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Page |
1

The Honourable Steven Blaney
Minister of Public Safety of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Your Excellency,

It has come to our attention that the Islamic Society of York Region is planning a celebration on May 31st, 2015 on the life and times of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The head of the Islamic Society of York Region, Zafar Bangash, is a noted advocate and lobbyist for the Iranian government in Canada and is an avid denier of the Nazi holocaust of the Jewish peoples.

As you may be aware, Khomeini as the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 was responsible for the summary execution of tens of thousands of Iranians and is hardly worthy of praise or veneration particularly in a Canadian context.


Canada's Parliament courageously adopted a unanimous consent motion on June 5, 2013, recognizing the massacre of political prisoners in Iran in 1988 as crimes against humanity under international law. Canada became the first country in the world to officially recognize these crimes which claimed the lives of thousands of Iranian political prisoners.

The motion was introduced by Paul Dewar, the New Democratic Foreign Affairs Critic and received the support of all Canadian federal parties.

As a diasporic Canadian community that chose Canada as a refuge from the tyranny of living under an Islamic Republic, we are disheartened and angered that such events are allowed to take place.

We strongly urge the Canadian government to not allow such hateful and hurtful events to take place in a country that prides itself on freedom and democratic values; values that are the antithesis of everything Khomeini and the Iranian regime currently stand for.

Yours Sincerely,


Hamid Ghahramani,
Chair of Regional office (Ontario), Canada

CC:

1. The Honourable Robert Nicholson PC QC MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada,
2. The Honourable Peter MacKay PC QC MP Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,
3. MP Costas Menegakis Member of Parliament for Richmond Hill,
4. MP John Weston, Government Liaison to the Persian & Iranian Community,
5. Honourable Reza Moridi, MPP, Minister of Research and Innovation
6. Honourable Yaser Naqui MMP, Minister of Community Safety,
7. Worship Dave Barrow Mayor of Richmond Hill,
8. Chief Eric Jolliffe York Region Police,