the mullahs will never change, they will develop nuclear weapons, they will spread terror, they will never let the Iranian people go. We need regime change and we need it now.

And yet, our friends in the American government ask if the regime changes where will new leadership come? It will come from millions of people in the diaspora around the world. It will come from young people in the streets of Tehran. It will come from every village in Iran. The Iranian people are talented by their nature. They are skilled. They are educated. They can run their country in freedom. They don't need the mullahs to run their country.

The Iranian people deserve what all people deserve, a free country of their own. Secretary Pompeo, President Trump, we stand with you in representing this country, its best values, its finest hopes. But in this struggle we ask only this. As you stand for the best in America, stand for the best of the Iranian people who want nothing more than a future for their children and to live a free life. We stand with you, Mr. Secretary, Mr. President, please stand with us.
(Excerpts)





Soona Samsami, NCRI-US Representative

The Iranian people want democratic change. They want a secular republic, respect for human rights and gender equality. They have fought for these values in 40 years. Now the moment has come for the international community to recognize the Iranian people's right to overthrow the regime and to hold this regime accountable for its crimes and terrorism. The Iranian people are ready and more than capable to obtain democracy.



Congressional Messages



SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ (D-NJ)

Ranking Member, Foreign Relations Committee.

Thank you for continuing to highlight the plight of Iranians who remain silent under an oppressive, brutal regime. I share your vision for a better future for Iran and all Iranians. A future in which all Iranians live without fear and enjoy a government that represents the will of its citizens, respects human rights, abides by the rule of law and lives in peace and cooperation with its neighbors.... As someone who has spent much of my tenure in Congress finding ways to effectively counter Iranian aggression ...I will always support justice and human rights, peace and security and above all else, the rights of all Iranians to fundamental freedoms. *(Excerpts)*



SENATOR JOHN CORNYN (R-TX)

Member, Judiciary, Select on Intelligence, and Finance Committee

Thank you for your commitment to support the Iranian people. Your continued perseverance and support of a democratically free Iran is inspiration to the world....it is important for the United States to support the Administration's "maximum pressure policy." A policy that promotes freedom and individual rights of the people while taking every step necessary to liberate them from the regime's oppressive rule.....I stand shoulder to shoulder with you in support of a better future for Iran. *(Excerpts)*



CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (D-TX)

I want to thank you for your courage. I want to say, stand tall. I support #FreeIran, and I support the fight that you are now waging to ensure that the people of Iran are free. I am delighted to know that you are standing with my sister Maryam (Rajavi), the President of this great organization who clearly appreciates the need for religious tolerance, separation of Mosque and State, gender equality and of course support for Universal Declaration of Human Rights and freedom for all Iranians. *(Excerpts)*



CONGRESSMAN LEE ZELDIN (R-NY)

As everyday Iranians have expressed outrage over their government's misplaced priorities, the U.S. should recognize the inherent right of these everyday Iranians and their noble quest for a better future and free, peaceful nation. We have been down this road before. Millions of Iranians are desperate right now to turn the tide in Tehran and all throughout Iran. *(Excerpts)*

Congressional Messages



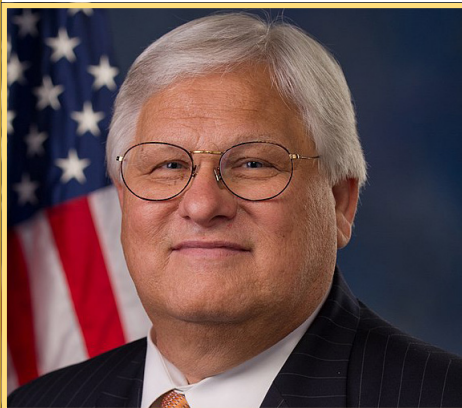
CONGRESSMAN VAN TAYLOR (R-TX)

I want to thank all of you for participating today. I served as the United States Marine in Iraq and I saw firsthand the aggressive actions of the current regime in the country of Iran. And Iran for thirty years has been expanding its reach as it has participated in violent actions across the Middle East, whether it's in Yemen, in Iraq, in Syria, in Beirut, or in the West Bank Iran continues to expand its reach to be the largest sponsor of terrorism in the world. I look forward to a time where we have a regime in Iran that no longer sponsors terror, which no longer oppresses its own citizens and takes away their civil rights. *(Excerpts)*



CONGRESSMAN PAUL GOSAR (R-AZ)

The current regime is not a friend to the United States and its allies. It suppresses the freedoms of Iranians, sponsors terrorism throughout the Middle East and imprisons political opponents. I full heartedly support Free Iran's efforts to peacefully transform Iran into a more just nation that respects the rights of all Iranians. May there one day be free and fair democratic elections in Iran." *(Excerpts)*



CONGRESSMAN KENNY MARCHANT (R-TX)

I strongly support the peaceful protest taking place today in Washington, DC against the current regime in Iran. For too long Iranian citizens have been oppressed by a radical and corrupt government that has prioritized the proliferation of violence and terrorism over the wellbeing of its own people. I stand with these protesters as they speak out against the regime's brazen violations of international law and will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and with the administration toward the goal of a secular, democratic, and non-nuclear Iran. *(Excerpts)*



CONGRESSMAN LOUIE GOHMERT (R-TX)

People that want to see you have the chance to govern yourself. There are people that want to make your government accountable for the tens of thousands of people that have been killed at their hands. The torture, the outrageous improprieties against the people of Iran themselves, not to mention the rest of the world. So we appreciate you, we pray for you, and we hope that we can work together at some point in the future in order to make your life much more bearable and have people that you want leading you, that you select to lead you and not people that are driven by some underlined purpose from centuries ago. *(Excerpts)*









Amir Emadi, Member of OIAC Advisory Board

On behalf of the Organization of Iranian American Communities (OIAC), I welcome all of you, who have made the journey from every corner of the country. From 40 states, you represent communities whose grass roots efforts have impacted the world and have made this rally possible.

Today marks an anniversary. In June 1981, half a million people took to the streets of Tehran in a peaceful demonstration called by the main Iranian opposition, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran. It was on this day that Khomeini ordered the IRGC to open fire on thousands of prodemocracy activists. Our message is clear. Thousands of Iranians are here to say it loud:

1. We call on the United States to support the Iranian people's uprising for regime change;
 2. We call on the United States to maintain a comprehensive and firm policy against the Iranian regime;
 3. We call on the United States to emphasize on human rights as the basis of its pressure on the mullahs;
 4. We call on the United States to increase sanctions on the regime's nefarious activities;
 5. We call on the United States to sanction the Supreme Leader and his office, and designate the Ministry of Intelligence as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;
 6. We call on the United States to prosecute all of the Ministry of Intelligence and IRGC agents who are still operating in the U.S. under different covers.
- (Excerpts)



Dr. Ramesh Sepherrad

Thank you very much. My fellow Iranian-Americans, my name is Ramesh Sepehrrad, a scholar practitioner from George Mason University and a proud member of advisory board for the Iranian American Organizations.

For years, previous administrations, both Republicans and Democrats, offered goodwill gestures. Some even marginalized our voices and looked the other way when our loved ones were attacked and killed in Camp Ashraf. But all those have failed. It only proved that the Iranian mullahs have endless appetite for incentive without changing their behavior. There is, however, a new understanding in place. The United States government now recognizes and calls out the 40 years of failure by the



mullahs. It calls out the crimes and corruption of the Iranian regime, especially those directly tied to Khamenei, Rouhani, and the IRGC. The U.S. pressure on the mullahs is working and for all those that say sanctions are hurting the Iranian people, we say the Iranian regime is hurting them more.

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- (Excerpts)*

Kazem Kazeronian Professor and Dean of the School of Engineering

As I stand here with the rest of the community leaders on the stage, we want to send a clear message to the State Department and the White House today:

1. The voice of the Iranian people is loud and clear. They don't want this regime. The slogans of down with Khomeini, Rouhani leaves no doubt that people of Iran want this regime gone. This regime is not fit to govern Iranian people. We are here to represent their voice. Look no further.
 2. America must actively support the nationwide uprising in Iran against the mullah's regime. Pressure the Iranian regime to free political prisoners. Support the justice campaign for the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, push for UN investigation as recommended recently by Amnesty International.
 3. The time has come to recognize the democratic alternative to this regime, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).
 4. Additional sanctions is needed, and yes, expel all Iranian agents of Ministry of Intelligence and the IRGC from the U.S, including those abusing our media and academic institutions as a cover for providing material support for the regime's terrorist entities.
 5. We are here in person so that our message does not get lost in the partisan noise in Washington DC.
 6. We call on the United States to prosecute all of the Ministry of Intelligence and IRGC agents who are still operating in the U.S. under different covers.
- (Excerpts)*











Remarks by Millennials



Ladies and gentlemen, my name is **Sadaf Mirzai** and I join you all from Atlanta Georgia. I am a 2018 graduate of the University of Georgia.

We are the Iranian American millennia, and we want the Iranian regime to hear this loud and clear: We stand with the leader of the Iranian Resistance, Massoud Rajavi, inspired not just my parents' generation but also my generation and all those change agents that have formed the Resistance Units all across Iran. That is how the Resistance Units have become the heart and soul of the young generation of Iran, those who want to be the harbingers of a new future.

My fellow millennials; my name is **Ideen Saiedian**.

As a 2nd generation Iranian American, it is my honor to express my full support for the Iranian youth all over Iran. I would like to particularly lend my support to the MEK's Resistance Units, who have played a major role in organizing, leading, and sustaining the uprising in Iran

We salute the Iranian millennia, the Resistance Units, and all those who are standing with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and are committed to support the implementation of her Ten-point plan in a free Iran. *(Excerpts)*

Solidarity



WASHINGTON Examiner

Iranian Americans rally in Washington for regime change — by Iranians

Thousands of Iranian Americans attended a recent rally in Washington and had one of their appeals answered Monday: President Trump sanctioned Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei



Iranian-Americans march, rally near White House for regime change in Iran

by Anna-Lysa Gayle/ABC7 | Friday, June 21st 2019



ABC7



WASHINGTON (ABC7) — Iranian-Americans marched to the White House on Friday.

The rally, pushing for a regime change in Iran and opposing military action in the country, was organized a few months ago.

It comes on the same day that President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. was "cocked and loaded" after Iran shot down an American surveillance drone.

Iranian Americans Rally for Regime Change in Nation's Capital, June 26, 2019

(CNSNews.com) — Thousands of Iranian Americans gathered on June 21 outside the U.S. State Department to protest against the theocratic Islamic regime in Iran and to call for regime change in that country. The activists said they want to see regime change carried out by the Iranian people. Also, former Sen. Bob Torricelli (D-N.J.) attended the rally and told CNSNews.com that he does not believe President Trump will go to war against Iran but that it is highly possible the president may order some selected military strikes. "The Free Iran Rally" was organized by the "The Free Iran Rally" was organized by the "The Free Iran Rally" was organized by the Organization of Iranian American Communities. The event featured Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, who spoke via video feed; retired four-star Gen. Jack Keane; Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.); former Gov. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.); Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.); Sen. Torricelli; and a group of young Iranian Americans, among whom Idean Saiedian, a student at Cornell University, was one of the primary speakers.



Media Coverages

CBS

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: What we want to do is stand with the Iranian people, thousands of which gathered outside the White House on Friday, and tens of thousands of which, took to the streets last year in communities across Iran, we want to stand with them. Face the Nation, June 23, 2019

The New York Times



A rally outside the White House on Friday supporting leadership change in Iran. Two weeks of flare-ups have overshadowed the Trump administration's larger challenge of containing Tehran's nuclear program. Tom Brenner for The New York Times

UPI



June 21 (UPI) -- Thousands of Iranian Americans rallied outside the U.S. State Department and White House in Washington, D.C., on Friday to push for a regime change and increased sanctions on Tehran.

Media Coverages



Activists gather at the State Department and watch a message on the screen from Maryam Rajavi before a march to the White House to call for regime change in Iran, June 21, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



The Organization of Iranian American Communities march to urge 'recognition of the Iranian people's right for regime change,' in front of the White House in Washington, DC, on June 21, 2019. (Eric BARADAT / AFP)



Supporters of an Iranian exile group with ties to some of President Donald Trump's top advisers rallied Friday for regime change in Iran, amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran. June 21, 2019 WireStory from Politics MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer , The Associated Press



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Dr. Azadeh Sami: As members of Iranian American Communities, representing 40 states, gathered in Washington DC on June 21, 2019, we express solidarity with the ongoing uprisings for regime change in Iran, call for a firm policy against the Iranian regime, and seek accountability for the regime's rulers for their 40 years of repression, corruption and terror.