



National Council of Resistance of Iran

U.S. Representative Office

1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1125, Washington, DC 20006

Tel: 202-747-7847; Fax 202-330-5346; info@ncrius.org; twitter: @ncrius

Iran: The Flames of Resistance Will Not Be Extinguished; Resistance Leaders' Messages & Pictures in Tehran, Other Cities

In commemoration of the martyrs of the November nationwide uprising, MEK Resistance Units posted pictures of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi & Mr. Massoud Rajavi.

WASHINGTON, DC, December 25, 2019 -- On the brink of the 40th day commemoration of the martyrs of the nationwide uprising of the Iranian people, which took place in November, Resistance Units of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) have posted pictures and excerpts of the messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), and Mr. Massoud Rajavi, the Leader of the Iranian Resistance, in various parts of Tehran and other cities. Simultaneously, the MEK has issued a call for the commemoration of the martyrs of the uprising on December 26, 2019. The clerical regime has marshaled the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the suppressive Bassij paramilitary forces, intelligence agents, and plainclothes agents in an attempt to prevent the commemoration from taking place.

During the November uprising, on the personal orders of the regime's supreme leader Ali Khamenei, the regime's suppressive forces killed over 1,500 protesters, while injuring over 4,000 and arresting 12,000 more.

Some of the activities of the Resistance Units are as follows:

December 22 and 23: Resistance Units placed messages and portraits of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Massoud Rajavi in various parts of Tehran (Imam-Ali Expressway, Nezam Abad, Sattar Khan, and Marzadaran). Some of the banners read, "Hail to the martyrs from Shahriar to Karaj, Sirjan, Behbahan, Shiraz, Marivan, Khorramshahr, Tehran and other cities," and "The blood of martyrs has strengthened the resolve for uprising and rebellion in Iran."

December 19 and 22: Resistance Units posted banners with pictures and messages of the Iranian Resistance's leadership in different parts of Tehran, including Niayesh Expressway, as well as in Jalal Al-Ahmad, Sattar Khan, and Baqer Khan streets, and in Karaj, Mashhad, Saveh, Tabriz, Kermanshah, Qods, Ardakan, Sabzevar and Rafsanjan.

In Tabriz, pictures of Mr. Rajavi were widely distributed and placed on windshields of vehicles in the city. Some of the banners read, "Tremors of overthrow have shaken the regime to its foundations," "Strategy of Liberation Army has spread to the nation," "Hail to the martyrs from Shahriar, to Karaj, Sirjan, Behbahan, Shiraz, Marivan, Khorramshahr, Tehran and other cities and regions," "Flames of uprisings will not be extinguished" and "The overthrow of the inhuman regime is certain."

December 13 and 15: Resistance Units posted banners carrying pictures and messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Massoud Rajavi in several parts of Tehran, including Saeedi and Niayesh expressways, Madani, Sabalan, Nabard-e Jonoubi, and Parastar streets as well as in cities of Ahvaz and Abadan (southwest), Rasht (north), Karaj (center), Sirjan and Isfahan (south central). The banners read: "This uprising belongs to Iran's fettered and freedom-seeking people," "Assist and shelter rebellious youths," "Tremors of overthrow shake the regime to its foundation," "Triumphant strategy of Liberation Army was tested in rebellious units, districts and cities. This is an uprising until victory," "Iranian people have pledged to overthrow this regime," "Religious dictatorship has reached the end of the line," "Resistance units have kept ablaze the flames of resistance nationwide," "Overthrow of the anti-human enemy is certain," "We can and we must overthrow the religious dictatorship," and "Death to Khamenei, hail to Rajavi."

December 8: Resistance Units posted pictures and messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Massoud Rajavi in different parts of Tehran, including Tavanir Bridge and the University of Agriculture. On the day before, Tehran and Sharif Industrial universities and other parts of the capital had been scenes of similar activities.

Pictures and messages of the Resistance's Leadership were also posted in several other cities, including Kerman (south central), Ahvaz, Abadan, and Masjed Soleiman (southwest), as well as Lahijan and Rasht (north), and Zanjan (northwest). Some of the banners read, "The end of the Supreme Leader's oppression and injustice is near," "Uprising continues. The only answer to the Sheikh is fire," "Overthrow of the anti-human regime is certain," "Death to Khamenei, hail to Rajavi," "Rebellious youth made life like hell for you," "Turn every alley and street into a bastion of uprising and revolt," "UN Security Council must declare the regime's leaders as criminals against humanity for suppression and bloodshed, so that they face justice."

December 7: Resistance Units hung or posted banners carrying pictures and messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Massoud Rajavi in different parts of Tehran, including the Department of law and political science in Tehran University, Sharif Industrial University, Imam Ali Expressway, West Metro, Narges Park, and in other cities, including Rasht, Zahedan, Tabriz, Sari and Shahroud.

Some of the banners read, "We will turn every university into a bastion for uprising and revolt," "universities are bastions of uprising for freedom," "every university is a Resistance Unit," "students are aware, despise dictatorship," "The uprising continues until victory. This is a revolution until victory," "Hail to the martyrs of the 2019 uprising – Hail to Rajavi – Uprising continues until victory – Hail to Rajavi – Down with Khamenei, Rouhani – Hail to Rajavi" and "(Khamenei) arrest, imprison, kill, all you're doing is digging your own grave," "The only response to the Sheikh is fire. Ignite the flames," and "Aid and assist rebellious youth and give them shelter."

December 2 and 4: Simultaneous with the visit to Isfahan by the religious dictatorship's Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi, Resistance Units posted banners containing pictures and messages by Mr. Massoud Rajavi in different parts of the city. They also wrote his messages on walls. At the same time, large pictures and banners carrying messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Rajavi were posted in Tehran.

The banners read, "More flames on the way. Uprising for freedom is ablaze," "Rebellious youth have made life like hell for you," "The Iranian people and Resistance have pledged to overthrow this regime," "Death to Khamenei, hail to Rajavi," "Sheikh has no choice but to suppress. But it is digging his own grave," "Common enemy and struggle, from Iran to Iraq, to Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria," "Uprising will continue until the overthrow, hail to Rajavi," "We can and we must overthrow the mullahs' regime," and "The Liberation Army will come."

December 1: Resistance Units posted large portraits carrying messages of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and Mr. Massoud Rajavi in different parts of Tehran, including Saeedi, Azadegan and Imam Ali expressways, Pirouzi, Shariati and Sabalan streets and Sohrevardi Park.

The banners read, "More flames on the way. Uprising for freedom is ablaze," "Regime cannot stop the uprising with killings and arrests," "Rebellious youth have made life like hell for you," "Tremors of overthrow shake the ruling theocracy to its foundations," "Victorious strategy of Liberation Army was tested in rebellious units, districts and cities," "The overthrow of the anti-human enemy is certain," "Rebellion continues. The only response to the Sheikh is fire. Ignite the flames," and "Death to Khamenei, hail to Rajavi. Khamenei must know, he will be overthrown very soon."

November 26: Resistance Units posted large portraits of the Resistance's Leadership in different parts of the capital, Tehran, and other cities, including Tabriz, Orumiyeh and Kerman. These pictures were posted among other locations in Police Expressway, Navab, Ghane'i, Jamalzadeh and Parcham streets, as well as in Javadieh district, and Sepah and Bahmani squares.

Messages on the banners read, "More flames on the way. Uprising for freedom is ablaze," "Rebellious youth have made life like hell for the mullahs," "overthrow of the anti-human enemy is certain," "tremors of being overthrown shakes the religious dictatorship to its foundations," "Iranian people and Resistance have pledged to overthrow this regime."

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NCRIUS Welcomes Unanimous Passing of House Resolution in Support of Iranian People's Nationwide Uprising for a Free Iran

H.Res.752, "encourages the Administration to provide assistance to the Iranian people to have free and uninterrupted access to the Internet."

WASHINGTON, DC, December 18, 2019 -- Ms. Soona Samsami, the U.S. Representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), welcomed the unanimous passing of H.Res.752 entitled "Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes" in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This timely bipartisan resolution sends an unequivocal and powerful message to the people of Iran that U.S. Congress fully supports them in their nationwide uprising for a free Iran and that it strongly condemns the massacre perpetrated by the Iranian regime in November," Ms. Samsami said.

The bi-partisan House Foreign Affairs Committee resolution was amended and passed not long after the onset of the November uprising which spread to 191 cities in all of Iran's 31 provinces. Following the regime Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's shoot-to-kill order, the security forces massacred more than 1,500 protesters - 520 of whom have been identified by the Iranian Resistance so far. Nevertheless, this uprising, "the most significant anti-government protests in Iran since June 2009," shook the religious dictatorship to its foundations and is a major step towards its eventual downfall. "The uprising's gains are irreversible; no matter how deep or wide the state suppression," NCRI U.S. Rep. said.

The bipartisan resolution notes that the regime's security forces "have used lethal force" and "killed hundreds of people" in what it described as "the popular protests against the Iranian regime." The resolution notes that "reports indicate that Iranian Government authorities have, in many instances, refused to return victims' bodies to their families and that security forces have removed bodies from morgues and transferred them to unknown locations."

The Resolution also notes that "in 1988, the Iranian regime carrying out the barbaric mass executions of thousands of political prisoners by hanging and firing squad for refusing to renounce their political affiliations and in some cases for possessing political reading material, including prisoners of conscience, teenagers, and pregnant women." Some 30,000 political prisoners, majority of them affiliated with the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), were executed during the 1988 massacre, described as "a clear case of crimes against humanity" by Amnesty International.

Ms. Samsami added: “The NCRI’s President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, has repeatedly underscored that the slaughter of protesters in November was a manifest case of a crime against humanity and, therefore, the United Nations Security Council must take urgent action to halt the killings and suppression and secure the release of those arrested.” The Iranian Resistance “endorses the Resolution which ‘urges the Administration to work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the Security Council can monitor such violations,’” Samsami stressed.

Ms. Samsami added that Khamenei and his president Hassan Rouhani must be held accountable for crimes against humanity and a fact-finding mission must be sent to Iran to evaluate the scope of the crimes and examine the cases of those killed, wounded, or detained.

The Resolution underscores the fact that implementation of “a near-total shutdown of internet services, stopping nearly all means of online communications for people inside Iran” was intended “to preclude the sharing of images and videos of deadly violence being used by security forces.” The resolution “encourages the Administration to provide assistance to the Iranian people to have free and uninterrupted access to the Internet.”

The Resolution points out that “the Iranian regime was implicated in a March 2018 plot in Albania and June 2018 plot in France against Iranian opposition activists.” Ms. Samsami added that a regime’s senior diplomat is in jail in Belgium for masterminding the plot to bomb the annual 100,000-strong ‘Iran Freedom’ gathering of the Iranian Resistance, as are two of the regime’s intelligence agents in the U.S. for spying on officials of the NCRI.

Lauding the Resolutions’ support for “the right of Iranian dissidents to assemble, without fear of persecution and violence, whether in Iran or internationally,” Ms. Samsami called for increased vigilance regarding the regime’s terrorist plots against Iranian dissidents, including those in Europe and the United States.

Referring to the Resolution’s statement that “several laws provide authorities to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian regime involved in significant corruption or serious human rights abuses,” Samsami said that these Iranian regime’s officials must be sanctioned for their crimes and brought to justice by international tribunals. Referring to a new book by the NCRI-US, *Uprising Shakes Iran Regime’s Foundations*, she said “we have identified 92 senior officials of the Iranian regime involved in the November 2019 suppression of the uprising in Iran; they all need to be sanctioned by the U.S. Government.”

The NCRI’s U.S. Representative welcomed the bipartisan initiative’s standing with the people of Iran who are engaged in legitimate protests against an “oppressive, corrupt regime” and its condemnation of the “regime’s serious human rights abuses against the Iranian people, significant corruption, and destabilizing activities abroad,” stating that “the time has come for the world to recognize the right of the Iranian people to change the repressive regime and establish a democratic, pluralistic and non-nuclear republic based on the separation of religion and state.”

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Mrs. Maryam Rajavi attends Christmas Eve Ceremony in Tirana, Albania

Several Albanian leaders including President Ilir Meta & his wife Monika Kryemadhi leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration Party attended the event.

WASHINGTON, DC, December 25, 2019 -- Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), attended ceremonies marking the birth of Jesus Christ in Saint Paul Church of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Tirana- Dures on Tuesday, December 24, 2019.

In remarks congratulating Christmas, George Antonio Frendo, Archbishop of Tirana and Dures, said: "Hail to you Mr. President (President Ilir Meta). I am delighted to see you among us. We are honored by your attendance of this magnificent celebration. And I hail you Mrs. Rajavi, representing the Iranian community in our country. We pray for those in your country, who are oppressed, and enduring pain and suffering."

Mrs. Rajavi extended her gratitude to Archbishop Frendo, and presented him with a book containing the list of names of 20,000 martyrs of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran. She said that the Iranian people were paying the heaviest possible price in their struggle to rid Iran of the religious fascism ruling Iran. Mrs. Rajavi expressed hope that in the future Iran, all sectors of Iranian society, regardless of their religions and traditions, or their ethnicity and nationality would live side-by-side in freedom and equality.

Several Albanian leaders and distinguished personalities, including President Ilir Meta, Monika Kryemadhi, the leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration Party and the President's wife, Ms. Elona Gjebra, Secretary for the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament and former Deputy Interior Minister, and Ms. Diana Culi, the renowned Albanian author, attended the ceremonies.

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Iran: Messages and pictures of Resistance's leaders in Tehran, other cities on eve of 40th day memorial of martyrs

Army of the unemployed, hungry will not rest.

WASHINGTON, DC, December 26, 2019 -- On December 24, on the eve of the 40th day memorial of the martyrs of the Iranian people's nationwide uprising, the Resistance units distributed and posted messages and pictures of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), and Mr. Massoud Rajavi, the Leader of the Iranian Resistance, in Tehran (Nour Expressway, Dadaman Rezai, Sepehr 3, and Fereshtegan streets, Sardar Blvd, Qods township and Sa'adat Abad), and in several cities, including Tabriz, Karaj and Arak.

The banners read, "Hail to the martyrs from Shahriar to Karaj, Sirjan, Behbahan, Shiraz, Marivan, Khorramshahr, Tehran and other cities," "Flowers have blossomed from the blood of the martyrs." "I hail the proud martyrs of Iran uprising," "Hail to rebels for freedom, hail to Iran uprising for freedom," "The roaring river of the martyrs' blood guarantees our people's victory," "The army of the unemployed and hungry will not rest," and "On the eve of 40th day memorial of the martyrs, they are alive."

These actions by the Resistance units were undertaken in circumstances where terrified of the resumption of the nationwide uprising, the IRGC placed all of its subordinate forces on alert and its overt and uncover patrols were roaming the streets of the capital and other cities.

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PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 15, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, following the sentencing of two Iranian agents for spying and plotting against this movement's members in the U.S.*

Mr. Jafarzadeh, according to the [criminal complaint](#) (paragraph 39) was one of the subjects of spying by these two agents. (See the [Aug 2018 AP story](#) about this, quoting Mr. Jafarzadeh)

“The sentencing of these two agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) of the Iranian regime is a clear indication of the seriousness of Tehran’s terror plots and spying operations in the United States.

“Terrorism is a survival tool for the Iranian regime to eliminate members of its main opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) and the coalition, National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

“The arrest and sentencing of these two MOIS agents in the U.S. should act as the wakeup call for the United States that Tehran’s web of terror and spying is alive and operating under different covers. The United States must dismantle the network of spying and terror of the Iranian regime in America.

“Since 2018, seven Iranian regime’s agents who operated under the cover of diplomat were expelled by European nations, another one is in jail in Belgium, and over a dozen more arrested, all for terrorism and spying charges against the Iranian dissidents.”

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* Alireza Jafarzadeh first revealed the existence of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which triggered the IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. He was the target of a terror plot by the MOIS whose members were arrested in [August 2018](#) and [sentenced](#) in 2019.



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House Passes a Resolution in Support of Iranian People's Nationwide Uprising for a Free Iran, Condemns Oppressive Regime

NCRI-US Welcomes the Unanimous Passage of House Resolution.

WASHINGTON, DC, January 28, 2020 -- Ms. Soona Samsami, the U.S. Representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), welcomed the unanimous passing of H.Res.752 entitled "Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes" in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This timely bipartisan resolution sends an unequivocal and powerful message to the people of Iran that U.S. Congress fully supports them in their nationwide uprising for a free Iran and that it strongly condemns the massacre perpetrated by the Iranian regime in November," Ms. Samsami said.

The bi-partisan House resolution was passed not long after the onset of the November uprising which spread to 191 cities in all of Iran's 31 provinces. Following the regime Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's shoot-to-kill order, the security forces massacred more than 1,500 protesters - 724 of whom have been identified by the Iranian Resistance so far. Nevertheless, this uprising, "the most significant anti- government protests in Iran since June 2009," shook the religious dictatorship to its foundations and is a major step towards its eventual downfall. "The uprising's gains are irreversible; no matter how deep or wide the state suppression," NCRI U.S. Rep. said.

The bipartisan resolution notes that the regime's security forces "have used lethal force" and "killed hundreds of people" in what it described as "the popular protests against the Iranian regime." The resolution notes that "reports indicate that Iranian Government authorities have, in many instances, refused to return victims' bodies to their families and that security forces have removed bodies from morgues and transferred them to un- known locations."

The Resolution also notes that "in 1988, the Iranian regime carrying out the barbaric mass executions of thousands of political prisoners by hanging and firing squad for refusing to renounce their political affiliations and in some cases for possessing political reading material, including prisoners of conscience, teenagers, and pregnant women." Some 30,000 political prisoners, majority of them affiliated with the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), were executed during the 1988 massacre, described as "a clear case of crimes against humanity" by Amnesty International.

Ms. Samsami added: “The NCRI’s President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, has repeatedly underscored that the slaughter of protesters in November was a manifest case of a crime against humanity and, therefore, the United Nations Security Council must take urgent action to halt the killings and suppression and secure the release of those arrested.” The Iranian Resistance “endorses the Resolution which ‘urges the Administration to work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the Security Council can monitor such violations,’” Samsami stressed.

Ms. Samsami added that Khamenei and his president Hassan Rouhani must be held accountable for crimes against humanity and a fact-finding mission must be sent to Iran to evaluate the scope of the crimes and examine the cases of those killed, wounded, or detained.

The Resolution underscores the fact that implementation of “a near-total shutdown of internet services, stopping nearly all means of online communications for people inside Iran” was intended “to preclude the sharing of images and videos of deadly violence being used by security forces.” The resolution “encourages the Administration to provide assistance to the Iranian people to have free and uninterrupted access to the Internet.”

The Resolution points out that “the Iranian regime was implicated in a March 2018 plot in Albania and June 2018 plot in France against Iranian opposition activists.” After the resolution was introduced in December in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on January 15, 2020, Albania expelled two other agents of the Iranian regime who were operating under the cover of diplomats. The country’s foreign ministry released a statement in this regard, “declaring them ‘persona non-grata’ for conducting activities that go against their status and against the principles of the Vienna Convention for Diplomatic Relations.”

Ms. Samsami added that a regime’s senior diplomat is in jail in Belgium for masterminding the plot to bomb the annual 100,000-strong ‘Iran Freedom’ gathering of the Iranian Resistance, as are two of the regime’s intelligence agents in the U.S. for spying on officials of the NCRI.

Lauding the Resolutions’ support for “the right of Iranian dissidents to assemble, without fear of persecution and violence, whether in Iran or internationally,” Ms. Samsami called for increased vigilance regarding the regime’s terrorist plots against Iranian dissidents, including those in Europe and the United States.

Referring to the Resolution’s statement that “several laws provide authorities to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian regime involved in significant corruption or serious human rights abuses,” Samsami said that these Iranian regime’s officials must be sanctioned for their crimes and brought to justice by international tribunals. “We have identified 92 senior officials of the Iranian regime involved in the November 2019 suppression of the uprising in Iran; they all need to be sanctioned by the U.S. Government,” Samsami said.

The NCRI’s U.S. Representative welcomed the bipartisan initiative’s standing with the people of Iran who are engaged in legitimate protests against an “oppressive, corrupt regime” and its condemnation of the “regime’s serious human rights abuses against

the Iranian people, significant corruption, and destabilizing activities abroad,” stating that “the time has come for the world to recognize the right of the Iranian people to change the repressive regime and establish a democratic, pluralistic and non-nuclear republic based on the separation of religion and state.”

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These materials are being distributed by the National Council of Resistance of Iran-U.S. Representative Office. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.



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Briefing: Iran's 2020 Parliamentary Elections

The briefing will address the significance of the upcoming election, what is at stake for the regime, expected voter turnout, and who some key candidates are.

WASHINGTON, DC, February 18, 2020 -- On Thursday, February 20th, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, U.S. Representative Office (NCRI-US), will hold a briefing on the special aspects of Iranian regime's February 21st parliamentary elections.

The briefing will address the significance of the upcoming election, what is at stake for the regime, the expected voter turnout, who some key candidates are, as well as Tehran's plans to mislead the journalists.

The briefing will also offer insiders' views about the elections as well as the activities of the Iranian Resistance to boycott the elections.

The 2020 elections are held as the clerical regime is internally besieged by anti-government nationwide protests, the irrevocable blow of Qassem Soleimani's loss, growing conflicts within the ruling system, and acute economic and social crises. Externally, the anti-regime protests in Iraq and the region has undermined Tehran's "strategic depth," and international sanctions has limited its capabilities.

WHAT: NCRI-US Briefing on 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Iran

WHEN: Thursday, Feb 20, 2020, 11:00 am

WHERE: NCRI-US Office - 1747 Penn Ave, NW, Suite 1125, Washington, DC 20006

CONTACT: 202-747-7847; info@ncrius.org

NOTE: Registration is required and available to accredited journalists, members of the diplomatic corps, think tanks, academic institutions, and the U.S. Government. Please RSVP here.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/briefing-irans-2020-parliamentary-elections-tickets-95314487197>

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NCRI-US Press Briefing on Iranian Regime's Sham Parliamentary Elections

Very low voter turnout expected after 1,500 protesters were killed and thousands were jailed in November

WASHINGTON, DC, February 21, 2020 -- The U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) held a press briefing in its Washington office on the Iranian regime's upcoming parliamentary elections.

Soona Samsami, the U.S. representative of the NCRI, told reporters that the elections this year are very different than previous elections. "The 2020 Parliamentary elections are taking place after three major uprisings in Iran in January 2018, November 2019, and January 2020, which shook the regime to its foundations," Samsami said. "The population has risen against the rampant corruption, economic mismanagement, and lack of freedoms."

Samsami said that the purge by the Guardian Council reflected the "increasing vulnerability and deadly impasse of Khamenei. His tolerance threshold is at a new low. He is confronted with two choices, each of which is more dangerous than the other." The NCRI representative listed Khamenei choices as:

To close ranks even more while adopting a more aggressive posture toward the U.S., and carry out more internal purges and suppression.

To lessen the conflict with the U.S. and accept some of the 12 points announced by Secretary Mike Pompeo, which would involve showing flexibility and tolerance at home.

"Based on the regime's internal deliberations, Khamenei has decided to close ranks and carry out a complete purge during the elections," Samsami said.

NCRI-US Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh provided three reasons for the purge.

- 1) Fear of uprisings - The regime is afraid that any split within the ruling elite would fuel more uprisings which, in turn, would deepen internal schisms, shearing off individuals who are not completely subservient and loyal to the regime.
- 2) Fear of the opposition - The regime is alarmed that the opposition, and particularly the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) and the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), would exploit its internal schisms in the era of popular uprisings, thus facilitating its overthrow.
- 3) Fear of the U.S. - The regime is worried that any schism would aggravate its vulnerability in its stand-off with the U.S.

Jafarzadeh commended U.S. special representative for Iran Brian Hook for the new sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government on the Guardian Council members, including Ahmad Jannati and Mohammad Yazdi. Hook described the election sham as “an event euphemistically called elections” for the Iranian legislature.

Jafarzadeh said that such increased sanctions by the United States, “send a strong signal to the Iranian people that their repressive rulers’ suppression is not condoned by the international community as the Iranian people and their organized Resistance continue their uprising for regime change by Iranians.”

Jafarzadeh said, “Many candidates who have a good chance of getting into the parliament have spent years in the Iranian regime’s IRGC, the Qods Force, the Bassij, and the MOIS.” This by itself further puts the regime and its parliament at odds with the Iranian people, who have already decided to boycott the elections, and are chanting “My vote is regime change.”

“The Iranian people’s legitimate demands were met with bullets and machine guns. 1,500 were killed and over 12,000 arrested. They have no desire to participate in an election, which only has one purpose: to keep those responsible for these crimes in power,” Jafarzadeh said.

Samsami said it is important to note that despite Tehran’s propaganda, “the voter turnout, anticipated to be radically lower than previous rounds, has caused a crisis.” The NCRI representative in the U.S. said, three factors will be contributing to low voter turnout:

- 1) The explosive state of society and extensive disenchantment, as well as the November uprising, which led to the massacre of at least 1,500 demonstrators.
- 2) Rouhani's lies and absolute loyalty to Khamenei, turning his back on those who voted for him.
- 3) The expansion of Resistance networks inside Iran and their active calls for a boycott.”

Jafarzadeh said that Tehran for years has been “election engineering to both ensure that loyalists end up in the Majlis and to significantly inflate the numbers on voter turnout 4 to 5 fold, at the minimum.”

Samsami said that these elections “will have severe short-term and medium-term consequences for the regime, leaving it increasingly broken, more vulnerable, with a weaker social base and faced with the potential of greater protests and social uprisings.”

During the press briefing the NCRI released a 13-page pre-elections report which elaborated on the election boycott activities of the Resistance Units of the main Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), all across Iran.

Large posters of the Resistance’s leaders have been hung from bridges and posted on the walls in the capital Tehran as well as other cities across Iran, calling for an election boycott. One, hung from a major highway in Tehran on Feb 15, featured Massoud and Maryam Rajavi’s pictures with the sentence, "My Vote is Regime Change." Another, hung from a bridge in Karaj on February 11, had Maryam Rajavi’s picture over the phrase, Maryam Rajavi: “Killing and imprisonment will not stop the uprising.”

A poster hung on February 16, in the city of Saveh in the Central Province had Maryam Rajavi's picture above the quotation, "Boycotting the sham elections is a national duty and our commitment to the martyrs of the uprising."

The NCRI-US report elaborated on the preventative security precautions, taken by the regime, as follows:

- The IRGC and the Bassij paramilitary forces are tasked with protecting and providing security for the elections and operate in coordination with the Intelligence Ministry (MOIS);
- The IRGC, the Bassij, and the State Security Forces (SSF) have been placed on high alert since February 15. All furloughs have been cancelled;
- The anti-riot forces are on high alert and tasked with preventing any protests or revolts; SSF vehicles patrol the streets with their sirens in order to create an atmosphere of fear and trepidation among the public;
- Police stations have been ordered to arrest anyone suspicious, including people on bikes without plates or anyone not carrying an ID card, starting daily from 23:30 at night to 05:00 in the morning;
- All soldiers in all garrisons and military locations have been ordered to bring in their birth certificates in order to cast votes.

Jafarzadeh concluded by specifying what steps the United States may and should take:

- Regardless of what lies Tehran announces following the election sham, the Iranian regime's actions, not promises, must be the sole gauge to determine how to deal with it.
- Experience has shown that the ruling clerics only understand the language of firmness and strength. Thus, more sanctions should be imposed on the regime and calls for accountability for the murderers of the uprising must be a priority.
- It is time for the United States to recognize the right of the Iranian people to change their repressive regime, and to acknowledge that their time has come to establish a republic based on the free vote, on the separation of religion and state, and on pluralism, justice and equality.

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PRESS RELEASE

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

*The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), * deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“Today, The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said that the Iranian regime would stay on its blacklist and called on member states to sanction the regime.

“This is long-overdue decision to maintain the Iranian regime on the FATF blacklist. Since 2016, when the regime gained a relief from these sanctions, Tehran stepped up terror and proxy war. Instead of criminalizing terrorism financing, the Iranian regime is the world’s prime banker of international terror, and instead of curbing money laundering to finance terror, the Iranian regime thrives on terrorism while 80% of the Iranian people live below the poverty line.

“The experience of the past four years show that only firmness and decisiveness works in dealing with the Iranian regime.

“The nationwide uprising of the Iranian people is a clear indication that the only way to see a meaningful end to the Iranian regime’s terror financing and its money laundering is the overthrow of this regime by the Iranian people who already consider the ruling clerics as the most corrupt in the history of Iran.”

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* Alireza Jafarzadeh first revealed the existence of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which triggered the IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. He was the target of a terror plot by the MOIS whose members were arrested in [August 2018](#) and [sentenced](#) in 2019.



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PRESS RELEASE

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“Today, the Iranian people boycotted the sham elections of the Iranian regime whose outcome was already decided by the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The unprecedented low voter turnout was the result of two major rounds of nationwide uprisings all over Iran in the past three months where people had already cast their vote for the overthrow of the regime.

“Despite announcement by the regime that there is no need to have ID cards with a picture and the removal of the finger print requirement for voters, the biggest news is the deserted voting stations where people sent a resounding NO vote to the entirety of the Iranian regime.”

#

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NCRI Exposes Iran Regime's Campaign to Lift Sanctions and Hide its Depraved Incompetence in Combating Coronavirus

New 84-page report, "How Iran's Duplicitous Diplomacy, Callous Policies Cost Lives," released.

WASHINGTON, DC, April 9, 2020 -- In an online video policy briefing today, entitled "The Imperative of Extending the UN's Iran Arms Embargo," Alireza Jafarzadeh, the deputy director of the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), welcomed the bi-partisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by an overwhelming majority of the U.S. House of Representatives. He said the letter serves as a clear indication that the threat of the Iranian regime is real, ongoing, and not a partisan issue, and that it exposes one of the major flaws in the JCPOA, allowing the expiration in October of the UN-sanctioned international arms embargo imposed on Tehran.

The Iranian regime's president, Hassan Rouhani, has already stated the regime will take the opportunity to "buy and sell weapons" once the embargo ends. This is particularly alarming, given that Tehran has a very advanced ballistic missile program with a plan to outfit such missiles with nuclear warheads, as reaffirmed by the recent ballistic missile tests.

The letter also correctly states the need to contain the destabilizing activities of the Iranian regime in the region and globally. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Tehran has continued its malign activities, threatening its neighbors, attacking the United States, and endangering the shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf. The vulnerable regime sees itself in dire need of suppression at home and harsh conduct abroad to enhance its chances of survival.

Jafarzadeh also emphasized the importance of the UN travel restrictions imposed on the regime's officials involved in malign activities, and the need to add more individuals to the list. "Easing of the ban or not vigorously enforcing it, will enable officials, particularly the commanders of the Qods Force and other intelligence and terror officials, to travel more easily across the region and into Europe and other western countries. Think about how that would further unleash the terror network of the regime and would legitimize the presence of the Iranian regime's top IRGC and Qods Force officials in the region as well as in Europe," said Jafarzadeh.

He praised the bi-partisan support for the House letter, adding "This is good news for the Iranian people, as it shows that the U.S. Congress as a whole is on their side and not the regime's, no matter how hard Tehran's lobby campaigns or how much money and resources it spends in the U.S. This letter, released at the peak of Tehran's efforts to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic to get the sanctions lifted and thus empower the IRGC and its rogue

behavior, is also another indication that the policy of appeasement which dominated the U.S. has long been defeated and cannot be revived.”

The experience of the past four decades makes it clear that the Iranian regime maintains power through sheer repression at home and export of terrorism and destabilizing activities abroad. The Iranian people have reached the conclusion that so long as this regime is in power, corruption and repression will persist and Tehran will continue to spend billions waging violence in the region, and on its nuclear and missile programs. The arms embargo must never be lifted so long as the mullahs are in power.

“Tehran’s continued malign activities prove that all six U.N. Security Council Resolutions about the Iranian regime’s nuclear and missile program and repression must be reenacted and the sanctions associated with them re-imposed,” said Jafarzadeh, the author of *The Iran Threat*.

The mullahs ruling Iran do not deserve the trust of the international community; their regime long ago lost the trust of the Iranian people. Over the past two years, in three major uprisings in over 200 cities across Iran, the Iranian people have called for the end of the theocracy.

"The threat posed by the Iranian regime to Iran’s people and the outside world will persist until there is a fundamental change in Iran. The COVID-19 crisis is just another proof that the religious dictatorship places its own survival above the best interests of Iranians and the region’s stability. Its behavior is not going to change. There is only one solution and that is the change of the terrorist kleptocratic regime by the people of Iran. Now is the time for the international community to stand on the side of people and recognize their right to change the repressive regime and establish freedom and democracy in Iran," NCRI-US deputy director said in his closing remarks.

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NCRI-US Welcomes Bipartisan House Letter Calling for Continued U.N. Arms Embargo on Iranian Regime

U.N. travel ban must be extended and vigorously enforced

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 8, 2020 -- In an online video policy briefing today, entitled “The Imperative of Extending the UN’s Iran Arms Embargo,” Alireza Jafarzadeh, the deputy director of the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), welcomed the bi-partisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by an overwhelming majority of the U.S. House of Representatives. He said the letter serves as a clear indication that the threat of the Iranian regime is real, ongoing, and not a partisan issue, and that it exposes one of the major flaws in the JCPOA, allowing the expiration in October of the UN-sanctioned international arms embargo imposed on Tehran.

The Iranian regime’s president, Hassan Rouhani, has already stated the regime will take the opportunity to “buy and sell weapons” once the embargo ends. This is particularly alarming, given that Tehran has a very advanced ballistic missile program with a plan to outfit such missiles with nuclear warheads, as reaffirmed by the recent ballistic missile tests.

The letter also correctly states the need to contain the destabilizing activities of the Iranian regime in the region and globally. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Tehran has continued its malign activities, threatening its neighbors, attacking the United States, and endangering the shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf. The vulnerable regime sees itself in dire need of suppression at home and harsh conduct abroad to enhance its chances of survival.

Jafarzadeh also emphasized the importance of the UN travel restrictions imposed on the regime’s officials involved in malign activities, and the need to add more individuals to the list. “Easing of the ban or not vigorously enforcing it, will enable officials, particularly the commanders of the Qods Force and other intelligence and terror officials, to travel more easily across the region and into Europe and other western countries. Think about how that would further unleash the terror network of the regime and would legitimize the presence of the Iranian regime’s top IRGC and Qods Force officials in the region as well as in Europe,” said Jafarzadeh.

He praised the bi-partisan support for the House letter, adding “This is good news for the Iranian people, as it shows that the U.S. Congress as a whole is on their side and not the regime’s, no matter how hard Tehran’s lobby campaigns or how much money and resources it spends in the U.S. This letter, released at the peak of Tehran’s efforts to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic to get the sanctions lifted and thus empower the IRGC and its rogue

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"The threat posed by the Iranian regime to Iran’s people and the outside world will persist until there is a fundamental change in Iran. The COVID-19 crisis is just another proof that the religious dictatorship places its own survival above the best interests of Iranians and the region’s stability. Its behavior is not going to change. There is only one solution and that is the change of the terrorist kleptocratic regime by the people of Iran. Now is the time for the international community to stand on the side of people and recognize their right to change the repressive regime and establish freedom and democracy in Iran," NCRI-US deputy director said in his closing remarks.

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NCRI-US Briefing

IRAN: Vulnerable Regime Dials Up Domestic Suppression, External Aggression

Terrified of looming uprisings, the religious fascism finds no option but to resort to intimidation, suppression, and increased aggression.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 13, 2020 -- Today, in an online video briefing on Iran, Alireza Jafarzadeh, the deputy director of the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), said “Terrified of looming uprisings, the religious fascism finds no option but to resort to intimidation, suppression, and increased aggression.”

Mr. Jafarzadeh opened the briefing, entitled, “IRAN: Rising Suppression, External Aggression Amid COVID-19 Crisis; Implications for Iran Policy,” by welcoming the May 10 statement released by Morgan Ortagus, the State Department spokesperson, calling for the release of two award-winning Iranian college students arrested by the Iranian regime. The Iranian Judiciary has accused them of stirring up unrest during the coronavirus pandemic and of being affiliated with the main opposition movement, the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The Iranian Resistance has released the names of 18 other captives, among the many arrested on similar charges.

“The Iranian regime is focused on harassing rather than empowering the most talented Iranians... A month ago, the regime arrested two talented students, Ali Younesi and Amir Hossein Moradi, on bogus charges. We join the countless Iranians and others around the world in calling for their release,” Ms. Ortagus said.

Explaining the significance of these arrests, Mr. Jafarzadeh said that the Tehran regime is extremely sensitive to the main universities in Tehran. These two talented students are from the elite Sharif University of Technology. Sharif, Tehran, and Amirkabir universities were the epicenter of the uprising in January 2020. Since the time of the Shah, these three universities have been at the center of student protests and vanguards of other universities and the middle class. They played an important role in the anti-monarchic revolution. Most of the founders and original leaders of the MEK attended these three universities. Enforcing a suppressive atmosphere and giving quotas to paramilitary Bassiji students, the regime tried to depoliticize and pacify them.

Students are also constricted by very low incomes and poverty, which compel them to moonlight, leaving them little time to engage in political activities. The January 2020 protests propelled mainly by these universities’ students were a major defeat for the regime’s depoliticization campaign, and a hard-fought victory for the anti-regime student movement.

Mr. Jafarzadeh pointed out that Tehran is also concerned about the consequences of its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a devastating death toll in Iran. There have been rebellions in at least 14 prisons nationwide. Dozens of prisoners have been shot to death, dozens more injured. A number of the prisoners who were arrested afterward have been hanged. “The regime feels very vulnerable to its own population in what it describes as the potential for a tsunami of uprisings in the midst of or post-COVID-19 crisis,” Mr. Jafarzadeh added.

In parallel, Tehran has embarked on a heightened campaign of external posturing and aggression in recent weeks. The regime launched a military satellite, clearly a part of its missile program, with the ultimate goal of developing a delivery system for a nuclear warhead. It also continues dangerous provocations against international shipping in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Jafarzadeh said, “The fact that it hit its own ship, the Konarak, in a rocket strike, highlights the regime’s vulnerability and incompetence. Despite the rhetoric and hollow show of force, this regime is not ten feet tall.”

The IRGC-affiliated and black-listed Mahan Air continues to fly to Venezuela, reportedly to bring in gold in exchange for helping the south American country’s oil refineries. According to the tracking website FlightRadar24, Mahan Air completed at least 12 roundtrip flights between Tehran and Las Piedras, the airport closest to the Venezuelan refinery, between April 22 and May 6.

In closing, Mr. Jafarzadeh remarked, “The question is, what should the international community do in dealing with this situation? The United States needs to augment the pressure on the regime to deprive it of the resources it needs to wage suppression against its own population and against the countries in the region. Any medical assistance or equipment has to go directly to the people, not to the regime, which will in fact divert supplies to Syria or its proxies. Additionally, the U.S. should reach out to the people of Iran as they seek change.”

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Expert Panel to Discuss the Growing Threat from Iran's Regime

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 29, 2020 -- On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) will host an online panel to discuss:

- Iran's regional aggression, direct and through support for proxy militias;
- Iran's missile and nuclear programs, including the reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- The role of sanctions, including the UN arms embargo, due to expire in October 2020;
- Iran's terrorist activities, including assassinations of dissidents; and
- Iran's COVID-19 crisis, and the systemic corruption and repression of protests.

Panel

- John Rood, Former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (2018-2020)
- Robert Joseph, Former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security (2005-2007)
- Joseph DeTrani, Former Director of National Counterproliferation Center and Special Adviser to the Director of National Intelligence.
- Olli Heinonen, Distinguished fellow at the Stimson Center, Former deputy director general of the IAEA, and head of its Department of Safeguards.
- Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy Director, NCRI-US

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

NOTE: Registration is required and available to accredited journalists, members of the diplomatic corps, think tanks, academic institutions, and the U.S. Government.

To register, click <https://bit.ly/2X9J12V> or contact media@ncrius.org.

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