



Thousands of Iranians Protested in a «No to Rouhani» Rally in Paris



Rouhani's visit to Paris was met with a wave of protests by Iranians, French political figures, human rights organizations and activists, and French citizens. Thursday 28th January at noon, in a large demonstration in Place Denfert-Rochereau, protestors called on French officials to condemn Rouhani for the dire human rights situation in Iran, his exportation of terrorism and fundamentalist ideology, and for fuelling conflict in the region, most particularly in his support for Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Frequently a place for political demonstrations, Place Denfert-Rochereau is named after Pierre Denfert-Rochereau, a French commander who heroically organized the resistance at the siege of Belfort during the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871). In the centre of the square dominates the Lion of Belfort statue (a smaller version is found in the town of Belfort) and serves as a symbol of the National Resistance.

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Editorial

The True Face of Rouhani

Rouhani, President of Iran's religious dictatorship, said less than a month before his tour of Europe that "December 30th is the day of Iranian people's defence of the state (regime), rule of law, velayat-e faqih (absolute rule of clergy) and the vali-e faqih (Khamenei)." December 30th, 2009 was the day when Ahmadinejad and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps at Khamenei's order organized a state-sponsored demonstration in order to crackdown the people's uprising. As the next show-election is approaching in Iran, Rouhani's remarks are intended to warn the people against starting an uprising, reminding the Iranian people of the brutal 2009 suppression and suggesting that he is just as ruthless as his predecessor, Ahmadinejad, in this regard.

When one looks into history in order to unmask the true nature of Rouhani, it is evidence that he simply follows a common fascist type of conduct and attitude right throughout his political life - his smiling face merely masks his fascistic nature.

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Welcoming Rouhani emboldens the Iranian regime in stepping up executions inside Iran and warmongering in the region

In a message to the rally against the trip by Hassan Rouhani, the President of Iran's clerical regime, to Italy and France, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, Maryam Rajavi, said: "As a mullah, Rouhani is a defender of the ruling theocracy and has sworn allegiance to the *velayat-e faqih* (absolute rule of the supreme leader). "Rouhani has been among the most senior officials of the religious fascism ruling Iran throughout the past 37 years and has been involved in all of its atrocities. He should face justice for crimes against humanity. "His claim to moderation is a big lie meant to attract the West's assistance in pursuing

his mandate to save the crisis-riddled regime, which the overwhelming majority of Iranians seek to overthrow. Yet, he is uninterested and incapable of distancing himself, in practice or in words, from the wave of executions in Iran and Bashar al-Assad's massacre of the Syrian people. That explains why he has expressed unequivocal and explicit support for executions and for Bashar al-Assad.

"This reality can be noticed from his record as president, which includes some 2200 executions (the highest number in the past 25 years), full scale support for the Assad dictatorship and the slaughter of the Syrian people, the missile attack against Camp Liberty residents, and the official order for the expansion of the ballistic missile program of the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), which is tantamount to proliferation of WMD. During his tenure, suppression and executions of Sunni Muslims and Christians has been stepped up, and in spite of all his promises Iran's economic situation

has deteriorated since he has committed himself to pay for the expenditure of the wars of the IRGC and the regime's paramilitary forces in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. "His record proves the baseless and absurd nature of the myth of 'moderation' in the clerical regime.

"Rolling out the red carpet for Rouhani by European governments is to welcome the godfather of terrorism and fundamentalism, to strengthen the regime as a whole and its most repressive factions, and is to the detriment of human rights in Iran. Welcoming Rouhani will only embolden this regime in the torture and execution of the Iranian people, further warmongering in the region, especially in Syria, and the export of Islamic extremism and terrorism. "Relations with the Iranian regime should be contingent upon a halt to executions and an improvement of human rights in Iran. This is the will of the Iranian people and is imperative for achieving peace and fighting terrorism in the region."

Editorial

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In his Memoir of the very first years after the anti-monarchy revolution in 1979 (37 years ago), (The Memories of Dr. Hassan Rouhani, First Copy, Islamic Revolution Document Center, 1999, page 571) he refers to the PMOI's objection to making veil (Hijab) mandatory for women and he is particularly proud of being the first man in the regime to enforce that law:

"The plan to make hijab mandatory in Army departments was assigned to me and therefore as a first step I gathered all women in the Army Joint Chiefs of Staff who were about 30, and after talking to them we set a rule for everyone to come to work with hijab the next day. The female staff, who other than 2 or 3 were all without hijabs, began to groan and stir things up; yet I stood firm and said: From tomorrow morning the guard at the entrance is obligated to prevent the entrance of any woman without hijab into the area of the Army Joint Chiefs of Staff."

He further adds that after the Army Joint Chiefs of Staff, he went to the Dushan-Tappeh Base and similarly stood firm against female staff who protested against mandatory veil and said: "This is an order and disobeying orders is not permitted. I've ordered the guard to not allow any women without hijab into the base from the next

morning." He then victoriously concludes: "In government departments and ministries, and even at the TV and Radio, the issue of hijab was implemented and all women came out of their homes with hijabs."

During his tenure on the regime's National Security Council, Rouhani took hard-line positions in dealing with opposition and dissent. He led the crackdown on the university student uprising in 1999. On July 14, 1999, as the student uprising was growing, this was the language used by Rouhani at a pro-regime rally: "At dusk yesterday we received a decisive revolutionary order to crush mercilessly and monumentally any move of these opportunist elements wherever it may occur. From today our people shall witness how in the arena our law enforcement, force . . . shall deal with these opportunists and riotous elements, if they simply dare to show their faces."

He further said insulting Khamenei was "an insult" to Iran, Islam, Muslims, the constitution, and those who recognize Iran as the ultimate decision maker for the Islamic world. In which country are these riotous moves tolerated? Yesterday evening the decisive order to harshly suppress any movement by these elements was issued."

The "opportunists and riotous elements" to whom Rouhani referred were demonstrating university students demanding freedom

and democracy. According to the Wall Street Journal of 17 June 2013: "More than a dozen students were killed in those protests, more than 1,000 were arrested, hundreds were tortured, and 70 simply 'disappeared.'"

On 19 April 2014, Tasnim news agency, affiliated with the Qods Force, quoted Rouhani as defending the executions: "The law has condemned him and he is punished and this has nothing to do with us. It is either the commandment of God or a law approved by the parliament that belongs to the people and we only execute it."

The true face of Rouhani can be witnessed in these facts. With such a terrible record, would anyone consider him different from his predecessors? Only those who prioritize trade over human rights and even over their own countries' long-term interests such as security and peace could overlook Rouhani's true face; only those who are prepared to replace peace in their lands by war and terrorism could turn a blind eye to his inner nature.

Indeed, this attitude of negligence by some in the West sharpens the plight of the Iranian people who have been fighting for their freedom and democracy over the past 37 years against such criminal and evil mullahs as Khamenei and Rouhani.



A long truck carries symbolic hangings to condemn more than 2200 executions under Rouhani.



Dignitaries marching 4 km towards "Des Invalides" together with thousands of No to Rouhani protestors.



Protestors march on a photo of Rouhani & Khamenei lying on the ground to show their desire for the downfall of Iran's dictators.



Demonstrators dressed up as Iranian nurses, workers and national minorities to symbolically represent various strata of the Iranian society in No to Rouhani Rally in Paris.

Speakers at the No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



Jean-Pierre Michel, Former French Senator and Moderator of the Rally



Rama Yade, Former French Human Rights Minister

We must tell the French people that Rouhani isn't a moderate leader; that secular people, democratic people, women, are brutally repressed; that in Iran, there is a great will to rise

up and fight for freedom. To those who think that the Iranian government changed, they need to read again the words of the official Iranian press after the attacks in Paris. A government which holds the record for capital punishments hasn't changed its inhuman nature.



Dominique Lefebvre, French MP

The nature of the Iranian regime has not changed. This regime violates human rights and accepts no fundamental freedoms, including for its own factions

within the regime. This regime is historically responsible for the destabilization of the Near and Middle East for over 30 years. If that plan does not change, if we do not find a democratic and secular Iran, there cannot be stability and peace in this important region of the world.



Marzieh Babakhani, Member of the PMOI's Central Council

Religious fascism will not produce moderation. Helping a false moderate such as Rohani will only fuel the repression in Iran and the expansion of terrorism and

fundamentalism by the regime. We, the members of PMOI, together with the Iranian nation, have paid a high price to overthrow the regime and establish democracy. And we will continue to do the same and condemn any collaboration with this medieval regime. Today, the PMOI, as a messenger of hope and freedom to the Iranian nation, is in a better position, and in spite of its machinations, the Iranian regime is weakened and on the brink of collapse.



Giulio Terzi, Former Foreign Minister of Italy

European governments should not forget their principles such as respect for human rights during their dealing with Rouhani, the president of the clerical regime

in Iran. During his visit, something astonishing happened in Rome. Symbols of the Italian culture such as the Venus statue, paintings about Rome's history, symbols of the European and Italian cultures were hidden, moved even, so that they wouldn't offend the Iranian delegation. The whole world covered that news which prompted a wave of indignation.



Gilbert Mitterrand, son of late French president Françoise Mitterrand and President of France Libertés Fondation

The foundation Danielle-Mitterrand - France Libertés asks the world's

powers, the International community and the French president to support the great Iranian people, who are victims of more than 120,000 political executions, where minors are prosecuted, where women are mutilated, where no law can support the hatred they suffer. That is our message. That is our demand, united together, in this protest today, for our brothers and sisters.



Jean François Legaret, Mayor of the 1st Municipal Region of Paris

France damages its Republican values when it invites today a man who does not represent the Iranian

people. In fact, he is committing crimes against and torturing his people. Today, France is making a mistake. That is why we have gathered here to support the Iranian people and its resistance led by Maryam Rajavi. Long live the Iranian Resistance; long live freedom for the Iranian people in a country where there is no political freedom, no religious freedom and no respect for women and human rights.



Jacques Boutault, Mayor of 2nd Municipal Region of Paris

Today, I am a bit ashamed of my country. Ashamed that in the name of profits, in order to sell 144 Airbus planes, when the ink isn't even dry on the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation

of Nuclear Weapons, all in the name of profit, France renounces itself as a country of human rights, by welcoming Rouhani like a regular head of state. He is not the people's representative. He is the mullahs' representative. You and the NCRI are the people. I stand by your side to rise up against the summary executions.



José Bové, French member of the European Parliament

Today, we cannot accept that the people of a country are subjected to mullah rule and that men and women are living under the yoke of religious dictatorship. This is why at

the European Parliament, many support the Iranian Resistance and their leader Maryam Rajavi, a democratic and secular figurehead. Receiving Rouhani by the French President is intolerable for the simple reason that human rights must come before the laws of market forces and profit.



Sid Ahmad Ghozali, Former Prime Minister of Algeria

We understand very well that the French Republic is dreaming of building relations with Iran. We warn the French authorities that such agreements cannot be carried on

the backs and fundamental interests of the Iranian people. It is legitimate that France seeks to defend the security of its citizens and to do business with the Iranian people, but it can never do that with a regime that by its nature wants to dominate the Muslim world through its destabilization.



Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Former Vice-President of European Parliament

Today, we are here to proclaim clearly that Iran can never turn into a democratic country and a good friend of the international community by Rouhani or anyone

else from within this regime. Iran has an organized Resistance movement led by an outstanding woman. Iran needs the PMOI, the NCRI and Mrs Maryam Rajavi's 10-point plan to rid its population of its brutal suppressive forces and the international community of terrorism and extremism.



Struan Stevenson, President of European Iraqi Freedom Association (EIFA)

We Europeans should be on the side of the people of Iran. We should be on the side of freedom, not oppression. We should not deal with tyrants. The

'smiling', 'moderate' Rouhani is in charge of a government which is venally corrupt; a government which has executed over 2000 people since he took office 2½ years ago; a government which condones torture and arbitrary imprisonment; a government which discriminates against women, treats them as second-class citizens.



Gérard Lauton, the National Union of Higher Education Representative

Our union, the SNESUP-FSU is in solidarity with the fight of the Iranian resistance for the fall of the fundamentalist mullahs and for a

Free Iran. Very worrying news reaches us. Many trade unionists are arrested, harassed, fired, jailed, accused of economic sabotage or activities against the regime. I am pleased with the friendly relationship that my union has established with Iranian resistance. In the name of friendship, our solidarity accompanies you to the victory against the barbaric mullahs' regime and for a free Iran.



Henri Leclerc, Prominent French Lawyer

We need to speak up. Diplomatic and business relationships can only exist based on our crucial principles, the ones described in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights. Here is our message: The French Republic, based on the defense of human rights, cannot for diplomatic or business reasons continue to support the tyrants without being publicly condemned for their crimes.



Michel Kilo, Member of Syrian Opposition

Under his tenure, Rouhani has been a cover for the mullahs who started shedding the blood of the Iranian people more than anyone else, and then they went to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Bahrain and

Kuwait threatening that they would reign the entire region. We are here today to condemn Rouhani and call for his trial and all other dictators represented by him. We say that with the help of God, the Syrian people will expel Iranian regime from the region.

Other Personalities Present at the Rally in Solidarity



Alain Vivien
Former French Minister of Europe



François Colcombet
Co-founder of CFID Parliamentary Committee



Yves Bonnet (R)
Former Director of DST
Jean Pierre Brard (L)
Former French MP



Meyer Habib
French MP



Bishop Jacques Gaillot



Paulo Casaca
Former MEP



Jean-Pierre Bequet
Former Mayor of Auvers-sur-Oise



Pierre Bercy
Chair of the NGO "New Human Rights"

There were also Arab delegations from Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon in solidarity with "No to Rouhani" campaign.

Open letter by 65 French parliamentarians to President Francois Hollande

French MPs & Senators Called on Hollande for a Firm Position vis-à-vis Appalling Human Rights Situation in Iran

As Rouhani arrived in Paris, an open letter by 65 members of the French Assembly and the Senate from all parties to President Hollande was published on 27 January in the French Daily Le Figaro, which drew his attention to the appalling situation of human rights under the mullahs' regime.

Citing the Iranian theocracy as one of the most draconian regimes on the planet, they quoted the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, as saying: "Tehran continues to execute more people per capita than all other countries of the world." They added that the situation has not changed under Rouhani. Rather, the pace of executions has accelerated since he came to power with a significant number of the executed being minors at the time of the crime for which they were sentenced to death. Some were executed on spurious grounds for charges such as "enmity against God"

or "spreading corruption on earth".

In the field of fundamental freedoms, they stated that Rouhani's record is equally disastrous. Freedom of expression is violated, the press is gagged, there is a ubiquitous censorship. The number of imprisoned journalists and bloggers is one of the highest in the world.

The revised version of the Iranian Penal Code continues to provide for the stoning of women deemed guilty of adultery. In general, women suffer institutionalized discrimination, particularly in matters of marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. They continue to be treated as minors and cannot work or travel without the permission of their husband. A law passed by the Iranian Parliament in 2013 now allows a man to marry his adopted daughter when she reaches the age of 13 years.

The letter also touches upon discrimination against ethnic and

religious minorities especially in the areas of education, employment and housing. Christians, Jews, Baha'is, Sunnis and Kurds are treated as a fifth column, and some of their members are being persecuted on the basis of such vague charges as "proselytism" and "anti-regime activities".

The French parliamentarians also criticized the mullahs regime's strategy of chaos to better establish its grip on the Middle East. Tehran continues to fan the flames of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by supporting terrorist organizations and providing missiles and rockets.

Finally, they wrote that France, the land of human rights, cannot ignore the sad fate of the Iranian people and called upon President Hollande to ask Rouhani for the release of political prisoners and, more broadly, tangible progress in the respect for human rights, including those of the religious and ethnic minorities.

Under Heavy Protests

President Hollande Speaks about Human Rights in Press Conference with Rouhani

President Hollande said in his press conference with Rohani: "We talked about everything, because it is always the rule of conduct of France. I reiterated the commitment of France to human rights, freedoms, for all countries, in all regions of the world. "

In response, Rohani refused to talk directly about rights and stated: "The West must not simply say that it is in line with human rights and that other countries are not."



No to Rouhani Campaign in Italy

Do Not Forget The Grave Human Rights Violations In Iran While Rouhani Is In Rome



From left to right: Hon. Achille Totaro, Sergio D'Elia, Elisabetta Zamparutti, Aldo Forbice, Domenico Corte.

A Parliamentary meeting held by the Italian Committee of Parliamentarians and Citizens for a Free Iran on 20 January in the Chamber of Deputies in Rome highlighted the appalling human rights situations under Rouhani. The first speaker, MP and the new Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Achille Totaro, underscored the necessity of being active on human rights situation in Iran. The panelists called on Italian officials to exert pressure on Rouhani to end executions and make tangible progress in the human rights situation inside Iran. They also criticized the media and journalists for being silent on the

human rights situation while they present a jubilant picture of Rouhani and the Iranian regime for the so-called nuclear agreement. Mr. Reza Olia, the Iranian sculptor and member of the NCRI was among the panelists. He too urged the Italian government to compel Rouhani towards ending executions and the suppression of the Iranian people. The parliamentary committee issued a statement after Rouhani's visit to Rome which described the grave human rights violations including the increasing number of executions and arbitrary killings, revolting death sentences for juvenile and suppression

of the ethnic and religious minorities. Referring to the concerns expressed by the UN High Commissioner for Human rights on the situation in Iran, it called on the Italian government to exercise extreme caution with respect to the ongoing situation in Iran and make any commercial exchange and political relations with Iran conditional to a concrete improvement of human rights situation in the country.

"THE SMILING FACE OF THE MULLAHS"

HOC report on Death Penalty in Iran

As Rouhani's visit to Italy was scheduled for 25th and 26th January, Hands Off Cain, a league of citizens and parliamentarians for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, presented a report on the death penalty in Iran entitled "The Smiling Face of the Mullahs". The report was sent to the highest Italian authorities including the President Sergio Mattarella, the Premier Matteo Renzi, the Presidents of 2 Chambers of the Parliament Piero Grasso and Laura Boldrini, and Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni to remind them of bringing the issue of the death penalty and human rights to the center of every meeting and understanding with Rouhani.

The report was presented in a press conference held in Rome at the headquarters of the Radicals where Marco Pannella and the former foreign minister Giulio Terzi were present. Sergio D'Elia, Secretary of the Hands off Cain, said the delivery of the report to the highest officials was to prevent them from saying that "they did not know".

The Report lists the executions carried out in Iran in 2015 and the first two weeks of 2016.



From left to right: Domenico Letizia, Rita Bernardini, Sergio D'Elia, Elisabetta Zamparutti, Hon. Giulio Maria Terzi, Marco Pannella.

It provides a comprehensive view of capital punishment under Hassan Rouhani's Presidency. According to the report, in 2015 the regime in Tehran carried out at least 980 executions, a 22.5% increase compared to 800 in 2014 and a 42.6% increase compared to 687 in 2013.

This is the highest number of executions in the recent history of Iran, which classifies it as the top "Executioner-Country" in the world compared to its population. At least 370 execution cases (37.7%) were reported by official Iranian sources (websites of the Iranian Judiciary, national Iranian broadcasting network, and official or state-run news agencies and newspapers); 610 cases (62.3%) included in the annual numbers were reported by unofficial sources (other human rights NGOs or sources inside Iran). The actual number of executions is probably much higher than the figures included in the Report of Hands Off Cain.

Iran Behind Bars

Secret Messages of No to Rouhani From Inside Iran

Iran's state media published the news about Rouhani's tour to Europe weeks before it started in order to inform people and to create a publicity buzz.

However, having been severely repressed by Rouhani's regime, with more than 2200 executions and hundreds of arbitrary arrests during his tenure, Iranian people from many walks of life did not want to be represented by Rouhani abroad and they sent out their messages

of protest to President Francois Hollande. All of these messages of protest were anonymous due to fears of repercussions inside the country. A group of political prisoners in Evin Prison of Tehran and Gohardasht Prison of Karaj condemned Rouhani's trip to France. Moreover, a group of Political Prisoners from Gohardasht Prison wrote to Pope Francis regarding his meeting with Rouhani.

Excerpts of Selected Messages to President Hollande

A group of workers and employees at Tehran Metro, 25 January 2016

It is said that Rouhani is going to France. We ask why? Is it because you want to learn from him lessons of freedom? Or is it because he wants to teach you lessons of freedom? Perhaps it is to deceive the world once again or to act as a ventilator for a regime that is dying. Indeed, what is the difference between Ahmadinejad and Rouhani? They differentiate only in their clothes. We have an expression in Farsi language which says: This is the same donkey with a different saddle pack.

A group of workers in Tehran, 24 January 2016

Rouhani is going to France, to do what? To put Iran up for sale once again? To engineer another plot against the Resistance movement? To dupe public opinion once again? Enough is enough. Believe us. This regime has turned into a dead body that cannot stand on its feet any longer. We will make life difficult for the mullahs by boycotting its coming elections on 26 February and we ask all Iranians in exile to say No to Rouhani.

A group of unemployed university graduates in the City of Khorramabad, 24 January 2016

Rouhani is the killer of Iran's youth. Under his tenure Iran has been totally devastated. All the wealth and assets of the Iranian people has been squandered for the survival of the vicious clerical regime and its terrorist activities. Our province has the highest rate of

unemployment particularly amongst university graduates. We call on the French President and government to not accept Rouhani in their land.

A group of photographers and cameramen in Tehran, 23 January 2016

As part of Iranian society, we do not consider Rouhani as our president. He

relations with this regime and put it under the harshest sanctions in order to accelerate its downfall.

A group of employees of the governmental and non-governmental institutions in the Province of Kohgiluyeh and Bouyer-Ahmad, 25 January 2016

A thief, a plunderer, a murderer and a criminal; these are the names which best suit Rouhani. Instead of listening to Rouhani, listen to the cries of the Iranian people who say: No to Rouhani, Yes to Maryam Rajavi.

A group of Businessmen in the City of Shahre-Kord, 24 January 2016

We condemn Rouhani's trip to Europe with his long-standing record of executions and suppression of our compatriots, and object to his invitation to a country that is well known as a bastion for human rights. We hope that the world powers will end their policy of appeasement and, for the sake of world security and stability, support the PMOI as an alternative to this regime.

A group of youth supporters of the PMOI in the City of Kerman, 25 January 2016

We dream of having peace and welfare for the people of our land but Rouhani is certainly not the man to make it happen. We are wondering how you were prepared to meet with such a charlatan who came to power on the back of false promises to resolve economic problems and to release the political prisoners.

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is nothing but a criminal. We have seen nothing from him except false promises and devastation for our land, Iran. We call on the French government not to accept him to France.

A group of civil servants in Tehran, 25 January 2016

We have lived for 37 years under the suppression of the religious dictatorship ruling Iran that has trampled upon all of our rights. We demand that you isolate this regime from the international community, condemn their human rights violations, cut off all your trade

Iranian Political Prisoners in Gohardasht Prison Write to Pope Francis

This letter dated 24 January 2016 was smuggled out of Gohardasht prison and sent to Pope Francis by the prisoners' friends.



High Excellency Pope Francis,

We have read the teachings of Holy Paul the Apostle to the Jews: "Do not forget the prisoners. Show your sympathy to them as if you are yourself in prison."

We are writing to Your Excellency as prisoners who have been in jail for successive years for political reasons or due to our beliefs, and expect you to hear our voices as the highest person who gives refuge to the oppressed and the one who cares about and listen to their pains.

There is no need to tell you about the conditions in which "Jesus Christ" lived and how badly groups of Jewish clergy and Pharisees of the time made him suffer, persecuted and insulted him and insisted on crucifying the messenger of love and mercy for human kind.

We speak about the suffering of Jesus

to show the similarity in the conditions of his time and the circumstances inside Iran today. We give you a picture of how our people are being afflicted by those so-called preachers of religion and religious laws, afflicted by those so-called preachers of religion under the name of "Islamic clergy", those in power who do not observe any basic human rights. Not a single day goes by without scores of youth being hanged under various charges, leaving hundreds of thousands of people in mourning such that there is not a single Iranian who has not been affected, who has not experienced the brutality, directly or indirectly, of the clergy and preachers of religion.

Just look at the number of executions only in the first two or three weeks of 2016 which adds up close to 60. There is certainly no need to mention that people like Hassan Rouhani have held various key positions relating to security and interrogating individuals. He has served as Secretary of the Security Council and has therefore been involved in the imprisonment and execution of Iranians for a long time. Now, under the name of President and the people's representative, he carries with him a record of 2000 executions.

Bear in mind that these 2000 people were all Muslims. You can imagine the plight of the non-Muslims and the religious minorities including



Christians since in the view of the clergy those who turn into Christianity commit apostasy and deserve punishment. Thus anyone who shows sympathy towards Christians and offers help to them should be put under scrutiny.

AS just one example, the son of one of the signatories of this letter was arrested and is now under interrogation in prison. He was charged with helping a person who converted to Christianity (Saied Abedini) because his family was outside Iran and could not help him. In these circumstances, is this person (Rouhani) really worthy of being accepted by Your Excellency for a meeting?

We, the prisoners in the most inner parts of Iran's dungeons, urge you to refuse this man who is only "a religion trader under the name of a clergy". This act of yours would certainly provide relief to Iranians with wounded and bereaved hearts.

God bless you.

Iranians protest in Rome against Rouhani's visit to Italy. They call for an end to executions in Iran.



Media Coverage of No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



No to Rouhani Rally by Iranians was widely covered and successfully reflected by the French as well as international and Arab news agencies, radio and television stations, newspapers and magazines. Only a selection of the media coverage appears on this page and pages 11 to 14.



1 February 2016

Editorial in French daily: Listen to the Iranian people



The visit by the Iranian regime's president to France ended with many industrial contracts but also by a deafening silence on the issue of human rights. But in Iran, the death penalty is widely practiced to keep the Iranians in terror of the theocratic dictatorship.

In Iran, even minors are executed. They are counted among the thousands of people who have suffered this atrocity in 2015; according to the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), a record high since 1989. The judiciary continues to sentence people to inhuman treatment, including amputations, torture, and trials without access to lawyers which are common. Journalists, bloggers, and opponents are imprisoned. In Iran, under Islamic sharia law, women are deprived of their liberty even in their manner of dress! There is no freedom of conscience or religion. Leaving Islam for another religion is punishable by death. Ethnic

and religious minorities, including Christians, are persecuted.

The Federation of Human Rights has asked the French president "not to sacrifice human rights in favor of closer economic ties between the two countries." Political power says it is more effective to talk one-on-one. But France, decorating Iranian President with military honors, blurred this message. And Italy boxed up Roman statues not to offend the "sensitivity" of their guest!

France and Italy both have a poor economic posture, unlike Germany and the UK. Are these dangerous economic and diplomatic games carried out in order to avoid necessary reforms?

Yet it was "an opportunity for French Democrats to remember that barbaric punishments belong to a bygone era. Their abolition is a prerequisite to any discussion with countries that practice them. Iranian civil society and the democratic opposition in these countries looks to France."

It's a little hasty to believe that the Iranian tyranny will be there forever. The people are thirsty for freedom. Those in power are afraid: "If we allowed every citizen to declare his personal beliefs, you would be quickly plunged into anarchy and our system would collapse," an Iranian official told a jailed Christian. Investing in a theocratic dictatorship is to ignore the will of the educated people with a great culture and from a great civilization that will be free one day of this oppression.

To ignore human rights in order to obtain contracts is tantamount to betraying our democratic duty. Now, because of Churchill, we know that dishonor buys neither peace nor prosperity.

Media Coverage of No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



28 January 2016

Protests greet 'executioner' Rouhani's visit to France

At a rally to kick off the march, speaker after speaker condemned Rouhani's human rights record, noting that some 2,000 people have been executed in Iran since he came to power three years ago, as well as Tehran's alliance with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Maryam Radjavi, president of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (CNRI), condemned Rouhani's "facade of moderation".

Shaghayegh Azimi, a 23-year-old refugee, told AFP her parents, both human rights activists, have been in and out of prison in Iran for the past eight years. "This regime is not moderate. They tortured my mother," she said.



January 28, 2016

Protesters march, France eyes business deals as Iran's Rouhani visits

France and Iran hailed the sale of Airbus planes and the renewal of a decades-old car manufacturing venture as symbols of thawing relations on Thursday while protesters in Paris tried to get human rights onto the agenda...

Away from the signing ceremonies and speeches, an estimated 3,000 people marched through Paris seeking to raise awareness about human rights...

Human Rights Watch criticized Iran on the death penalty and abuse of rights of women and minorities. It also said the state of emergency, declared by Hollande after Islamist militant attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 last year, threatens the rights to liberty and freedom of movement.



January 28, 2016

A protest in Paris against Mr. Rouhani's visit on Thursday



The protests in the French capital focused on Iran's record of executions, as well as on repression and political prisoners...

Later, when Mr. Hollande received Mr. Rouhani, the French leader was noticeably unsmiling after a day marked by human rights protests against the Iranian president.Mr. Hollande said Syria had been discussed — Iran's support for President Bashar al-Assad has been unwavering, while France insists he must go. "We spoke of everything," Mr. Hollande said. "I recalled the attachment of France to human rights," he added, as Mr. Rouhani looked on grimly...

To be sure, Mr. Rouhani's moderation is relative, and several substantial protests against his visit were mounted in Paris on Thursday...

Another rally focused on repression and political prisoners in Iran, where, according to Human Rights Watch, scores of people are held for their affiliation with banned opposition parties, and journalists and bloggers are routinely jailed.



BFM-TV

28 January 2016

Demonstration in Paris for human rights in Iran

They are several thousand people coming from Denfert-Rochereau and going on to Des Invalides. Among these activists, there are a number of dignitaries notably Jose Bove, Henri Leclerc, the French prominent lawyer, and vice-President of the European Parliament as well as Rama Yade who has come to protest against Rouhani to this country. Listen to her:

Rama Yade: "Today, Iran is being led by someone who is not a moderate. He is an extremist who has organized public hangings in Tehran, who has executed and imprisoned women and juveniles. Therefore, as we are the citizens of the country of human rights, we must be present here to say that human rights are universal and apply to Iranians too."

... The activists point out that 2000 executions have occurred in front of Rouhani's eyes and they also point out the Amnesty report which tells about the execution of 73 juveniles over the past 10 years. Activists have also come to say that Rouhani is not a moderate and he is not welcomed in France. This is the message of the demonstration.

Media Coverage of No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



Al-Jazeera TV
28 January 2016

Thousands of people held a rally in Paris to protest President Hassan Rouhani's trip to France. Demonstrators, who comprised mainly Iranians, held placards in Farsi and French to condemn this trip and to call on the French government to respect its commitments to human rights.

They alleged the Iranian regime is the main exporter of terrorism to the world. Some tied themselves to the gallows tree to depict the death penalty being carried out in Iran.



Alarabiya.net
30 January 2016

Alarabiya TV broadcasted the Rally live on Thursday. Excerpts of the text on Alarabiya.net appear below: The trip of Iran's President, Hassan Rouhani, to Paris and protest gatherings against this trip by Iranians and Arabs living in France over the past two days were widely covered by the world media. Although there has been no official news about the results and achievements of this trip except the news about the purchase of several airbus planes and some other trade deals, there have been various reactions to it. The world media carefully monitored the trip to the land of equality and democracy by a man under whose tenure the world has witnessed extensive human rights violations in Iran. Human rights organizations state that the number of executions have reached 2277 during 2 years of Rouhani's presidency. Popular groups, dignitaries advocating human rights and democracy, and social institutions protested against the trip of Iran's President and participated in the march on 28 January...

VOA reported: "Protestors who were reported to be in hundreds demonstrated as they were wearing yellow symbols; in recent years, associates of the National Council of Resistance, an organization close to the People's Mojahedin, used these yellow symbols. They too protested against human rights violations in Iran. Demonstrators participated in the rally holding photos of the political prisoners and those executed in recent years for political reasons.

Arabic Newspapers

30 January 2016



Al-Hayat, an Arab daily published in London, reported the demonstrations, called by the National Council of Resistance of Iran, marching from Place Denfert-Rocherequ in south Paris to Des Invalides in the city center.



Referring to the letters sent to the President of France by Iran's political prisoners, Al-Yaum, another Arab daily wrote: "Rouhani was greeted in Paris with demonstration. Al-Yaum cited extensive human rights violations, Iran's meddling and interventions in the internal affairs of countries in the region as well as Iran's support for the regime of Bashar Assad among reasons for the march of protest."



Okaz, a Saudi daily also wrote about Rouhani's trip to Paris and various reactions in this regard. The article titled "Greeting Rouhani with official and popular anger and hatred" stated: "While Iran's President is after making new deals of cooperation, a wave of anger, hatred and mocking has risen against policies of Iran's impostor regime." Saudi Okaz adds: "French text and on-screen media have protested against this trip using unpleasant headlines and several campaigns have been launched on social media."



Al-Hurra TV
28 January 2016

Thousands of people demonstrated in protest against Hassan Rouhani's trip to Paris condemning human rights violations and the death penalty in Iran. Demonstrators who were invited to march by the National Council of Resistance, an umbrella organization for opposition groups most prominent of which is the People's Mojahedin Movement, held placards to condemn the Iranian regime. Moreover, almost 60 parliamentarians called on the French President, Francois Hollande, in a declaration published online to demand his Iranian counterpart to release political prisoners.

Media Coverage of No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



Radio France Info

28 January 2016

Rouhani's Visit: The issue of human rights in Iran remains filigree



While Hassan Rouhani and Hollande were confirming the signing of twenty contracts, demonstrators in Paris denounced the situation of human rights in Iran. François Hollande claims to have addressed the issue in his talks with Rouhani ...

Earlier in the afternoon, several hundred people demonstrated at Place Denfert-Rochereau in Paris against the official visit of the Iranian president. They protested particularly against the continuing executions and human rights violations in the country. They had difficulty in accepting that the Iranian president was received with great pomp in France.

This Thursday, the staging was well-managed. Ultra-powerful sound system, giant screen on a podium and hundreds of demonstrators brandishing Iranian flags and placards "No to Rouhani" at Place Denfert-Rochereau. On a trailer next door, several people dressed in yellow, and rope around their necks, symbolizing the executions which continue in Iran. Among many marchers, and as one of many exiled Iranians who sometimes come from other European countries, 18 year old Paria Kohandel is present. She fled Iran in the last few months. Her father has been a political prisoner for over 10 years. The young woman struggles to accept the visit of Rouhani in France. "I was shocked. In Iran, the image of France is that of a democratic country." "Iran executed 2,000 people," she states. "Rouhani is the one who executed them.... And here, they receive this mullah... "

"Contracts can be signed otherwise"

... Simin Nuri lived in Paris for over 40 years. She is responsible for the association of Iranian women in France and she said indignantly that her host country is giving much honor to the president of the clerical regime that regularly violates human rights. "Contracts can be signed in other ways. It is not worthy to receive such a person who exports Islamic fundamentalism from which the whole world now suffers."

Several French personalities also attended the rally. ... The lawyer Henri Leclerc, former president of the French League for the Defence of Human Rights of the Citizens, former Secretary of State Rama Yade and José Bové, the MEP for The Greens. Finally, commercial contracts should not overshadow human rights...



Paris Match Magazine

January 28, 2016

FRANCE COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS: FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE CHASTISES ROUHANI

French President Francois Hollande said he "reminded" the Iranian president Hassan Rouhani, during his official visit on Thursday of "France's commitment to human rights."

"We talked about everything, because it's still the France of the rule of conduct," said the head of the French government, Francois Hollande, during a joint press conference, following a meeting of nearly two hours long with his Iranian counterpart. "I reiterated the commitment of France to human rights, freedoms, it is for all countries in all regions of the world," he added, noting that "the fight against terrorism can be conducted without violations of human rights ".

... For his part, the head of the Iranian state said: "It is important that all people pay attention to human rights. Westerners should not say that they fully comply with human rights and that other countries do not ... This is totally false. "

IRAN, THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS EXECUTED MORE MINORS THAN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

... According to Amnesty International, the Islamic Republic is the country which executes the most number of juveniles. Reporters Without Borders denounced the country as «one of the five largest prisons for journalists.»

Media Coverage of No to Rouhani Rally in Paris



La Chaîne Parlementaire LCP
28 January 2016

A report by LCP, TV Channel of the French Parliament

Today, various demonstrations were held in Paris. Two demos against Rouhani's trip; one of them held at Place Denfert-Rochereau...

Afshin Alavi: "Those companies hoping to cooperate with the mullahs' regime will have the 'Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' as their interlocutor. Rouhani is in fact a facilitator in giving



POLITICO
January 28, 2016

France, Iran hail 'new chapter' after Paris talks

... But with both sides still wary after more than a decade of mutual suspicion, areas of agreement remain few and far between. Most of the business deals were preliminary, pointing to possible sales to be confirmed at a later date. And on the diplomatic front, France remains openly critical of Tehran's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, as well as its role in supporting Shia factions in a range of other regional conflicts. Hollande also raised the issue of human rights during his meeting with Rouhani.

As the two leaders met, hundreds of Iranian dissidents loyal to the People's Mujahedin group rallied nearby to denounce the Islamic nation and its use of capital punishment. United Nations investigators estimated in October that the country was on track to execute more than 1,000 people in 2015, while Amnesty published a report this week denouncing the executions of minors by the Shia majority country.

"Nowadays when they call Rouhani a moderate, I want to laugh, it's a joke," said Shaghayegh Azimi, 23, an Iranian dissident at the protest whose parents were jailed in Iran for their political activism. "Talking with him is legitimizing all the blood he has spilled."

Asked about Iran's human rights record at the press conference, Rouhani called the question "strange", then said that all countries had issues to address and that he was responsible for upholding the law in his country.

a fresh breath to the most extremist factions of the regime to fill their pockets with money and prolong the regime's life." This is why many are demanding Francois Hollande to take a firm position.

Rama Yade: "What Francois Hollande is expected to do as the President and first representative of the country of human rights is to make trade and nuclear deals conditional to the respect of human rights, i.e. the abolition of the death penalty, freedom of thought, freedom of demonstration and the equality of women and men."

Another issue that is important to the opposition is related to Iran's destructive policy in the region with its support for Bashar Assad's regime. Dominique Lefebvre, the French MP, is well familiar with the Iranian opponents residing in France. He calls for an end to the West's policy of appeasement.

Dominique Lefebvre: "We must tell the truth about the reality of this regime. It has played a key role in destabilizing the Middle East region. This regime that came to power 30 years ago as a theocratic Tyranny has sown the seeds of the Islamic extremism that we are fighting with today."



A report by AFP Vidéo

28 January 2016

Afshin Alavi, a spokesman of the NCRI: Rouhani is here to maintain the clerical regime. Over the past 37 years that he has been present in this regime, he has been involved in all its savage crimes. He has done nothing positive for the Iranian people. So, trade with this regime only allows the most fascist faction of it that runs the economy to continue suppressing the Iranian people as well as killing the Syrian people.

Jose Bove, Member of the European Parliament: How is it that we are spreading the red carpet for someone who has the death penalty on the top of his political agenda, only so as to forge a contract or enter into a new market? I consider this absolutely unacceptable.

Sarvnaz Chitsaz, an Iranian opponent: Rouhani has 2000 executions on his record. He tries to falsely show himself as a moderate but in reality nothing has changed. For the people of Iran, nothing has changed with regards to human rights and women's rights.

Iran Behind Bars: Secret Messages of No to Rouhani ... Continued From Page 8

Now the economic situation has deteriorated and our youth have no hope for a better future. Political prisoners have either be executed or received a longer sentence of imprisonment. Do you really think that this man can be trusted?

A group of unemployed university graduates in the City of Hamedan, 25 January 2016

Before shaking hands with the representative of the world's number one terrorist state, remember the missile attack on Camp Liberty a few months ago. We pay our highest tribute to the camp residents who sacrificed their lives for the ideals of the Iranian people. They are the true representatives of

the Iranian people. How many more Iranians must be killed before this regime's cruelty and oppression becomes evident to you?

Statement by a group of Iranian traders and confectioners in southern Tehran, 25 January 2016

We call on President Hollande to cancel Rouhani's trip to France. We support the No2Rouhani rally in Paris and urge all our compatriots in France to actively take part in this demonstration to be our voice and convey our messages to the French people.



INDEPENDENT

Syrian children in bombed-out Aleppo 'protest' against Iranian intervention as President Rouhani visits Europe



Maryam Rajavi Calls for Eviction of Iranian Regime from Region



10 January 2016 - Auvers-sur-Oise - In a gathering of the Iranian Resistance's French supporters on the occasion of New Year celebration, the NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi wished them a prosperous 2016.

She expressed her regrets over the bitter incidents of 2015 which caused much suffering in the world, especially in France and the Middle East. She pointed out: "The more France and the world focus on the source of fundamentalism, i.e. the Tehran regime and its allies, the closer they would get to peace and security."

Maryam Rajavi noted the persistence of bloodbaths in Syria and Iraq as well as in other countries in the Middle East, and the displacement of millions of oppressed people in that part of the world.

She asserted: "DAESH (ISIS) can be conquered. The first step in doing so, however, is to defeat the Assad dictatorship that fosters DAESH with the backing of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps."

Mrs. Rajavi called on the world community and France to adopt a decisive policy to expel the Iranian regime from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

She also described 2015 as a year when repression escalated in Iran with stepped up executions and crackdown on women and adherents of other religions and faiths, adding: "In the past year alone, almost 1000 people were executed under Rouhani who claims to be a "moderate". Also, 88 rockets were fired at PMOI members in Camp Liberty under the command and at the behest of the clerical regime which led to the deaths of 24 residents and wounded dozens more."

She reiterated: "The world can free itself from Islamic fundamentalism only when the clerical regime in Iran ...that is the epicenter of this ideology is overthrown. Therefore, we call on the world community to respect the Iranian people's struggle for the overthrow of the mullahs."

Other speakers addressed the gathering of hundreds of French supporters of the Iranian Resistance, including Bishop Jacques Gaillot; Anissa Boumediene, former First Lady of Algeria and scholar on Islam; Jean-Pierre Brard, former member of the National Assembly; Khalil Meron, prayer leader and head of the mosque in Evry; and Renée Le Mignot, co-president of Movement Against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples (MRAP).

Maryam Rajavi: "The world can be free of Islamic fundamentalism only when the clerical regime in Iran as its epicenter is overthrown."



Former first lady of Algeria and Islamic scholar, Anissa Boumediene,

expressed her wish for democracy to be realized by the Iranian people. She also wished for the best conditions of life and liberty for the residents at Camp Liberty in Iraq who have suffered much in recent years as the targets of Iranian aggression.



However, it was Bishop Jacques Gaillot who best encapsulated the spirit of hospitality and inter-religious harmony promoted under Mrs. Rajavi's leadership. He made reference to the NCRI's visit to the St-Germain-des-Près Cathedral in Paris last December for a Christmas service as an act of solidarity. Bishop Gaillot also extended his wishes for the New Year, hoping that the men and women who are resisting Iranian human rights abuses will continue to stand strong and united in the face of this immense challenge.



As a key part of this resistance, lawyer Paruelle Gilles wished that the words of Mrs. Rajavi would be more clearly heard as a counterpoint to the forces of religious fanaticism and brutality that are widespread in the world today.



Similarly, former member of the French National Assembly, Jean Pierre Brard,

... Continued from page 16

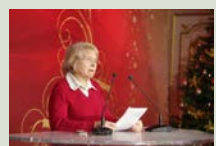
expressed the idea that it is through action and not words that the integrity of an organization is revealed. The leadership of Mrs. Rajavi – as a woman at the head of the NCRI – stands as testament to the progressive values of the resistance group.

Expressing his sentiment, Mr. Brard, stated that Islamist extremists who commit violent acts in the name of their ideology flout the central tenets of Islam – at its core a loving, tolerant and peaceful religion.



In sharp contrast, Khalil Meroon, prayer leader and head of the mosque

in Evry highlighted that it is impossible to see the Iran regime's leadership as "moderate", despite widespread perception of Rouhani as a reformer prior to his appointment in 2013, while he represses large swathes of the population. Human rights violations in the country are well documented – executions without due legal process, the execution of minors, the arbitrary imprisonment of bloggers and artists, suppression of religious minorities and women. Since the birth of the mullah regime over 30 year ago, 120,000 Iranians have faced execution.



Renee Le Mignot, co-president of MRAP, detailed the litany of Iranian human

rights infringements before claiming that these abuses stemmed from a fear that a desire for democracy among the Iranian people will fatally shake the regime. She continued that it is the shared responsibility of the United Nations, the international community, but especially the United States, to ensure the protection of those exiled Iranians in Camp Liberty who are fighting for the liberation of their nation from the hands of this dictatorial theocracy.

Solidarity of Elected Representatives of France with Iranian Resistance Against Extremism under Banner of Islam

Maryam Rajavi: Helping false claimants of moderation in Iran, Fuels Machinery of Suppression and Export of Terrorism

On January 24, 2016, a conference was held at the office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Auvers-sur-Oise (north of Paris) with elected representatives of France and other political personalities.

In her remarks to the conference, Mrs. Rajavi noted: During the regime's presidential elections, Rouhani promised to promote moderation. However, he is coming to Europe in a few days' time with an ominous record of 2,000 executions, executions of political prisoners, rocket attacks on Camp Liberty, rampant poverty, unemployment and economic stagnation in Iran, as well as ramped up deadly interferences in Syria and Iraq, warmongering in Yemen, terrorism in Kuwait and Bahrain, and new missiles testing.

Mrs. Rajavi emphasized: Now is the time to compel the Iranian regime to stop executions, free political prisoners, stop attacks on Camp Liberty and halt its missile program.

She reiterated that the only road to peace and stability in the region is eviction of the Iranian regime from neighboring countries, namely from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen, and pressuring its leadership into ending the massacre of defenseless people in Syria.

Expressing her feeling of abhorrence over the dreadful tragedy of November 13 in France, Maryam Rajavi described the cancerous growth of Daesh as one of the destructive consequences of the mullahs' hegemonic ambitions in the region. She



Rajavi pointed out: Rouhani is travelling to Europe to cover up the regime's weakness and isolation. He is trying to put up a moderate face to cover up the executions in Iran and the mullahs' role in the massacre of Syrians. Rajavi asserted: To justify supporting the mullahs, some claim that Rouhani disapproves of these policies but Rouhani approves them. He defends the executions. He supports Bashar Assad's dictatorship. He tries to expand the Revolutionary Guards' missile program and he advocates religious tyranny. She added: The Iranian people expect France not to give ground to Rouhani's deceptions and stand by the people of Iran. This is defending both humanity and the values of France, and it is the right policy.

In another part of her speech, Maryam Rajavi noted the Iranian regime's reluctant compliance with the nuclear agreement last week and added: Under the pressure of the Iranian Resistance's revelations and sanctions by the international community, the Iranian regime had to give up its ominous nuclear project. This was a very important experience because it proved that the Iranian regime is sensitive to pressure.

said: When Iran's ruling mullahs helped their puppet governments in Iraq and Syria to suppress the people of these countries, the opportunity emerged for Daesh to grow and spread.

A number of political personalities, mayors and elected representatives of the people of France including Rama Yade, former minister of human rights; Dominique Lefebvre, French National Assembly Deputy; Yves Bonnet, former Governor; Jean Paul Jeandon, Mayor of Cergy; Bruno Macé, Mayor of Villiers Adam; Claude Krieguer, maire d'Asnières sur Oise; Khelid El Fara; Jean-Pierre Béquet, former Mayor of Auvers sur-Oise; Jacques Feyte, former Mayor of Neuville sur Oise; Gilbert Marsac, former Mayor of Joy le Moutier; Sylvie Fassier, Mayor of Le Pin; Armand Jacquemin, Mayor of Moussy Le Vieux; Hervé Touguet, Mayor of Villeparisis; and Souad Ancelot representing elected members of the province of Seine et Marne; Dominique Bailly, Mayor of Vaujours; Mohammed Cherfaoui and Boualem Benkhalouf, representing elected members of Seine Saint-Denis and Jacky Duminy, Mayor of Ors addressed the conference.

110 More Executions in Iran Since UN Condemnation at 70th General Assembly



On Thursday December 17, 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution strongly condemning the brutal and systematic violation

of human rights in Iran, in particular the mass and arbitrary executions, increasing violence and discrimination against women, ethnic, and religious minorities. This is the 62nd UN resolution condemning rights abuses by the clerical regime.

The resolution expresses "serious concern at the alarming high frequency of, and increase in the carrying-out of the death penalty, in disregard of internationally recognized safeguards" and "at the continuing imposition and carrying-out of the death penalty against minors and persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18" and calls on the Iranian regime "to abolish, in law and in practice, public executions" and "executions carried out in violation of its international obligations" and "to ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The resolution expresses serious concerns about "all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls, violence against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities" and calls for elimination "in law and in practice" of "all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against persons

belonging to ethnic, linguistic or other minorities."

The resolution also calls upon the regime to end widespread and serious restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, opinion, association and peaceful assembly and to release persons arbitrarily detained.



Alarming Increase in Executions Following UN Resolution

Pointing to the executions carried out since 18 December 2015 when UN resolution was adopted on Iran, Ms. Farideh Karimi, working with the NCRI Human Rights Center, stated that Iran regime has executed 110 people following the UN condemnation at the General Assembly Session.

The very fact that executions are going on today more than they were before adoption of the UN Resolution is an indication of Iran's regime taking no notice of the condemnation by the UN General Assembly which is the main deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN.

Ms Karimi concluded that mounting violation of human rights in Iran and condemnation of the clerical regime by the highest international body for consecutive years throughout the past



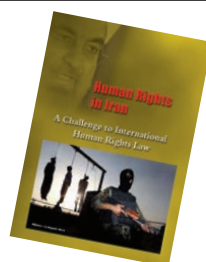
three decades, clearly indicates that this regime has no place in the international community and should be rejected by it and the murderers of the Iranian people must be held accountable by the UN Security Council and be brought before justice for crimes against humanity.

She added: "The West's miscalculation that silence in the face of human rights violations in Iran could be tackled by containing the regime's nuclear projects, their export of terrorism and fundamentalism is a dangerous mistake that stems from short term economic interests and short-sighted political considerations and it ensures the regime that the international community is not serious about confronting its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons."

1000 executions in 2015 carried out under Rouhani with more than 60 of them done in public is an unprecedented figure in Iran compared with the tenure of the regime's other brutal presidents like Ahmadinejad. This reiterates once more the need to refer Iran's human rights dossier to the UN Security Council for punitive actions to be taken.

An Introduction to:

Human Rights in Iran A Challenge to International Human Rights Law



"Human Rights in Iran, A Challenge to International Human Rights Law" is the title of a documented and well-reasoned report in both English and French authored by Tahar Boumedra, Chief of Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) who has undertaken thorough study on the human rights situation in Iran. The report was documented and published by the Committee in Support of Human Rights in Iran.

It notices that human rights violations in Iran under Rouhani's Presidency have been the subject of detailed and reliable reports presented by UN officials and

human rights institutions. They have also been at the center of concern for the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, Mr. Ahmed Shaheed, who periodically reported to the United Nations Human Rights Council. These reports are an undeniable testimony of the violations of the most basic human rights in Iran, raising consciousness around the globe. Organizations such as Amnesty International (AI) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) have also repeatedly warned about the dire human rights situation in Iran.

... Continue on page 19



Author: Tahar Boumedra

Chief of the Human Rights Office of United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Camp Ashraf affairs from 2009 until 2012. Former Regional Director of penal Reform International (PRI) for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), In November 2008, he was offered the position of Chief of UNAMI Human Rights Office also representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) in Iraq.

Death Penalty for Juvenile Offenders in Iran

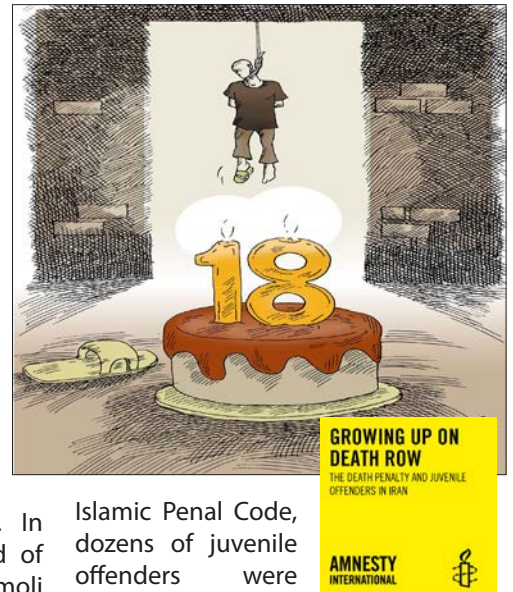
In a 110-page report published in January 2016, Amnesty International states that two decades after Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the authorities continue to show contempt for one of its core principles – the prohibition of the death penalty for juvenile offenders (people younger than 18 at the time of the crime).

“Iran is swimming against the global current as the majority of countries – 140 – have now rejected the death penalty in law or practice. Of the 58 states, which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes, the vast majority have rejected its use for juvenile offenders, including in the last two decades.” Amnesty said. The AI report states: “Indeed, Iran tops the grim global table of executioners of juvenile offenders. Between 2005 and 2015, Amnesty International recorded 73 such executions, including at least four in 2015. A UN report issued in August 2014 stated that more than 160 juvenile offenders were on death row. Amnesty International understands that some of them have been in prison for over a decade.”

It further adds: “Successive Iranian governments and parliaments have failed to undertake the fundamental reforms that are sorely needed to put an end to this grave violation of human rights. As judicial bodies inside the country have continued to consign

juvenile offenders to the gallows, the authorities, responding to international bodies, have resorted to different, and sometimes contradictory, techniques to distract attention from the practice, deny it is happening or distort the image of its reality. Sometimes, they have sought to dilute the debate by focusing their public statements on the age of the offender at the time of the execution, even though under international human rights law, it is the age of the individual at the time of the crime that is crucial, not the age at trial or implementation of the sentence. In April 2014, for example, the Head of the Judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, stated: “In the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have no execution of people under the age of 18.” At other times, they have refused to acknowledge that the individuals executed were under 18 years of age at the time of the crime or denied the scale of the problem by highlighting efforts that occasionally succeed in securing a pardon from the family of the murder victim.”

According to the report, in May 2013, Iran adopted a new Islamic Penal Code, which sparked guarded hopes that juvenile offenders would no longer be subject to the death penalty. However, following the adoption of the new



Islamic Penal Code, dozens of juvenile offenders were sentenced to death.

According to Amnesty, the Iranian authorities generally do not allow human rights groups or international experts to visit the country to conduct research, and use various repressive measures to silence independent activists in a bid to stop evidence of human rights violations from reaching the outside world. Nevertheless, Amnesty International is confident that its research has allowed it to accurately summarize patterns of human rights violations in relation to the use of death penalty against juvenile offenders.

Human Rights in Iran: A Challenge to International Human Rights Law ... Continued from page 18

In this report Dr. Boumedra has reviewed the ongoing worrisome situation of human rights in Iran with a special focus on the last two years of Rouhani’s Presidency. He explains: “By the time Rouhani was elected, the world hoped the situation of human rights would improve. On the contrary, under the Presidency of Rouhani, contrary to all expectations, Iran has carried out the highest number of executions in the world per capita. Most of these executions are the result of a perverted course of justice and unfair trials. Many of the suspects in those massacres are currently holding high ranking positions in Rouhani’s cabinet or the judiciary.” He further adds: “The systematic human rights violations in Iran go far beyond the individuals’ misconduct and abuse of power. They are incorporated in the

Constitution of the Islamic Republic. This makes Shari’a as interpreted by the Iranian Ayatollahs the primary source of law and gives pre-eminence to the views and dictates of the religious supreme leader “Vally al Faqih” as a source of law. The Supreme Leader’s fatwas (edicts) are mandatory and prevail over Iran’s positive law and its international obligations.

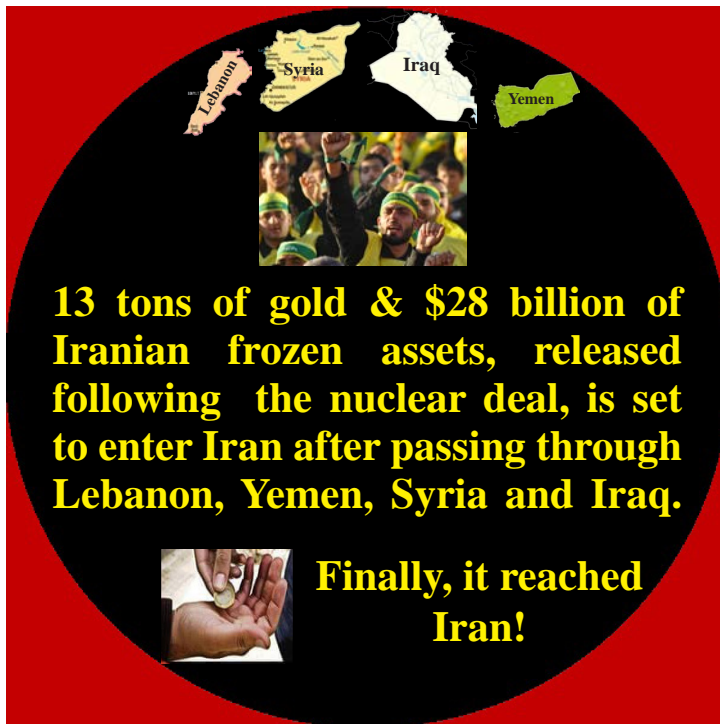
“While visibly the constitutional order of Iran appears to adopt the separation of powers, a basic tenant of democracy, the concept of “Vally al Faqih” introduced in the constitution by Khomeini and his followers is the antinomy of democracy and separation of powers. “Vally al Faqih” claims divine authority on Earth. He holds the most powerful political office in the Islamic Republic.”

Dr. Boumedra concludes that the

supremacy of what the mullahs decree as Islamic law (Shari’a) over international law in the Iranian constitution puts the Country at odds with the United Nations Charter and all international conventions and obligations. He proposes that this study highlights some of the ongoing severe human rights violations in Iran, especially the high number of executions and the systematic use of the death penalty over more than three decades as a means to terrorize the public, briefly reviewing areas where the Iranian legal system has failed to comply with the universally accepted principles of international law of human rights and calls for change that will ensure full compliance with Iran’s international obligations.

NCRI Position on
Consequences of Lifting Sanctions on Iran

The Released Funds Will not Improve Iran's Dire Economic Situation



13 tons of gold & \$28 billion of Iranian frozen assets, released following the nuclear deal, is set to enter Iran after passing through Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

Finally, it reached Iran!

The money which is about to be released following the nuclear deal with Iran belongs to the Iranian people and yet is flowing solely to the clerical regime. This money will in no way be used to improve the dire economic situation of the Iranian people. Rather it will be used to pursue the regime's policies of suppression, exportation of fundamentalism and terrorism and warmongering in the region, particularly in Syria.

The major part of Iran's economy (more than 50% of its GDP) is controlled by 14 large entities, all of which are affiliated with the military and security apparatus and controlled by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who dictates the regime's strategic policies. Much of the released funds will end up in the coffers of these 14 economic entities under Khamenei's control. In most major transactions with

Iran (investments, exports and imports) Western businesses will be dealing with these entities and contributing to the funds of the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), including financial aid to Bashar Assad's regime in Syria. The IRGC runs the majority of all of Iran's imports and exports.

Yet, given the regime's economic infrastructure, which is riddled with corruption and embezzlement, and in light of its countless crises, these funds will not strategically alleviate any of the regime's problems even on the economic front. Rather, by increasing people's legitimate demands and expectations, they will only intensify the popular outrage and loathing towards the ruling clique. It will further show that Hassan Rouhani and his administration have no inclination to improve ordinary Iranians' welfare, and contrary to all their claims, the focus of this administration will be the continuation of the regime's strategic policies, particularly in suppressing people and exporting Islamic fundamentalism.

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