



Date: September 10, 2015
No: 550-LR-1291

The United Nations
East 42nd Street,
New York, NY, 10017

Re: Islamic Republic of Iran's International Transgressions

Your Excellency,

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the opening of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, an important international institution and objective decision-making body that strives to bring about and preserve global peace and security for billions of people.

It is a well-known fact that several delegates at this General Assembly will be in attendance on behalf of non-democratic governments, which lack the political legitimacy to represent their respective nations. The Iran National Council for Free Elections (IRANNC), which I have the privilege to preside, urges the honourable delegates of all democratic countries to boldly defend democratic principles and human rights.

Today, the central challenge facing the international community is the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The establishment of the Islamic Republic nearly four decades ago has contributed to the deterioration of regional stability in this region, and has since continuously threatened global peace and security. We at the Iran National Council believe that neither war nor trusting the theocratic regime's empty promises will achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. The most peaceful, effective path to regional peace and stability is a non-violent, democratic transition from this theocratic dictatorship to a pluralistic, secular government in Iran.

The IRANNC believes that the P5+1 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) is a positive arrangement that avoids military confrontation. However, this agreement alone is insufficient for the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East and fails to address the broader issue of the regime's crimes against humanity and sponsorship of global terrorism. The track record and the nature of this theocratic regime are incompatible with universal values of human rights and respect for human dignity. Historically, the clerical regime has primarily focused on protecting its own survival by fomenting regional turmoil and crises.

Accordingly, it is inconceivable to assume that the JCPA will result in behavioural changes by the current regime in Iran. Recall that the inception of the Islamic Republic brought about the illegal capturing of 52 American hostages and diplomats at the Embassy in Tehran. The 444-day, government-sponsored kidnapping was followed by military and financial support for terrorist regimes and groups to expand radical Islamic extremism. Moreover, President Bill Clinton's US-North Korean nuclear deal failed to positively engender behavioural change in North's Korean autocratic regime and instead emboldened the regime to fearlessly pursue nuclear weapons. In addition the SALT II negotiations with the Soviet Union did not, as they were supposed to, usher in a more moderate temperament from the Soviet leadership. Rather, it gave them leverage and invigorated them to invade Afghanistan and occupy it for nearly a decade. The theocratic regime in Iran instigated the Sunni-Shia conflict in the region. Today, we witness that religious and sectarian conflicts have allowed groups such as ISIS, which were once mere paramilitary forces, to develop into full-fledged terrorist armies.

The representatives of this regime attend the General Assembly to advance the Supreme Leader's agenda and are never called to respond for their regime's murderous reign. However, we use this opportunity to provide you with a glimpse of the painful conditions in the lives of our compatriots. The constitution of the Islamic Republic classifies women and religious minorities as second-class citizens. Baha'is, Christians, Sunnis, Zoroastrians, Yarsanis, Dervishes, atheists and other non-Shia people have paid a heavy price in the past four decades. The Iranian economy has already collapsed and unemployment is rampant. Government officials engage in the looting of public funds, which are used to finance terrorist groups and terrorist regimes in the region. Iranian students and youth live without any hope for the future.

Furthermore, this regime's ravage is not only limited to political dissidents but also to the Iranian ecosystem. Mismanagement has led to an oppressive drought manifested by disappearing lakes, wetlands, and waterways. Our country's most beautiful natural landscapes have withered away under this regime. It is important to recognize that the failure to address ongoing environmental issues poses a serious threat to the global ecosystem.

The Iran National council urges the honourable delegates at the UN General Assembly to be more than ever vocal on the issues of state-sponsorship of terrorism, crimes against humanity, and lack of environmental stewardship in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Political change of regime is indeed an internal matter that has to occur at the hand of the citizens of any given country. However, support from the free world for freedom seeking people and the empowerment of their civil society has always contributed to faster, non-violent change. The time has come for the representatives of free nations to voice their support for the oppressed people of Iran by ensuring that the Islamic Republic's egregious record be exposed the world over. We solicit your support for our people's legitimate right to sovereignty and self-determination.

Sincerely,



Reza Pahlavi

President Iran National Council for Free Elections