

# ***Our Commitments***

*Speeches by Maryam Rajavi to the 3-day  
Free Iran Global Summit  
and to the plenary session of  
the National Council of Resistance of Iran  
**July 2020***

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Speeches by Maryam Rajavi to the 3-day Free Iran Global Summit  
and to the plenary session of the National Council of Resistance of  
Iran at Ashraf 3 – Albania

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# **Free Iran Global Summit**

*Solidarity with the Iranian People's Uprising, Support for Resistance Units, and the Liberation Army*

The Free Iran Global Summit 2020 was held from July 17 to 20 at Ashraf 3, in Albania. This “largest online international event” connected Iranians at 30,000 locations in Iran and in more than 100 countries to the seat of the Iranian Resistance in Ashraf 3.

on the eve of the anniversary of July 21 which marks the historical uprising of the people of Iran in 1952 to restore the nationalist and democratic government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, and the foundation of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in 1981 as the



only independent and democratic alternative to the clerical regime in Iran.

Iranians holding a large demonstration in Berlin and rallies in other cities around the world, in compliance with restrictions imposed due to coronavirus pandemic, joined the gathering on July 17.

Some 1,000 international dignitaries also joined the summit to declare their support for the Iranian people's struggle for the overthrow of the religious dictatorship and Mrs. Maryam. Rajavi's 10-point plan for a future Iran.

The NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi was the keynote speaker in these events. The texts of her speeches in these events appear in the following pages.





# **Maryam Rajavi:** **Three key pledges of the** **Iranian Resistance**

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Speech to the  
Free Iran Global Summit  
July 17, 2020



The main event of the Free Iran Global Summit convened in Ashraf 3 on July 17, 2020, and was joined by Iranians from 30,000 locations in 100 countries around the world, their rallies and demonstrations, and by 1,000 dignitaries, including political leaders, parliamentarians, cultural and religious figures.

Many of the foreign dignitaries spoke to the event, including Mayor Rudy Giuliani; Senator Joseph Lieberman; Mr. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives; Mr. Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada; Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, former Prime Minister of Algeria; Messrs. Pandeli Majko and Sali Berisha, former prime ministers of Albania; Mrs. Michèle Alliot-Marie, Mr. Giulio Terzi, Mr. John Baird, Mrs. Anna Fotyga, former foreign ministers of France, Italy, Canada, and Poland, respectively; Mr. Riad Yassin and Mr. Khaled al-Yamani, former foreign ministers of Yemen. Eighteen U.S. lawmakers, including Sen. Martha McSally, Sen. Ben Cardin, Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. Todd Young, Sen. Mike Braun, Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Bob Menendez, Sen. John Boozman, and members of the House of Representatives Paul Gosar, Lance Gooden, Tim Burchett, David Trone, Tom Emmer, Don Bacon, Ralph Norman, and Mario Díaz-Balart, addressed the summit or delivered messages.

The following distinguished personalities also addressed the global summit: Governor Tom Ridge; former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey; former Director of the FBI, Louis J. Freeh; former Senators Kelly Ayotte and Robert Torricelli; Theresa Payton, Director of Communications and Information Technology at the White House during George W. Bush Presidency; Gilbert Mitterrand; Rama Yade, former French Human Rights Minister; the Rt. Hon. David Jones, former U.K. Secretary of Brexit; the Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers, former U.K. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs; Baroness Verma, member of the U.K. House of Lords, Mr. John Perry, former Irish minister; Mr. Lulzim Basha, leader of the Democratic Party in Albania; Mr. Fatmir Mediu, Leader of the Republican Party of Albania; Mr. Ahmed Al-Jarallah, editor-in-chief of As-Seyassah newspaper from Kuwait; Mr. Bassam Al Omoush, former Jordanian Minister and ambassador to Iran; Kimmo Sasi, former Finnish Minister of Commerce; and Ambassadors Robert Joseph, Lincoln Bloomfield, Kenneth Blackwell; and dignitaries such as Ingrid Betancourt, former Colombian Presidential candidates; Linda Chavez, Patrik Kennedy, and Messrs. Matthew Offord and David Ames, from the UK House of Commons; Bishop John Prichard from the U.K., Luís Leite Ramos, Vice-President of the PPE at the European Parliament; Messrs. Martin Patzelt and Thomas Nord from the German Bundestag; Mr. Philippe Gosselin from the French Parliament; Messrs. Lucio Malan and Roberto Rampi from the Italian Senate; Ms. Renata Polverini, member of the Italian Parliament; Mr. James Bezan and Mrs. Judy Sgro from the Canadian Parliament; Mr. Michał Kamiński, Vice- Chairman of the Polish Senate; Mr. Jean Francois Legaret, former Mayer of Paris 1; Gen. James Conway, Commander of the US Marine Corps; Gen. George Casey, former Chief of Staff of the US Army; Gen. Jack Keane, former Deputy Chief of Staff; Mr. Ad Melkert, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Iraq; and Tahar Boumedra, former UNAMI human rights representative in Iraq.

Following is the text of speech by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), in the July 17 gathering.





Fellow compatriots,  
Courageous youth and Resistance Units,  
Greetings and salutations to all of you, especially in the city of  
martyrs, the arisen people of Behbahan,<sup>1</sup> and millions of our  
outraged compatriots who recently stood up to the regime by  
launching a massive online campaign on Twitter, in protest to the

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<sup>1</sup> The people of the city of Behbahan in Khuzestan province (south-western Iran) staged significant anti-regime protests on July 16, 2020, a day before the Free Iran Global Summit, and in the midst of intense security measures by the regime. The demonstrators chanted "mullahs get lost" and called for the overthrow of the regime. They also praised the city's martyrs who were killed by the regime during the November 2019 uprising. Dozens of protesters were arrested by the theocracy in Behbahan.

inhuman death sentences against young people.<sup>2</sup>

Indeed, the mullahs' regime has not and will not be relieved from the convulsions produced by that fierce November 2019 uprising. That is why, terrified of more uprisings, the mullahs' criminal judiciary resorted to sentencing three detained November protesters to execution. But it was proven that such measures would backfire.

I commend you all, members and supporters of the Iranian Resistance, who are taking part in this summit from thousands of locations in five continents.

I would also like to express our thanks and gratitude to lawmakers, and hundreds of political dignitaries across the world, who have joined the Free Iran Global Summit.

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2 The hashtag "Don't Execute" (in Farsi) was used millions of times on Twitter alone to stop the execution of three young protesters detained during the November 2019 uprising. The call quickly went viral internationally, prompting the regime to significantly reduce internet connectivity to stop the campaign, but to no avail. As a result of the vast social outrage partially manifesting itself virtually, the regime was forced to halt the execution soon after Tehran's supreme court upheld the ruling.



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*Our first commitment is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will overthrow the clerical regime and we will reclaim Iran.*

*Our second commitment is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will build a free and democratic Iran.*

*And our third commitment is to remain faithful to our people's sovereignty and their right to vote*

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## Voice of Resistance Units and Rebellious Cities

This summit echoes the voice of the Iranian people's 40-year resistance against religious dictatorship and fascism, and in pursuit of freedom and democracy.

This summit is the voice of the largest, the longest-standing, most sophisticated, and most serious organized resistance movement in Iran's history, with the roaring river of its martyrs' blood, and the moving chants of massacred Mojahedin<sup>3</sup> who stood firm on their beliefs to the very end against some of the most cruel and bloodthirsty rulers.

This summit echoes calls for the clerical regime's overthrow, which were heard during successive uprisings lasting from December 2017 and January 2018 to November 2019 and January 2020. It represents the people's demand for the regime's overthrow after the curtains fell on the "reformer vs. principalist" theatrics that were aimed at preserving the regime.

This summit is the voice of Resistance Units and rebellious cities across Iran who have put an end to a mindset of despair, incredulity

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3 "Mojahedin" refers to the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also known as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), the largest component of the NCRI political coalition. The PMOI/MEK was founded in 1965 by three young intellectuals, Mohammad Hanifnejad, Saeed Mohsen and Ali-Asghar Badizadegan. After undergoing some of the most gruesome tortures, all three were executed by the monarchical dictatorship's security services in 1972. The only remaining member of the leadership committee of the PMOI/MEK, Massoud Rajavi, also received a death sentence, but after a widespread international outcry, the Shah was forced to commute his sentence to life imprisonment. Massoud Rajavi was released from prison by the people in 1979 during the anti-monarchical revolution.

and inaptitude, replacing it with the pledge of “we can and we must.”

Today's summit represents our enchained homeland in three of its most prominent characteristics:

A rebellious and revolutionary Iran; an Iran united in solidarity; and a free and democratic Iran of tomorrow.

### **The Iranian Resistance's Three Key Pledges**

We have come together to reaffirm three monumental and historic commitments that we have pledged to accomplish.

Our first commitment is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will overthrow the clerical regime and we will reclaim Iran.

Our second commitment is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will build a free and democratic Iran.

And our third commitment is to remain faithful to our people's sovereignty and their right to vote; to not seek power at any cost, but to establish freedom and justice at all cost; to never return to the dictatorships of the Shah<sup>4</sup> and the mullahs.

As the majority of elected lawmakers in the U.S. and Europe have

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4 During the pre-1979 monarchical dictatorship, the Shah (Mohammad-Reza Pahlavi) ruled Iran with an iron fist and through a notorious secret police (called SAVAK) for 37 years. In the late 1970s, millions of disenchanted Iranians staged nationwide protests calling for the Shah's overthrow and the establishment of democracy. But that democratic revolution against the Shah's dictatorship was stolen by Khomeini and the mullahs, who immediately set up a religious tyranny and launched a rein of terror against opponents, predominantly the PMOI/MEK and NCRI.



*Monument of the Iranian people's uprising at Asrhaf 3 - Albania*

pointed out, the Iranian Resistance seeks to establish a democratic, secular and non-nuclear Iran.

## **Uprisings: A Radiant Example Informing the Larger Operation of Overthrowing the Regime**

From all indications, the ruling theocracy is on the verge of being overthrown.

Although the virus of religious fascism and its accomplice, the coronavirus, have joined forces to demoralize and pacify our people and society, we saw during the November 2019 uprising that the protests suddenly erupted in 900 locations across the country. This created a brilliant example and a model for the great

uprising that will ultimately overthrow the regime.

The uprisings that spanned from December 2017 and January 2018 to November 2019 and January 2020 were not about reforming the regime or attempts to speak to the mullahs. They did not ask anything from the mullahs. The intention behind them, rather, was to overthrow the mullahs.

In the midst of these uprisings, the generation involved delivered the thunderous chants of "Death to the oppressor, be it the Shah or the [Supreme] Leader;" "We don't want the Shah or the Leader, we don't want a choice between bad and worse." This is a generation that chants "Our enemy is right here. They lie when they say it's America."

This generation is a constant nightmare for the mullahs. Indeed, the clerics have come face-to-face with a rebellious generation against which they are powerless.

The Iranian Resistance relied on precise and well-documented reports to register the figure of 1,500 martyrs during the November 2019 uprising. The actual figure is much higher. A multitude of documents obtained by the NCRI's Security and Counterterrorism Committee from within the National Emergency Organization, which relate to Tehran alone, represent the tip of the iceberg and confirm that the real numbers are higher.

These uprisings baffled and astounded the Iranian regime's political apologists, advocates, lobbyists and paid operatives, because the protests completely discredited their deceptions and lies.

Regime apologists claimed that it is inconceivable for the people of Iran to resort to uprisings and a revolution to depose the mullahs. They kept saying that change in Iran will not happen unless it



*Ashraf 3- Albania*

comes from within the regime's own ranks.

Time and again, they repeated the mullahs' false narrative that the PMOI/MEK lacks popular support. They were busy picking out young and teenage PMOI/MEK members when, suddenly, they were struck with throngs of young people swarming the streets of Iranian cities. And they were irritated when they saw that among those detained were two progressive university students [who support the PMOI/MEK].

This explains why the mullahs and their mob of interrogators and agitators have unleashed their wrath against the Iranian Resistance and the PMOI/MEK. They know that they are on the verge of being overthrown, and are in agony over the fact that these uprisings and rebellious youth have adopted the roadmap and strategy practiced by the PMOI/MEK.

## **A Force Capable of Overthrow Awaits in the Heart of Iranian Cities**

The volcanic uprising in November 2019 washed away all baseless claims. It proved that it is possible to inspire and organize protests in Iran. It proved that despite all the repression and crimes committed by the regime, the Iranian people harbor a stunningly powerful desire and readiness to continue their anti-regime uprisings. It proved that the masses of people, particularly hard-working Iranians, impoverished people and younger generations, are standing face-to-face against the regime. And, finally, it proved that a force capable of overthrowing the regime has emerged and is waiting in the wings in the very heart of Iranian cities. This is the same force that the regime's Interior Minister described as "a force of about 600,000-strong"<sup>5</sup> who, in his words, destroyed regime centers one after another during the November uprising. It is this rebellious force, which despite unrelenting arrests, empowers Resistance Units to constantly regroup, regenerate and multiply themselves. Over the past two years, the emergence of rebellious

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5 Iranian regime's Interior Minister, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, interview with the state-run TV, November 26, 2019.

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*The Iranian Resistance relied on precise and well-documented reports to register the figure of 1,500 martyrs during the November 2019 uprising. The actual figure is much higher.*



cities and the operations of Resistance Units against repression, whose objectives are to pierce the veil of suppression and fuel the engine of uprisings by galvanizing the people, have forced the regime to clearly and vividly sense the danger that lies ahead.

In the context of the history of liberation movements in Iran, the concept of Resistance Units and rebellious cities and their key role in the execution of the strategy of popular uprisings, was discovered and formulated by Massoud [Rajavi, Leader of the Iranian Resistance]. This is the secret to fomenting and mobilizing popular uprisings and winning ultimate victory.

Over the past two years, Resistance Units have overcome martyrdoms and many arrests, and have challenged the enemy face-to-face with its closed circuit cameras and agents in various cities across Iran. They have carried out an average of 20 operations per day to confront the prevalent atmosphere of repression, to publicize the Resistance, and to expose the regime. These activities serve as sparks that will ignite future uprisings, and they have overwhelmed the regime.

We commend these courageous youths, the resistant and steadfast political prisoners, and a generation which is determined to fight on and to make sacrifices, giving up their personal belongings and their own lives every day to keep ablaze the flames of uprisings, and to save an enchained nation.

These are telltale signs of the coming of the great Army of Freedom. Among the countless who are suppressed, the force that will eventually save and free Iran is rising up.

Yes, the dawn is near and the blood-drenched caravans of martyrs sing:

Rise up now friends,  
 Dare to soar like an eagle,  
 Charge against the enemy,  
 Onwards to victory, onwards to prosperity!

## In the Final Analysis, the Mullahs Have No Solutions

In the wake of the uprisings in December 2017 and January 2018, Massoud [Rajavi] said: "To contain this uprising, the mullahs' Supreme Leader has no other option but to solve a number of economic, social, political, and security challenges, in which case the way would be paved for his own regime's downfall."

This is precisely the focal point of the mullahs' vulnerability. If they continue to pursue the current course of action, namely their belligerence, missile launches, terrorism, intimidation and closing ranks, they will inevitably crash head first.

And, on the other hand, if they acquiesce to the slightest degree of retreat, if they change their behavior and abandon their suppression, terrorism, and belligerence, then they would undercut the entire existence of the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule). For all these reasons, Khamenei has urged for the formation of "a young and Hezbollahi<sup>6</sup> government"<sup>7</sup> and sees a monolithic

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6 In the context of Khamenei's remarks, the word Hezbollahi (which with an 'i' at the end of Hezbollah, literally means "followers of the Party of God") refers to the regime's hardened adherents and fundamentalist forces fiercely loyal to the person of Khamenei.

7 Regime's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, speech at a meeting with members of the paramilitary Bassij of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), May 17, 2020. Khamenei also said in the same speech that "everyone should be careful about the enemy recruiting society's youth."



Parliament coupled with a murderous Judiciary as the sole way out of the vortex of crises and as the only hope for preserving the clerical regime.

Less than two weeks ago, before Khamenei's intervention to put a lid on internal feuds raging in his regime, in an open session of Parliament on July 5, the regime's deputies were talking of impeaching and even prosecuting [regime President Hassan] Rouhani for committing treason. When it came to [the regime's Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad] Zarif, the deputies unloaded on him their endless fear and horror over the reinstatement of the snapback mechanism regarding the nuclear program. The mullahs and their Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had made a vital bet on the termination of the arms embargo scheduled for October 18, 2020, as stipulated in the JCPOA. For this reason, the international community's decision to activate the snapback mechanism would deliver the coup de grace shot to the regime's windfall gains under the JCPOA and the policy of appeasement. Before all else, snapback would debunk the myth of the regime's longevity and will accelerate its downfall.

Against this backdrop, the claim that Rouhani and Zarif have committed treason and must be impeached is a cowardly and nervous preemptive gesture. We say let the Supreme Leader devour and discard his own internal factions as much as he wants. In the final analysis, the mullahs have run out of solutions and their regime is doomed to be deposed in its entirety.

### **The Strategy of Inflicting Mass Human Casualties during a Pandemic to Fend off Uprisings and Overthrow**

Fellow compatriots, dear friends,

To date, the accelerating spread of the novel coronavirus has taken the lives of at least 72,000 people in Iran. Let us observe a minute of silence in memory of those innocent victims.

More than any other time, this carnage revealed the appalling truth about the mullahs' destruction of the country's healthcare, delivery of nutrients and social welfare foundations, leaving our people defenseless against the virus' onslaught more than any other country in the world.

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One must absolutely refrain from comparing the coronavirus crisis in Iran with that of other countries. In March, Khamenei openly said that he sought to create an opportunity and a blessing out of the coronavirus crisis.

On behalf of the Iranian Resistance, I have repeatedly declared that the unusual surge in the number of coronavirus infections in Iran is a product of the criminal policies adopted by Khamenei and Rouhani. The regime's strategy of launching mass casualties<sup>8</sup> as a barrier against the threat of an uprising and eventual overthrow is precisely designed to pacify and demoralize the Iranian society, rendering it hopeless and paralyzed.

The regime sent people back to work without offering them any assistance in terms of prevention and treatment. At the same time, it blames the general public for the spread of the virus, claiming that they do not observe hygienic protocols.

The regime's officials say that the virus launched a surprise attack in the month of July. "Nurses are falling like autumn leaves" and at least 15,000 of the medical staff in Iran have been infected to date.

We honor the selfless doctors and nurses who have suffered greatly over the past few months, but have not let up on their efforts for a second, even at the cost of endangering their own lives to save the lives of their fellow compatriots. To show our gratitude to these individuals, let us all applaud them for one minute.

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8 The strategy of creating mass casualties refers to the regime's decision to refuse to quarantine and provide aid to Iranian citizens during a potential shutdown, and instead open up the economy despite staggering growth in the number of new coronavirus cases and deaths.

Dear friends,

In these critical circumstances, the ruling mullahs have refused to allocate any meaningful financial resources to fight the disease, or even to pay nurses' salaries.

The regime's Health Minister says that despite his repeated appeals since the beginning of the outbreak (in February), for the first time, only 300 million Euros was provided to the ministry in June. That is only 3.5 Euros per person to confront the pandemic. The meager sum cannot be compared to any other country's efforts. But even this insignificant funding is squandered in the regime's cycle of pervasive corruption.

On the other hand, during the grueling coronavirus crisis, the mullahs continued their attempts to launch expensive satellites into space. Concurrently, they pursued their belligerent and terrorist agenda in Iraq and Syria and escalated their ominous nuclear activities to a new level. The regime's Defense Minister recently told the mullahs' parliament, "The number of missiles we manufactured over the past four years is equal to the scale of production in the prior ten years combined."<sup>9</sup>

Where does the regime get the money to spend on such activities? Obviously, by further depriving the Iranian people. The mullahs have increased the number of bases for the IRGC Bassij Force to 54,000. If they had spent one-tenth of this money to build hospitals, the number of coronavirus casualties would not have been so high. We know that there are only 954 active hospitals in the country. On May 21, 2020, in the Fadak city of Kermanshah province, the

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<sup>9</sup> The regime's Defense Minister, Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami, speaking at the mullahs' Parliament (Majlis), June 23, 2020.



regime's municipal agents ruthlessly razed a shack where Asiyeh Panahi lived. Asiyeh was a mother to seven children. She was poor and did not have anyone to support her. She had just finished building her 40-square-meter home after enduring a great deal of anguish, and so she naturally did not want to let them destroy it. She cried out again and again, "Don't raze my home!" But they dragged her on the ground for so long that she eventually died. How many more Asiyehs have to lose their homes? How many more people have to slide into poverty and experience starvation? How many more people have to succumb to death through attrition every single day?

Today, many women breadwinners have been forced to literally live in rubbles, tunnels, underground holes, slums, or tents.

Why are these women, along with 38 million others, living in slums

and shanty towns? Why is it that more than seven million people have been forced to live around cemeteries? Everywhere we look, the only thing we see is the devastation and destruction caused by the ruling mullahs. But we will certainly end this situation.

The ruling mullahs must answer why the value of the country's official currency has plunged to this extent. Why is there no ability to create jobs? Why is Iran among the four countries in the world with the highest inflation rates? What happened to the three trillion dollars' worth of oil revenues the regime gained during Khamenei's rule? How did Khamenei amass 100 billion dollars' worth of assets in his executive headquarters?<sup>10</sup>

Where did the IRGC, the State Security Force (SSF), Astan-e Qods [religious endowment], and the Mostazafan (Oppressed) Foundation get their hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth? The 15 institutions and foundations under Khamenei's control have a total of one trillion dollars worth of assets.

Yes, this is the direct outcome of forcing at least 60 million Iranians

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10 According to credible reports, one of the many business juggernauts that Khamenei controls is the "Setad Ejraee Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam" (Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam), which has an estimated worth of at least 100 billion dollars in assets (See "Khamenei controls massive financial empire built on property seizures," Reuters, November 11, 2013).



*We have pledged to overthrow the regime,  
take back Iran and restore all the violated  
and plundered rights of the people of Iran.*



to live under the poverty line. The mullahs' depraved and criminal regime must end.

## **Our Commitment to Iranians and History**

Compatriots, dear friends,

We have pledged to overthrow the regime, take back Iran and restore all the violated and plundered rights of the people of Iran. Our people must enjoy the right to be healthy, to have proper shelter, the right to employment, to organize and have syndicates, the right to autonomy of ethnic minorities, to equal participation in running the society's affairs, to gender equality and people's sovereignty.

They must be free of religious slavery and sexual exploitation. They must enjoy freedom of expression, opinion, and choice. They must be lifted out of poverty, and be free from fear. This means ending torture, executions, as well as lack of social and economic security. We have pledged to restore all these freedoms and rights. We make this pledge to the Iranian people and to Iran's history. This is our pledge to 120,000 martyrs who have fallen for freedom.

Today, in Iran, one of the greatest battles and momentous tests of our time rages on between freedom and religious fascism, between democracy and religious fundamentalism. This is a battle intertwined with the destiny of contemporary humanity and with global peace and security. We urge all governments and international bodies to stand with the people of Iran in this historic battle against the greatest threat to world peace and security.

The recent resolution adopted by a majority in the US House of

Representatives offers a viable example for all governments and the international community to follow regarding Iran and the Iranian people.

## **The Trial of the Regime's Diplomat-Terrorist in Belgium**

The Iranian regime's leaders planned to launch a major terrorist attack against the Free Iran Grand Gathering in Paris in 2018. The terrorists in possession of the bomb were arrested by Belgian Police. The regime's terrorist-diplomat, who had delivered the bomb to them, has been in jail for the past two years.

Two days ago, the trial of this diplomat and his three accomplices began in Belgium. For the first time, a serving diplomat faces trial in Europe for direct involvement in terrorism. This is a huge disgrace for the regime and it shows that the regime will go to any lengths and pay any price to commit crimes that are intended to annihilate its alternative.

While leveraging diplomatic privileges, the detained regime diplomat directed the plot under the supervision of senior Iranian regime Intelligence Ministry officials.

The trial of the four detained terrorists as perpetrators of this terrorist plot is an imperative step. But as I emphasized during my seven-hour witness testimony during a court hearing, which was accompanied by the submission of ample documentation and evidence, the real decision makers were Khamenei, Rouhani, Zarif, and Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi.

This is a sufficient and definitive case based on which the UN Security Council can prosecute Khamenei and his accomplices for being



*Maryam Rajavi standing beside the portrait of Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq*

the world's leading sponsors of terrorism. Of course, this would be in addition to the case of the massacre of political prisoners in 1988. And, it is a crucial step to end the mullahs' unbridled terrorism.

### Compatriots!

These days coincide with several unforgettable historical milestones. The uprising on July 21, 1952, in support of the great Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq,<sup>11</sup> the anniversary of the founding of

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq was Iran's democratically-elected prime minister, and an immensely popular nationalist icon, who served from 1951 to 1953. During his illustrious political career as a member of parliament and later prime minister, Mossadeq championed the historical achievements of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution, including secular democracy and independence. His crowning achievement was his leadership in nationalizing Iran's oil industry. However, in his short time in office, he led the passing of a multitude of progressive legislations, including those concerning women's rights and gender equality. In July 1952, he announced his resignation due to the Shah's refusal to limit his monarchical powers.

the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Tehran in 1981 upon Massoud (Rajavi)'s initiative, the Eternal Light Operation<sup>12</sup> and the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988 upon Khomeini's fatwa.

From the uprising on July 21, 1952, to the uprising in November 2019, our nation has paid dearly for its pursuit of freedom. Without a doubt, this nation deserves freedom and it is going to achieve freedom.

The mission of our generation is to overthrow the mullahs' criminal regime and to restore the trampled rights of all the people of Iran. To accomplish this mission, we have had to endure nothing but

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Stunned, the people of Iran, including many women, poured into the streets for several days to force the Shah to acquiesce to Mossadeq's legitimate democratic demands. On July 21, 1952, the Shah's forces fired on protesters, killing dozens. But those sacrifices forced the Shah to accept Mossadeq back into office. Mossadeq, who was deposed a year later during a CIA-backed coup that reinstalled the Shah's dictatorship, had requested to be buried beside the graves of the martyrs of July 21, 1952. The spiteful Shah, however, never granted Mossadeq's final wish.

12 On July 20, 1988, the National Liberation Army (NLA) launched a significant operation codenamed Eternal Light. The NLA thrust 170-180 km deep into Iranian territory, liberating several cities in western Iran. For years, stories of courage and sacrifice by Resistance fighters, especially women combatants, were shared secretly in every tea-house and small gathering among locals in western Iran, who had witnessed such heroism. The NLA's liberation operations against the tyrannical regime were instrumental in forcing Khomeini to finally end the disastrous and unpatriotic war with Iraq which was waged by Khomeini through the 1980s and left a million fatalities on the Iranian side alone, not to mention at least a trillion dollars worth of economic damages, according to the regime's former president Rafsanjani.

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torture, flogging, executions, and slanders.

As I have reiterated time and again, we have not come to gain something for ourselves; we have come to sacrifice everything and pay the necessary price for Iran's liberty.

We are determined to restore freedom and people's sovereignty in Iran, and this will surely happen.

Long live freedom

God bless the people of Iran



### **Maryam Rajavi:**

We pay tribute to Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, the great leader of the Nationalist Movement of Iran, who in the aftermath of the 1953 coup d'état, sent a message to the younger generation at the time, saying, "You are the last arrow in the quiver gripped by the Iranian people. You must learn from what you have observed and put that learning into practice."

He also said, "The reason we are held back is because we do not have a political or social organization."

He was inspired by the Mojahedin of Algeria, and hoped for the emergence of the Mojahedin of Iran who would "sacrifice everything they have" in order to build a free and independent nation, those who would be "tenacious and insistent" on their political stance.



## **Hail to Iran's courageous youths**

*Monument of the Iranian people's uprising at Asrhaf 3 - Albania*



# **Maryam Rajavi:** **Seeking Justice for Martyrs** **and Holding the Iranian** **Regime Accountable**

Speech to the  
Call-for-Justice virtual conference  
during the Free Iran Global Summit  
July 19, 2020





The second day of the Free Iran Global Summit on Sunday, July 19, 2020, featured an online international conference, entitled, "The 1988 Massacre, A Crime Against Humanity Remains Unpunished 32 Years After." Held at Ashraf 3, the event marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners.

Several PMOI/MEK members who had served time in the mullahs' prisons and witnessed the massacre, spoke at the gathering.

Prominent personalities and jurists such as Baroness Boothroyd, former Speaker of the U.K. House of Commons; Giulio Terzi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy; Geoffrey Robertson QC, a human rights barrister from Britain; Professor Alan Dershowitz, prominent U.S. civil rights lawyer; Ingrid Betancourt, former senator and Colombian presidential candidate; Ambassador Lincoln Bloomfield, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs; Ambassador Ken Blackwell, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, representative of the International Commission of Jurists on Human Rights Missions from the U.K.; Henri Leclerc, prominent French lawyer and Honorary President of the Human Rights League; Alejo Vidal Quadras, former Vice President of the European Parliament from Spain; Tahar Boumedra, former Chief of the Human Rights Office of UNAMI; Steve McCabe, British MP; Els Van Hoof, chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Parliament; Senator Lucio Malan, Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Italian People of Freedom Party; Renata Polverini, member

of Italian Chamber of Deputies and former President of the Lazio region; Senator Leo Housakas, member of the Canadian Senate; Taissir Tamimi, former chief Islamic judge of the Palestinian National Authority; and Lars Rise president of the Committee of the Friends of a Free Iran in Norway, addressed the conference.

The keynote speaker in this conference was Mrs. Maryam Rajavi. In her speech to the gathering, the NCRI President-elect called the 1988 massacre, "The greatest unpunished crime against humanity." Following is the full text of her remarks.



Compatriots,  
Sisters and brothers,  
Hello and greetings to each and every one of you.  
Congratulations to you for compelling the clerical regime and its criminal Judiciary to take a step back and suspend the executions of three young protesters in the wake of a storm of outrage and over 11 million online protests.  
The criminal mullahs' Judiciary still sentenced three brave young Kurds in the city of Saqqez to more than 16 years in prison for setting fire to the posters of [eliminated terrorist Qods Force commander] Qassem Soleimani.  
The fury and protests of the people of Iran will continue to rage on

until final victory is achieved and the clerical regime is overthrown. These youths and all prisoners detained for taking part in the anti-regime uprisings must be immediately released.

In the city of Behbahan, despite banning all forms of gatherings because of the coronavirus, the regime resorted to a counter-demonstration, with their usual chants of “death to the Monafeqin [Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK)].” But these theatrics do not solve any of the regime’s terminal problems, particularly when the value of the country’s currency has plunged so drastically.

Indeed, the end and the overthrow of the clerical regime is at hand and within reach.

Today, we have gathered to commemorate five significant and historic occasions and reflect on their lessons. The roadmap and the path we have chosen to this day is at the same time a guiding light for the future. These historic anniversaries are:

-The uprising of the people of Tehran on July 21, 1952, in protest to the Shah’s removal of Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq<sup>1</sup> as Prime Minister;

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1 Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq was Iran’s democratically-elected prime minister, and an immensely popular nationalist icon, who served from 1951 to 1953. During his illustrious political career as a member of parliament and later prime minister, Mossadeq championed the historical achievements of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution, including secular democracy and independence. His crowning achievement was his leadership in nationalizing Iran’s oil industry. However, in his short time in office, he led the passing of a multitude of progressive legislations, including those concerning women’s rights and gender equality. In July 1952, he announced his resignation due to the Shah’s refusal to limit his monarchical powers. Stunned, the people of Iran, including many women, poured into the streets for several days to force the Shah to acquiesce to Mossadeq’s legitimate democratic demands. On July 21, 1952, the Shah’s forces fired on protesters, killing dozens. But those sacrifices forced the Shah to accept Mossadeq back into office. Mossadeq,



*Members of the PMOI at Ashraf 3 listen to the speeches*

-The 40th year of the founding of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI);

-The ceasefire of the Iran-Iraq War on July 18, 1988. This ceasefire<sup>2</sup> was a “chalice of poison” that the National Liberation Army of Iran

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who was deposed a year later during a CIA-backed coup that reinstalled the Shah's dictatorship, had requested to be buried beside the graves of the martyrs of July 21, 1952. The spiteful Shah, however, never granted Mossadeq's final wish.

<sup>2</sup> In announcing the cease-fire, the regime's first supreme leader Khomeini was so distraught and frustrated that he compared it to drinking a “chalice of poison.” Prior to that, Khomeini had loudly beat the drums of an unnecessary war, sending millions to their deaths in order to preserve his regime. Even though Iraqi troops withdrew from Iranian territory in 1982, Khomeini unnecessarily continued the unpatriotic war for 6 additional years, causing enormous lasting ruin. He had repeatedly called the war a “divine blessing,” arguing even as late as February 1988, a few months before the ceasefire, that he will continue to “make war until victory.” The National Liberation Army's operations and the NCRI's peace movement were instrumental in forcing Khomeini to finally accept the ceasefire and drink “the chalice of poison.”

imposed on the regime, particularly after the liberation of the city of Mehran [in western Iran];

-Khomeini's fatwa [religious decree] to massacre PMOI/MEK supporters and other political prisoners who had expressed commitment to their cause and their principles;

-And, finally, the Eternal Light Operation in 1988, during which the National Liberation Army of Iran advanced some 170 kms deep into Iranian territory close to the gates of Kermanshah; a feat that seemed inconceivable at the time.

Indeed, the battle for taking Iran back from the clutches of clerical occupiers will continue, and it will certainly have a triumphant conclusion.

## **Anniversary of the July 21 Uprising and Foundation of the NCRI**

We pay tribute to Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, the great leader of the Nationalist Movement of Iran, who in the aftermath of the 1953 coup d'état, sent a message to the younger generation at the time, saying, "You are the last arrow in the quiver gripped by



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*It is not enough to simply denounce the status quo, as everyone did with respect to the Shah's dictatorship. One must also defend an alternative. This is precisely what has been formulated in the NCRI's Ten-Point Plan.*

the Iranian people. You must learn from what you have observed and put that learning into practice.” He also said, “The reason we are held back is because we do not have a political or social organization.” He was inspired by the Mojahedin of Algeria, and hoped for the emergence of the Mojahedin of Iran who would “sacrifice everything they have” in order to build a free and independent nation, those who would be “tenacious and insistent” on their political stance.

Some years later, in his defense before a military tribunal in 1971, Massoud Rajavi said, “My friends and I are disciples of Dr. Mossadeq. We have renounced all personal ambitions for wealth and power.” He added, “Mossadeq sought an end to colonialism and wanted to see the dawn of freedom and independence.”

Ten years after those statements, Massoud Rajavi founded the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) precisely to guarantee a democratic future for Iran and to prevent the usurping of the outcome of the suffering and sacrifices of martyrs for freedom, as the clerical regime did after the anti-monarchic revolution in 1979. The NCRI has adopted resolutions and plans over four decades ago, including those about the provisional government following the current theocracy's downfall. These resolutions and plans shine a bright light in Iran's landscape and have been vindicated over time; from the principle of universal suffrage and respecting people's right to vote, to the declaration that the mullahs' religious fascist regime is incapable of moderation, launching reforms, or even mere negotiating; from the Peace Plan, the policy of pursuing peace, and the peace movement against Khomeini's warmongering, to the plan for the autonomy of ethnic minorities

within the framework of Iran's unity and territorial integrity; and, from the plan on separation of religion and state to the plan on women's rights and freedoms.

The NCRI's Plan to form the National Solidarity Front to overthrow the mullahs' religious tyranny stipulates that if anyone seeks a republic and a democratic political system in Iran based on the separation of religion and state, they are undoubtedly with us. Those who deliberately turn a blind eye to this Plan do so precisely because they have built a bridge to the Shah or to the mullahs. They also do so because after the unraveling of the terrorist designation against the PMOI/MEK, they want to label the PMOI/MEK a "sect," in keeping with the lexicon perpetuated by the mullahs' Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

### **The Greatest Lesson of the 1979 Revolution: Establishment and Preservation of an Alternative**

Dear friends, compatriots,

The foundation, introduction and subsequent preservation of an alternative was the first, the greatest, and of course, the most difficult lesson that was gleaned in the course of the anti-monarchic revolution in 1979. It is not enough to simply denounce the status quo, as everyone did with respect to the Shah's dictatorship. One must also defend an alternative. This is precisely what has been formulated in the NCRI's Ten-Point Plan.

We express our endless gratitude to the NCRI President, Massoud Rajavi, who opened a new chapter in Iran's history by establishing a democratic alternative, right at a time when Khomeini planned





*Maryam Rajavi: "Mossadeq sought an end to colonialism and wanted to see the dawn of freedom and independence."*

to put an end to the Iranian people's quest for freedom and revolution through a bloody crackdown coupled with a wave of executions. Massoud's first and most important "sin" was his decision to prioritize the cause of freedom. For this reason, he rejected and boycotted the constitution of the religious dictatorship; a stance diametrically opposed to the defectors of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Tudeh Party,<sup>3</sup> and other groups and individuals whose memories were jolted only after

3 The Tudeh ("Masses") Party was a pro-Soviet group in Tehran that is most well-known for its betrayal of Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq. Although the 1953 coup that brought down Mossadeq's democratically-elected government was largely orchestrated by foreign powers, internal allies involved in the effort included the mullahs, led by the popularly despised Abol-Ghasem Kashani, the Shah and the royal court, and pro-Soviet elements like the Tudeh Party. Following the 1979 revolution, in alignment with Moscow's whims, Tudeh put aside the issue of freedoms as a "secondary" matter and focused on "American imperialism," thereby placing the party squarely in the camp of Islamic fundamentalists. It lamented the PMOI/MEK's advocacy of democracy and pleaded with the PMOI/MEK to join its fight against "American imperialism" but the PMOI/MEK vehemently rebuffed those pleas.

they landed abroad to speak about freedom and democracy. Back in March 1981, the Tudeh Party wrote in their newspaper: "Mr. Rajavi must note that, compared to the fight against imperialism, the democracy he adores and worships so much may not even amount to a secondary importance in our times."

Indeed, the NCRI as an alternative was founded on freedom and opposition to despotism, defying both the Shah and the mullahs, and of course, the heaviest price in blood has been paid for its sustainment and endurance.

### **The Greatest and Most Significant Political Demarcation in Contemporary Iran**

For the past four decades, the clerical regime has spared absolutely no effort to destroy this alternative (which must exist), whether through its demonization campaigns, executions, massacres or terrorism. It has sought to convince the rest of the world that there is no alternative to the theocratic regime and so the world must get along with the mullahs. When the regime failed to destroy the PMOI/MEK and the NCRI, it latched on to the claim that these are, at any rate, worse options than the regime itself, and therefore, once again, the rest of the world must accept the existing regime. The outcome of the status quo is clear. On the one hand, young people are being slaughtered, and on the other, our people's wealth is being plundered. Even the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and its islands are being auctioned off in treacherous contracts, as has been talked about in recent days. This is how the mullahs have been staying in power, a state of affairs that is not going to last much longer.

Dear friends,

Over the past 40 years, the regime has constantly and incessantly declared that the PMOI/MEK and the Iranian Resistance are its arch-nemesis as well as the regime's primary "red line." Therefore, in the context of such a historic confrontation, one can discern the positions and underlying political identities of all other forces and groups.

On the one hand, there are the remnants of the Shah and the mullahs and individuals and groups who openly, unequivocally, and shamelessly prefer the mullahs' regime over the NCRI, and particularly the PMOI/MEK. This attitude is manifested with respect to the Iranian Resistance's policy of peace and the peace movement during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s; similarly, in their discussions over the nature and identity of the regime after Khomeini's death, and the mirage of [former regime president Ali Akbar Hashemi] Rafsanjani's policy of "moderation;" or, another example is with respect to [former regime president Mohammad] Khatami and his illusory "reforms."

So, we encounter groups and individuals who are either on the side of the clerical regime or operating as its de facto allies, or those who are somewhat aligned and moving in the same general direction as the regime. They are aligned with the regime, for example, when it comes to sanctions [imposed on the regime], the mullahs' nuclear and missile projects, the activation of the snapback mechanism in the six suspended UN Security Council resolutions against the regime, the terrorist designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), or with respect to [eliminated terrorist Qods Force commander] Qassem Soleimani,

as well as the regime's interventions in Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. Indeed, they are in agreement and aligned with the regime over all these issues.

On the other side of the spectrum, there are those who have stood up to this regime and are, therefore, standing with the Iranian Resistance or moving in the same general direction as the Iranian Resistance.

This dichotomy yields the most significant and preeminent demarcation in Iran today.

In order to assess and differentiate every individual or group in the context of this demarcation, one can simply ask them about their true practical choice between the clerical regime and the NCRI, between the PMOI/MEK and the ruling mullahs regardless of the latter's "moderate, reformist or principalist" brands.

Ultimately, all parties reveal their true colors in response to this basic and fundamental question.

## **The NCRI as an Alternative: The Portrait of a 40-year Struggle in Iran**

The NCRI, as an alternative to the clerical regime, is the barometer and living portrait of the struggles and resistance waged over the past 40 years. This truth explains the regime's demonization and enmity against the PMOI/MEK as well as the regime's terrorism and its underlying objectives carried out on an enormous scale against the Iranian Resistance.

Therefore, we have nothing to talk about with those who prefer the Shah or the mullahs to the PMOI/MEK and the NCRI. The people



*PMOI members at Asrhaf 3 listen to the speeches*

of Iran made their position clear regarding the Shah when they toppled him during the 1979 anti-monarchic revolution. The final position regarding the mullahs and those who prefer the clerical regime's IRGC and Judiciary over the PMOI/MEK and the NCRI will also be manifested in the Iranian people's uprisings and the New Revolution.

Consider, for a moment, the historic declaration of 31 prominent American dignitaries publicized on June 30, 2020, emphasizing the need to hold this regime of criminals accountable. The American signatories explained to the entire world that even in the 40-year-old dark landscape created by the clerical regime and its endless crimes against humanity and against the people of Iran, "there is a beacon of hope": The National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The statement adds, "The one organization that has done more than any other entity, including governments, to free Iranian citizens from tyranny and the world from fundamentalist-inspired terrorism is the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). The

NCRI strives relentlessly to ensure that hope for democracy and an end to injustice remains alive in Iran."

It goes on to say: "The NCRI and its affiliate organization, the PMOI/MEK, have endured unspeakable horrors from the Iranian regime." Indeed, that is the truth.

### **The 1988 Massacre: The Greatest Unpunished Crime against Humanity**

One of the most horrifying and unspeakable crimes that we endured was the massacre of our prisoners based on Khomeini's fatwa [religious decree]. He committed this heinous crime after he was forced to accept the ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq. Khomeini had vowed to continue that war until the last standing building in Tehran; a war which he saw as "a divine blessing" for the preservation and sustenance of his regime. His strategy and official slogan in the war was to "Liberate Qods (Jerusalem) via Karbala (in Iraq)." That war left one million deaths on the Iranian side alone. Khomeini's Minister of Education at the time boasted about sending 440,000 young students from Iran's elementary schools and high schools to the warfront and on mine fields during the

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*The one organization that has done more than any other entity, to free Iranian citizens from tyranny and the world from fundamentalist-inspired terrorism is the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).*

eight-year war. Today, too, the regime unabashedly sends Iranian people into the “mine fields” of the coronavirus.<sup>4</sup>

Through his fatwa sanctioning the 1988 massacre, Khomeini intended to completely annihilate the PMOI/MEK generation in a bid to guarantee his continued rule, similar to the Mongol attack on Iran.<sup>5</sup>

Of course, as the massacre was launched, Khomeini’s heir apparent at the time who was later ousted, Hossein-Ali Montazeri, wrote in a letter to him that the PMOI/MEK represents a form of logic and rationale, which cannot be washed away through murder; murder would actually enable its wider propagation.

In a handwritten fatwa sanctioning the massacre, Khomeini wrote: “If anyone at any stage maintains his/her support for the Monafeqin [PMOI/MEK], his/her sentence would be execution. Annihilate the enemies of Islam at once.” [Former Speaker of the British House of Commons] Baroness Boothroyd, a dear friend of the Iranian Resistance, once said that Khomeini’s massacre of political prisoners after he was forced to accept the ceasefire

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4 The strategy of creating mass casualties refers to the regime’s decision to refuse to quarantine and provide aid to Iranian citizens during a potential shutdown, and instead open up the economy despite staggering growth in the number of new coronavirus cases and deaths.

5 The Mongol conquest of Persian territories starting in early 13th century had catastrophic psychological, cultural, political, social and economic consequences for the development of Iran as a nation-state. One of the most prominent characteristic features of the Mongol conquest was its genocidal nature, its brutality and the atrocities that it created. It, therefore, traumatized Iranian society for centuries to come. Khomeini’s brutality and genocidal acts have often been compared to the Mongol conquest in terms of their catastrophic and lasting impacts.

marked the greatest unpunished crime against humanity since World War II. But, she added, there will come a day when justice will be served. For that reason, she said, ever since the details of this massacre were first revealed, we called for the prosecution of the masterminds and perpetrators of this great crime against humanity.

From the very beginning, Massoud Rajavi, the Leader of the Iranian Resistance, said, "The regime's leaders and the masterminds and perpetrators of the massacre of political prisoners must be prosecuted and punished by an international tribunal and in the court of the people of Iran on the charge of committing crime against humanity. ... This is particularly needed because this is an unprecedented example since the Mongol invasion. ... Therefore, it is the right of the people of Iran, of humanity, and of the PMOI/MEK." Over the past 32 years, the Iranian Resistance has held thousands of conferences, rallies, marches and symbolic trials in this regard while divulging and publicizing numerous documents and names of victims and their unmarked graves. In 2017, the Iranian Resistance's Call-for-Justice Movement played a substantial role in foiling Khamenei's scheme in the regime's presidential elections where he intended to engineer the ascendance of Ebrahim Raisi, a member of the death committees that issued execution sentences for victims of the 1988 massacre.

The campaign was so effective that (the regime's president, Hassan) Rouhani callously jumped on it to attract more "votes" for himself. He opportunistically said that Raisi did not have anything on his record except 38 years of executions and imprisonments. Two days later, an infuriated Khamenei, flanked by Qassem Soleimani and





*Tulips Square at Ashraf 3*

other IRGC commanders, slammed Rouhani, warning him against crossing the regime's red lines. Then, he openly "recommended" that his functionaries in the Intelligence Ministry write articles, make movies, or do anything to prevent Raisi from being further exposed. Subsequently, when the international Call-for-Justice Movement reached new heights, the regime scrambled to hatch characteristic plots that it described as "a complex and multi-faceted operation." It recruited a mercenary to distort the objectives of the Call-for-Justice Movement and to sideline PMOI/MEK martyrs and their leadership. This is while the PMOI/MEK's destruction was the main goal of the 1988 massacre and Khomeini's fatwa.

Additionally, the arrest and apprehension of the regime's terrorist-diplomat in charge of the bombing of the Iranian Resistance's annual gathering in Villepinte near Paris, France, in 2018, and the foiling of the regime's terrorist plots in Albania, forced it to find other ways to confront the Iranian Resistance.

But the Iranian Resistance remains vigilant. The NCRI Security and Counterterrorism Committee was able to make public recorded

conversations between two murderous mullahs, Ali Razini and Mohammad Moghiseh, and provide it to the Swedish Judiciary. Let me recall the popular slogan about the massacre of handcuffed prisoners in 1988: "We will neither forgive nor forget." The aforementioned statement by American dignitaries also addresses the 1988 massacre when it says: "The leading figures in this evil regime have been in positions of authority for years ... (They) must now be held accountable." It adds, "We recommend that countries that have been victimized by Iranian-government sponsored terrorism, including the US and its European allies, send teams of experts to study the evidence at Ashraf 3 while organizing their own evidence for eventual use in international tribunal proceedings."

## **The Blood of Martyrs of 1988 Massacre Inspires Iran Uprisings**

The sacred blood of the martyrs, particularly those slain in 1988, is roaring in Iran today, inspiring and motivating generation after generation of rebellious youth. The story of PMOI/MEK members who marched to the gallows and sacrificed their lives by the thousands for the cause of freedom is the topic of discussion in today's Iranian society. The regime's wave of arrests of defiant young people and the widespread arrests of the families of PMOI/MEK members in recent months attest to this truth.

On May 17, 2020, Khamenei warned about the trend of young Iranians joining the PMOI/MEK, saying, "The experience of the early days of the (1979) revolution must not be repeated; a time when young Muslims were attracted to the PMOI/MEK and later

attacked [the regime.]" State-run media refer to these young people as "sleeper cells" that "multiply gradually underneath the city surface" and are waiting in the wings to revolt.

Last week, the Iranian regime's Minister of Health cited a report from the mullahs' security and intelligence operatives, which said, "People resort to protests and revolts out of poverty and destitution. ... All security, intelligence, and military forces ... must think about ways to prevent another upheaval." Indeed, the death knell can be heard even within the regime itself. So, it is not a coincidence that the regime is intensifying its demonization campaign against the PMOI/MEK and friends of the Iranian Resistance.

The focal point for Iran's fate is resistance for freedom, people's universal suffrage, and a sovereign republic replacing the current religious dictatorship.

For 40 years, and on a daily basis, the mullahs have been viciously crucifying the PMOI/MEK and the Iranian Resistance, particularly Massoud Rajavi, through a barrage of naked lies and bogus accusations, in the same vein as their torturing and murdering our people or destroying our country.

But Massoud Rajavi's name inspires rebellion and the fight for freedom, just as it did for the perseverance and resistance of political prisoners during the 1988 massacre. Although he is under assault from all sides by his enemies, there will come a day when his dreams of a free Iran will finally be realized. Yes, the time will come when the disciples of freedom and people's sovereignty would flourish in Iran. That day will certainly dawn in Iran.

Hail to the martyrs!

Long live freedom!

**Maryam Rajavi visits  
an exhibition on the Iranian people's  
November 2019 uprising  
at Ashraf 3**







**Maryam Rajavi:**

**Terrorism is the Essence of  
Religious Fascism; Firmness  
the Only Way to Confront It**

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Speech to the third session of the  
Free Iran Global Summit  
Ashraf 3 - July 20, 2020



The third day of the Free Iran Global Summit on Monday, July 20, 2020, featured a conference entitled “Iran Regime’s Terrorism – Shut Down Tehran’s Embassies Abroad, Expel its Agents, Operatives.” The main venue of the conference was in Ashraf-3 among members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK/PMOI). The live-streamed virtual gathering brought together hundreds of distinguished political figures from the United States, Europe, Albania, and Arab countries. In her address to this conference, the NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi referred to 450 cases of terrorist operations abroad by the Iranian regime and a surge in these activities since 2003.

Other speakers of the event included Mayor Rudy Giuliani from the U.S.; former U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge; Pandeli Majko former Prime Minister of Albania; former U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy John Rood; former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert Joseph; Senator Robert Torricelli; former Foreign Minister and current Ambassador of Yemen to France, Riad Yassin; former U.S. State Department Spokesperson Adam Ereli; U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; former U.S. Congressman Judge Ted Poe; Chief of Staff of the United States Army General George Casey; senior-ranking member of the UK House of Lords and reviewer of antiterrorism legislation Lord Alex Carlile; Struan Stevenson, former President of the European Parliament’s Delegation for Relations with Iraq; British MP Bob Blackman; Secretary General of the Syrian Opposition Coalition Nasr Hariri; the leader of the Republican Party of Albania and former Defense Minister Fatmir Mediu; Deputy Director of the Albanian Democratic Party, Edmond Spaho; Secretary of the Albanian Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee and former



Deputy Interior Minister Elona Gjëbrea; Valentina Leskaj, former Vice Chairperson of the Albanian Parliament and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and and members of the Albanian Parliament Grida Duma, Endri Hasa, Orjola Pampuri, Fatbarda Kadiu, and former member of the Albanian Parliament Namik Kolpliku, and the distinguished writer and women rights activist in Albania, Diana Çuli.

Following is the full text of remarks by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi to the third day conference, elaborating on the history of the Iranian regime's terrorist activities.





Distinguished parliamentarians,  
Friends who have joined this gathering from Europe, the United States, and Albania, which hosts members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK),  
Friends and supporters of the Iranian Resistance,  
Greetings to all of you. I am incredibly delighted that we had the opportunity to organize this conference and to see you all again despite being far apart.

Your attention to the Iranian issue is motivated by your sense of responsibility about the threat against the vital interests of the Iranian people and people around the world. This global threat is the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule), the central banker of terrorism in today's world. While carrying out suppression, executions and massacres inside Iran, and flaming conflicts in the Middle East, the regime is also pursuing nuclear weapons.

Terrorism is the lifeblood, essence, and fundamental nature of this regime. It is inseparable from it.

Within the regime's Judiciary, whose henchmen amputate limbs and stone people as punishment, there is, ironically, a secretary for the "council for human rights." Javad Larijani is one of the oldest theoreticians defending the mullahs' terrorism. His older brother was the former speaker of the regime's parliament, and his other brother, Sadeq Larijani, was the head of Judiciary. In 1994, on the anniversary of the regime's fatwa [religious decree] to assassinate [British author] Salman Rushdi, Javad Larijani articulated the mullahs' state-sponsored terrorism as "a new class of power," which also includes hostage-taking and issuing orders to kill foreigners. He wrote: "To date, the prevailing view has claimed that political power must be defined based on military and economic strength.... The Imam's fatwa (to kill Rushdi) showed that the source of political power is something different."

"If the world is based on realism, it would have to acknowledge the dignity of Islam and Islamic rule based on this category of power, and not the degree of economic progress," he added.

## **Partial History of the Clerical Regime's Terrorist Operations**

The Iranian Resistance has, so far, documented more than 450 acts of terrorism conducted by this regime outside of Iran since the year 2001. 150 of those cases happened inside Iraq against the PMOI/MEK. These include roadside bombs targeting civilian buses, sending trucks full of explosives to target the PMOI/MEK's camp,



or firing RPG-18 rounds against the residences of mothers of PMOI/MEK members in Iraq.

A separate list of the mullahs' acts of terrorism conducted outside of Iran relates to the killing of PMOI/MEK supporters and other Iranian groups in Iraqi Kurdistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Switzerland, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, and Cyprus.

There is yet another category of the clerical regime's terrorism: Hostage-taking and murdering foreign nationals in Lebanon; bombings in Beirut in 1982, killing 241 American service members and 58 French military personnel, which was conducted under the supervision of a commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) who later became the current regime president Hassan Rouhani's defense minister; killing innocent people in the streets of Paris in 1986; killing Haj pilgrims in Mecca in 1987; conducting bombings in Argentina in 1994 using 275 kg of explosives against a Jewish center, which killed 88 people and injured 151 more; and the Khobar Tower bombings in 1996, which

resulted in the killing of 19 and wounding of 500 American service members. These are a few among dozens more cases of plane hijackings and other terrorist crimes.

But it was after the 2003 Iraq War and the hidden occupation of that country by the mullahs that the era of the regime's "mega-terrorism" began. The mullahs' record has been horrendous in Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon and, more than every other place, in Syria and Iraq. It includes terrorist explosions in public places and targeting innocent people, destruction of religious shrines or seminaries, assassination of scientists and professionals, kidnappings, mutilations, forced relocation of millions of people leading to their homelessness, and other acts, each of which embodies a shocking scale and magnitude. The regime has also conducted terrorism against American forces. The IRGC has directly been involved in the killing of at least 608 American service members in Iraq.

Against that backdrop, imagine the suffering inflicted inside Iran by the regime, on women, various ethnicities, and followers of other religions. One example is the horrific crime committed by the

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*What has been and still is the right policy?*

*The right policy can be summed up in a single word: firmness.*

*That means firmly dispensing with everything that enables the regime's terrorist activity, and firmly responding to every single criminal act.*

mullahs' former deputy Intelligence Minister, Saeed Hajjarian, an advisor to the regime's former president Mohammad Khatami and a theoretician of the phony reformists. The director of the state-run media from a rival faction said the following about Hajjarian: "One of these folks was once interrogating an PMOI/MEK member in the city of Shiraz. He (Hajjarian) tied the person to a tree and used a rope to tie the person's hand to a tractor. Then he drove the tractor until the person's arm split from his body."

These are the methods used by the regime, and it is how the regime has held onto power over more than 40 years through suppression and terrorism. Vilification and demonization is the flip side of the regime's terrorism because it sets the stage and paves the way for it.

Why do the mullahs engage in such horrific atrocities? Because, as Massoud Rajavi has said, "If someday, the regime abandons the export of fundamentalism and terrorism abroad and limit itself within Iran's boundaries, it will implode and disintegrate."

You all know that in the past two years, the clerical regime has conducted a large number of terrorist plots and operations.

The Iranian regime's leaders planned to launch a major terrorist attack against the Free Iran Grand Gathering in Paris, in 2018. The terrorists in possession of the bomb were arrested by the Belgian Police. The regime's terrorist diplomat who had handed them the bomb, has been in jail for more than two years.

Last week, the trial of this diplomat and his three accomplices began in Belgium.

For the first time, a serving diplomat faces trial in Europe for direct involvement in terrorism. Enjoying diplomatic privileges, the

arrested regime diplomat directed this plot under the supervision of the senior Intelligence Ministry officials, the regime's supreme leader Ali Khamenei and its president, Hassan Rouhani.

The two terrorist plots pursued by the regime in the spring and summer of 2018 against the Iranian Resistance are the largest terrorist designs of the regime's 40-year history in Europe.

And this shows that the regime views this Resistance and democratic alternative as the main threat to its survival. And it spares no crime to confront the Resistance; even to the extent that it uses its own formal officials to move explosives.

Merely six days after the start of the December 2017 uprisings, the secretary of the regime's Supreme National Security Council, IRGC veteran Ali Shamkhani, said that the PMOI/MEK "will be hit by Iran's reaction where they would have no idea." He meant that in their attempts to suppress the uprising, the mullahs will target the uprising's leading force.

After carrying out the bombing plot at the Resistance's rally, the regime reportedly planned to claim that the explosion was the work of the PMOI/MEK itself and the result of their internal feuds. That is why, sometime before this plot, notorious agents of the regime's intelligence service in Europe had started to spread lies about "mysterious murders" within the PMOI/MEK.

Dear friends,

Now that the case for one of the regime's large terrorist plots is being investigated in a European court, the opportunity is ripe for answering several fundamental questions in this regard.

First, what is the right policy and what is the right policy with respect to the regime's terrorism?

Second, what are the most important methods of this regime for committing such acts?

And, finally, what steps should be taken to confront it?

### **Western governments' catastrophic mistakes in confronting the clerical regime**

So far, western governments have made catastrophic mistakes in this regard. For example, they have played right into the regime's hands by acknowledging that its terrorism is a sign of its power and strength. However, there has always been a direct link between the escalation of uprisings and intensification of social and economic challenges on the one hand, and its resort to terrorism on the other. Another mistake was the western government's appeasement of the regime in previous years. In fact, it was not the power of the regime that made the expansion of its terrorism and fundamentalism possible, it was this appeasement policy.

For their part, the ruling mullahs have interpreted western governments' appeasement or their turning a blind eye as a sign of weakness, encouraging them to increase their aggression.

Another mistake has been the false hope and expectation that perhaps the religious fascism will one day abandon its terrorism if it receives concessions or incentives. Or, perhaps there will be a sudden emergence of moderates from the camp of ruling savages who would nudge the regime toward reform and moderation. The regime, of course, put on masks of moderation on a bunch of despised murderers, then took away all the concessions, and yet refused to abandon terrorism

## The right policy vis-à-vis the clerical regime is firmness

So, what has been and still is the right policy?

The right policy can be summed up in a single word: firmness.

That means firmly dispensing with everything that enables the regime's terrorist activity, and firmly responding to every single criminal act.

Now, onto the second question: What are the most important methods and tactics used by the religious fascism to advance its terrorist objectives in Europe? It is clear that:

- It takes advantage of the legal, diplomatic, banking and technological means and tools, as well as the democratic conditions, made available by western countries;
- It benefits from the silence of western governments in order to have deniability for its terrorist actions;
- It deceives western security agencies through devious intelligence cooperation, and uses such communications to protect its terrorists;
- It paints its agents as "political opponents" and hides its espionage and terrorist activities under the guise of "opposing the PMOI/MEK."
- And, finally, it propagates the delusion that if western governments show firmness, they would pay a heavy price for it. But, even in the past two years, the world saw that after the courageous measure of the government of Albania and the expulsion of the regime's ambassador, the expulsion of its diplomats from France and the Netherlands, the arrest of its diplomat in Germany, and also the elimination of the commander of the terrorist Qods Force, the regime has been forced to tread more carefully and limit its activities somewhat. Otherwise, it would have become more emboldened.





The conclusion is that governments must firmly stand up to the clerical regime.

The regime's terrorism grows and expands under the shadow of silence, denial, ignorance, turning a blind eye and looking the other way. It is time for all this ignorance about the people of the world's security and peace to end.

As I said at the outset, terrorism is the essence and fundamental nature of this regime and it is inseparable from it. Therefore, the end of its terrorism is inseparable from the end of the regime itself. But, it can at least be curbed and stopped on European soil through some political and tactical measures and steps.

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## Call on world governments

1. All of the privileges and resources that the regime relies on to carry out its terrorist acts in Europe must be taken away from it. The regime's embassies must be closed.

In its annual report released in June 2019, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution of Germany (BfV) said: "In Germany, the headquarters of the Ministry of Intelligence at the Iranian embassy in Berlin plays an important role in intelligence operations. In addition to independent intelligence operations, this agency also supports activities undertaken by the Ministry of Intelligence [in Tehran]."

In a resolution in June of this year, a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives urged governments to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's diplomatic missions, with the goal of closing the embassies down, including the Iranian embassy in Albania.

2. The front companies, cultural and educational centers, religious associations and so-called mosques that are funded and supported by the Iranian regime are all centers that sustain the regime's espionage and terrorist activities, and so they must be exposed and closed down.

3. Any form of financial transactions internationally conducted by individuals or front companies of the mullahs' intelligence ministry or the Qods Force must be completely stopped.

4. The regime's agents and operatives who function under the cover of commercial, cultural, or religious activities, or pretend to be journalists or opponents, refugees, or citizens, must be expelled from European countries.

5. Western governments must prevent their security and intelligence services from communicating or contacting the regime's notorious Intelligence Ministry or its Qods Force, an exchange that only facilitates the entry of the regime's agents into Europe.

6. Without any commercial and diplomatic considerations, reports about the regime's terrorist plots, operations and the identities of the Intelligence Ministry and terrorist Qods Force agents and operatives active in Europe must be published in full and publicized. Similarly, the identities of the regime's front entities or lobbies must be published in full and communicated to the public.

7. We urge all parliaments in Europe and also the U.S. Congress to pass effective legislation facilitating the expulsion of operatives of the regime's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from their countries.

I hope that all governments respond positively to these calls, because their own people's interests and security depend on such acts of firmness.

What the Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance have asked, and continue to ask, from these government is to stand firm against devious state-sponsored terrorism and the foremost sponsor and central banker of international terrorism. It is time for all the ignorance about the people of the world's fate, security and peace to end.

Any act of firmness against this regime and any steps taken against it, anywhere in the world, will aid the Iranian people's struggle to overthrow the regime, and is in line with international peace and security.

I am thankful to all of you.



**Maryam Rajavi:**  
**NCRI is the democratic  
alternative and the answer  
for Iran's future**

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Speech to the three-day session of the  
National Council of Resistance of Iran  
July 2020



The three-day online session of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), began on Thursday, July 23, 2020, connecting 44 locations in 11 countries, including France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, Norway, Austria, The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Albania. It concluded in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 26, 2020. The NCRI Secretariat issued a statement on July 29, in which it wrote:

During the session, NCRI members debated developments in various spheres in Iran, especially those following the November 2019 uprising.

Members also talked about the Free Iran Global Summit on July 17-20, which linked 30,000 locations in more than 100 countries, and which saw the participation of more than 1,000 political dignitaries from around the world. In their debates, NCRI members assessed the Summit's consequences as well as its impact inside Iran and on the international stage.

Due to pandemic-related international restrictions, the three-day Free Iran Global Summit was held virtually, and in their discussions, NCRI members described this "largest online international gathering" as a significant undertaking in the realm of communications amid COVID-19 protocols.

The Summit reflected the Iranian Resistance's extraordinary capability as it firmly stands against Khamenei's strategy of taking advantage of the "opportunity" provided by the coronavirus.

The coronavirus pandemic and its dimensions, consequences and the death toll, the explosive state of society, the November 2019 and January 2020 uprisings which were drenched in blood, the uprising of the people of Behbahan and the regime's method of

countering it, the people's intolerable livelihood problems, high prices and poverty, the outcry of millions of people who tweeted #DoNotExecute, and the activities of the resistance units inside Iran were also discussed.

The international support for the Iranian people's uprising and democratic alternative in between the two NCRI sessions were remarkable. They included the bipartisan resolution of the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan, which denounced the dictatorships of the Shah and the mullahs and lent support to a democratic, secular and non-nuclear republic in Iran.

The NCRI session also addressed pertinent international and regional developments, in particular the setbacks suffered by the regime in the context of its strategy of meddling in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The uprising of young people in Iraq, their condemnation of the clerical regime's meddling, and the weakening of the regime's proxies and puppet agents in that country after the elimination of the regime's terrorist Qods Force commander Qassem Soleimani were among the significant developments during this period.

Fifty NCRI members discussed the NCRI's 40-year history, its steadfastness and political demarcations in one of the most critical eras of Iranian history. In addition to NCRI members, some 82 observers and allies also took part in the session, with a number of them providing their remarks.

On the final day of the NCRI session, Maryam Rajavi made a speech on the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The full text of these remarks appears in the following pages:



Honorable members of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI),

Esteemed friends and personalities who are participating on the third day of the NCRI session as observers,

I welcome you all to this meeting, an offshoot of this year's Free Iran Global Summit. I commend each and every one of you for your efforts to achieve freedom for our homeland.

Please allow me to congratulate the people of Iran, on behalf of myself and all of you, on the commencement of the 40th year in the existence of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The suffering, torture and struggles of consecutive generations of the Iranian people over the past 120 years have made it possible to establish and sustain a democratic alternative.

The Iranian society, Iran's history, and the revolutions and movements which have been constantly in the making since the Constitutional Movement, have created the underpinnings

for instituting such a grassroots alternative focused on achieving people's sovereignty.

However, it would have been impossible to transform this basis into a concrete political entity without a qualified leadership and enormous work and suffering. That has been the role of Massoud Rajavi, the NCRI President, who triumphantly marked such a magnificent accomplishment and, through it, guaranteed the future of the Resistance movement in its entirety.

Despite the existence of historical preconditions for the formation of this democratic alternative, its initial establishment was not without its price, and similarly, its preservation and sustainment were not simple or effortless.

As we mark the beginning of the 40th year of the NCRI, let us at the outset pay tribute to great martyrs like Shokrollah Paknejad, who was among the first to encourage the formation of the NCRI. Since April 1981, the Mojahed newspaper, which was the official publication of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), started publishing columns entitled "The Council." Mr. Paknejad admired this work and said "the Council" can be an axis for bringing together progressive forces.

Let us also commemorate the great writer Gholam Hossein Sa'edi who wrote for the monthly publication of the NCRI, and renowned



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*The NCRI was founded on the basis of the declaration "no to the Shah and no to the mullahs." This demarcation is a rejection of regimes that rely on torture, murder, plunder, treachery, and depravation of the people.*



artists such as Marzieh, Emad Ram, Andranik, Manouchehr Sakhaii, Bahram Alivandi, Mansour Ghadarkhah, and Mohammad Seyyedi Kashani.

We will not forget NCRI representatives Prof. Kazem Rajavi and Mohammad Hossein Naghdi. And veteran members of the NCRI including Messrs. Yazdan Haj Hamzeh, Samad Sajedian, Hossein Shahidzadeh (Kak Hessam) and my sisters, Batool Rajaii and Zahra Mehrsefat.

We will not forget the honorable chairpersons of various NCRI committees, Ebrahim Zakeri, Mohammad Ali Jaberzadeh, Giti Giveh Chinian, as well as dozens of NCRI members including Zahra Rajabi, Hossein Abrishamchi and Zohreh Gha'emi, who were killed in terrorist attacks, during massacres or the criminal blockade of Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty [in Iraq].

I would also like to pay homage to Marjan and Massoumeh Joshaghani both of whom were among the resistant political prisoners in the clerical regime's dungeons.

We salute them all because they remained loyal and committed to the cause of freedom until their last breath. Each and every one of them is a source of pride for our nation and history.

## **The Eruption of Uprisings at Any Moment and a Regime Deep in Crisis**

The NCRI's interim session is being held while, unfortunately, the death toll due to the novel coronavirus spread in Iran has reached at least 76,000 so far. The Iranian Resistance has rightly declared that (the mullahs' supreme leader, Ali) Khamenei and (the regime's president, Hassan) Rouhani have adopted a policy of

causing mass human casualties to fend off popular uprisings and the threat of being overthrown. They find the coronavirus to be a gift, an opportunity, an “ally,” and a savior for the regime against our people.

Today, even one of the regime's own parliamentary deputies from Gonbad Kavous complains: “It's as if they [regime officials] have sworn to kill all the people.” The regime wants to discourage, demoralize and pacify the people, but the Iranian society has shown that it cannot be defeated.

We witnessed millions of people in Iran and abroad expressing their outrage and protest to the death sentences issued on Khamenei's orders for three protesters detained during the November 2019 uprising. And then our compatriots in Behbahan (in Khuzestan Province) rose up against the regime [on July 16, 2020]. Such developments show that our society is prepared to rise up and overthrow the regime, and that they use every opportunity to declare their resolve.

As outlined in its Ten-Point Plan, the Iranian Resistance has been calling for the abolishment of the death penalty for years. We emphasize this imperative and call on our compatriots to widely protest, more than any other time, the implementation of this inhuman punishment against Iran's youth and those arrested during uprisings. The regime must free all political prisoners. Once again, we urge international institutions and world governments to pressure and compel the regime to release all political prisoners.

The mullahs have not been able (and will not be able) to defeat our people by relying on suppression and terror. Although they instigated a bloodbath during the uprising in November 2019, they were not able to extinguish its flames. Behbahan, Mahshahr, Shiraz,



Kermanshah, and Shahriar were drenched in blood, but they are waiting in the wings to rebel again.

What is more, the clerical regime itself has suffered a series of defeats in recent months. It failed in its sham parliamentary elections in February. Even the regime's own engineered turnout tally shows that it had the lowest participation rate of the past 40 years. The regime also failed to prevent the expansion of Resistance Units, as their operations and activities have continued relentlessly despite a wave of arrests and suppression.

The persistent and tireless struggles of the PMOI/MEK, the selfless risk-taking of Resistance Units, the leadership role of the NCRI President in providing guidance to the anti-regime fighting force, and the courageous youths in Iran, have all had a lasting impact on the flourishing of our resistance over the past two years.

Today, what the regime fears most is the eruption of another fiery uprising spreading across the nation. It has come to grips with the

horrifying reality that its suppressive machinery is extremely fragile and isolated.

Western appeasement of the regime has ceased to a large extent, and protection and placating of the mullahs has been replaced by terrorist designations and sanctions. Qassem Soleimani's elimination dealt an irreparable blow to the regime's terrorism and suppression, which in turn has drastically demoralized the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

In such circumstances, the regime is continuing its strategy of launching mass human casualties [in relation to the coronavirus], sowing the seeds of death and despair in society, to fend off more protests. In the meantime, it raises the prices of bread, power, and fuel, while time and again practically picking the pockets of the people. It has also struck treacherous deals with foreign parties. It is waiting for the U.S. presidential elections, hoping that the policy of placating the mullahs would be restored. But there is a volcano waiting to erupt in the heart of society. The regime's situation, with its economic, social and political foundations eroding, has come to a point of no return.

One should not easily forget that when the circumstances for the



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Shah's overthrow were ripe, he could not stand against the will of the people of Iran despite enjoying extensive backing from western governments.

In these circumstances, the Iranian Resistance has echoed the firm resolve of the people of Iran by holding the world's largest online gathering, strengthening the people's determination against the inhuman mullahs and their ideology of death and destruction. This is a resistance movement that promises perseverance, love of life, progress, and victory in the most difficult of circumstances.

### **Neither the Shah Nor the Mullahs**

Today, there is a 39-year track record for the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Let us evaluate the true place of this alternative in Iranian society and history:

Which fundamental problems have been resolved by the NCRI during the historic struggle between the Iranian people and the theocratic regime? And, after the regime's overthrow, which foundations have already been laid by the NCRI to prevent the country's return to dictatorship, reactionary ideology and dependence?

Over the past century, two major currents have been evolving in parallel in Iranian politics:

The first current has culminated in an appallingly despotic regime owing to the complicity of the monarchic and clerical rulers despite their drastic natural differences. The second current has been an alternative developing in the heart of the people's camp, pursuing the sovereignty of freedom and a people's republic. This is the most basic distillation of the history of the past 100 years in Iran.



A review of this history yields another conclusion as well: The experience of monarchy, which is also a model of dependence and despotism, has failed. The experience of religious dictatorship, which is a model of religious tyranny, has also failed. The dark despotic rule of Reza Khan abandoned Iran to fall into the clutches of the Allies who occupied the country. His son's dictatorship resulted in a reactionary theocracy. Khomeini ravaged Iran through an eight-year war [against Iraq] and through senseless massacres and genocides. And Khamenei plunged Iran into regional wars, suppression, hunger and disease.

So, both models have failed. And the answer, the solution, is the NCRI, which has emerged on the basis of rejection of foreign dependence and of defiance of religious fascism.

The NCRI was founded on the basis of the declaration "no to the Shah and no to the mullahs." This demarcation is a rejection of regimes that rely on torture, murder, plunder, treachery, and deprivation of the people.

In stark contrast to the dictatorships of the Shah and the mullahs,



the National Council of Resistance of Iran relies on the principles of freedom and people's sovereignty, which is defined as the following: Freedom of choice and vote for all citizens, freedom and democracy, gender equality, autonomy of ethnic groups, human rights, people's participation in deciding their own destiny, social and economic justice, and national solidarity. Immediately after Khomeini seized power, all these issues have been sources of conflict between the Iranian Resistance and the ruling reactionary regime.

### **Transfer of Sovereignty to the People of Iran**

During the Constitutional Revolution [at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century], protesters uttered the words "Iranian nation" for the first time. This sums up everything for the NCRI: people's sovereignty.

Since day one, the members and components of the NCRI have stood up against the usurpation of people's sovereignty by Khomeini. Among other things, they did not vote for the Constitution

of the clerical dictatorship.

The NCRI is duty-bound to transfer sovereignty to the people of Iran. The NCRI platform recognizes the people's right to decide their own destiny. It has declared that "achieving people's sovereignty... is the most precious outcome of the Iranian people's just Resistance." It further adds that the prerequisite for popular sovereignty is "the provision and guaranteeing of the means, resources, and methods for the involvement and participation of all the citizens in decision making and execution."

In fact, the motivating spirit of the NCRI Platform, the essence of its adopted plans, and the content of its most important statements and declarations, are in a word summed up in the principle of the people's sovereignty in place of the sovereignty of the Shah or the mullahs.

## **Regime's Lack of Capability to Reform and the Need to Overthrow**

In its statements and resolutions since the early 1980s, the NCRI has proven that based on its analysis of the nature of the clerical regime, and based on practical experience, the Velayat-e Faqih regime (absolute clerical rule) is incapable of reforming itself. It lacks the capability to carry out reforms and to negotiate. It is also at odds with the concept of peace.

In the early 1980s, when some started speaking of reforms within the regime to justify their relations with it, the NCRI declared: Any type of illusion about the regime's capability to change or to reform itself is considered complicity with the regime and treason against the highest interests of the people of Iran and their democratic aspirations.



When Khomeini died and [former regime president Ali Akbar Hashemi] Rafsanjani began maneuvering about moderating the regime, the NCRI declared: "This regime will neither become 'moderate,' nor will it be able to 'rebuild' the country or give up exporting terrorism and fundamentalism."

After (Mohammad) Khatami took office as regime president, the NCRI again stipulated that "the Velayat-e Faqih regime... does not have the capacity for reforms, opening up, improvement or transformation." The NCRI added that the fake reformist factions of the regime "only seek to prolong the regime's rule on the basis of the pivotal role of the Vali-e Faqih [supreme leader]."

## The NCRI's Peace Movement and Peace Plan

One of the greatest contributions of the National Council of Resistance of Iran was to launch the peace movement in the heat of Khomeini's senseless war with Iraq; a war that left some one million people dead on the Iranian side alone. The ruins caused by that war have not been repaired yet, and the pain and suffering of those who lost their homes has not been relieved.

In March 1982, in the document outlining the Immediate Tasks of the Provisional Government, the NCRI declared that among its duties will be "the urgent termination of the Iran-Iraq war and the establishment of a just peace based on territorial integrity and rights of the people of Iran."

On May 24, 1982, after Iraqi forces withdrew from Iranian territory, and while Khomeini continued to fan the flames of war, the NCRI President courageously hoisted the flag of peace. With extraordinary risk-taking, he rose up against the ominous war which was deceptively being

portrayed by Khomeini as a patriotic and religious duty.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran launched a wide-ranging peace movement with “peace and freedom” as its rallying cry.

In March 1983, the NCRI formally adopted its Peace Plan. While emphasizing the 1975 Algerian Accord and the “land and river borders” laid out in that accord, the NCRI underscored that “the determination of war damages will be referred to the International Court of Justice at The Hague” to guarantee Iran’s national interests at the highest level.

At the time, the government of Iraq welcomed the NCRI Peace Plan as the basis for the beginning of peace talks. But, 17 years after the fall of the previous Iraqi government, the mullahs’ regime has not been able to sign any peace agreement, even with Iraqi administrations under its own patronage.

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*Over the past century, two major currents have been evolving in parallel in Iranian politics: The first current has culminated in an appallingly despotic regime owing to the complicity of the monarchic and clerical rulers despite their drastic natural differences. The second current has been an alternative developing in the heart of the people’s camp, pursuing the sovereignty of freedom and a people’s republic.*



## Iran's National Interests

Whether it has been the Peace Plan, the Peace Movement, a relentless struggle against the regime's clandestine nuclear weapons activities, or revelations about the regime's treacherous accords, the NCRI has consistently defended the national interests of the Iranian people.

Starting in June 1991, when virtually no one had any information about the regime's nuclear projects, the NCRI launched its extensive attempts to expose these projects. In the early 2000s, the NCRI divulged documents which revealed the regime's 18-year clandestine nuclear weapons projects. We took major steps forward while advocating for a "non-nuclear Iran."

In its annual statement in 2004, the NCRI declared, "We deemed it as our own humanitarian and patriotic duty, inspired by our peace-loving stance, to expose the clerical regime's secret centers built in the cities of Natanz and Arak, which were designed for developing nuclear weapons, and to inform relevant international authorities as a way to prevent a catastrophe."

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## National Solidarity

Another fundamental issue that the NCRI successfully addressed was to introduce the democratic capacity to forge a political front and thus spur cooperation among all those who have waged a struggle for the regime's overthrow.

In 2002, the National Council of Resistance of Iran ratified the Plan for the National Solidarity Front. The NCRI declared that it was prepared to cooperate with all forces that seek to establish a republic and a democratic, independent political system in Iran based on the separation of religion and state, provided that they pledge to reject the mullahs' religious dictatorship in its entirety, including all its internal factions.

In the aftermath of the uprising that started in December 2017, the Iranian Resistance and the NCRI President declared that the NCRI “has consistently called for a National Solidarity Front to overthrow the mullahs' religious dictatorship, while refusing to adopt a



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*The NCRI's response to the experience of religious fascism under the banner of Islam is summed up in the Plan on the Provisional Government's Relations with Religion, adopted in November 1985.*

*The NCRI Plan denounces all coercion in religion or compelling people into practicing any religion. It further rejects all forms of “discriminations as well as any political or social privileges and coercions” in relation to Islam.*

parochial outlook or to merely insist on its own positions, platform and adopted plans."

Because of the importance of this issue and in order for it to be recorded in history, one can see the extent of flexibility and tolerance demonstrated by the National Council of Resistance of Iran to provide the conditions for national solidarity among forces within the people's front. This is despite the fact that over the past 40 years the NCRI has been the most influential and most effective opposition against the religious dictatorship, by leaps and bounds compared to others, making the greatest sacrifices and suffering the most while waging a relentless battle.

According to the NCRI President's statement on January 6, 2018: "The National Council of Resistance of Iran has consistently called for a National Solidarity Front to overthrow the mullahs' religious dictatorship while refusing to adopt a parochial outlook or to merely insist on its own positions, platform and adopted plans. The NCRI has declared that it is prepared to cooperate with all forces who seek to establish a republic and a democratic, independent political system based on the separation of religion and state, provided that they pledge to reject the mullahs' religious dictatorship in its entirety, including all its internal factions."

## **Separation of Religion and State**

The NCRI's response to the experience of religious fascism and barbaric despotism under the banner of Islam is summed up in the Plan on the Provisional Government's Relations with Religion, adopted by the NCRI in November 1985.

The NCRI Plan denounces all coercion in religion or compelling

people into practicing any religion. It further rejects all forms of "discriminations as well as any political or social privileges and coercions" in relation to Islam.

The NCRI Platform, drafted in 1981, underscores "equal political and social rights of all citizens" and seeks to abolish "all gender, ethnic and religious-based privileges." Of course, the mere formation of the NCRI and the relations among its forces serve as a model for separating religion and state in practice, and for a republic based on freedom and equality.

This Plan, on the one hand, stipulates that "under no circumstance is any religion or denomination recognized as enjoying special privileges or rights," and on the other hand, it respects "freedom of religions and faiths."

The Plan emphasizes in Article 1 that "All forms of discrimination against the followers of various religions and faiths in the enjoyment of their individual and social rights are prohibited. No citizens shall enjoy any privileges or be subject to any deprivations with respect to being nominated for election, voting, employment, education, becoming a judge, or the exercise of any other individual or social rights, for the reason of belief or non-belief in a particular religion or faith." In Article 3, the Plan stipulates that "Jurisdiction of judicial authorities is not based upon their religious or ideological stance, and laws not formulated within the legislative institution of the land will have no official sanction or validity."

In fact, the NCRI has managed to resolve an issue that dates back to the first Iranian parliament after the Constitutional Revolution in 1906. At the time, during debates over amendments to the Constitution, a major rift appeared between supporters of the Constitution and defenders of the rule of law and democracy on



the one hand, and on the other hand, religious fundamentalists and ancestors of the current ruling mullahs, such as Sheikh Fazlollah Nouri. Support for a theocratic regime finally led to the despotic rule of the Velayat-e Faqih under the banner of religion, something that the people of Iran have been experiencing for the past 42 years with their flesh and blood.

In diametric opposition to the theocratic regime, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), which is a member of the NCRI, espouses a tolerant Islam that presents the antithesis to Khomeini's reactionary outlook and the backward ideology that has been epitomized by him and the Velayat-e Faqih regime. When a movement like the PMOI/MEK, which champions a progressive outlook, endorses the abolishment of all religious-based privileges, it lends a strong and serious backing to the NCRI Plan on the separation of religion and state, and plainly distinguishes it from the customary and unsubstantiated political rhetoric.

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## Gender Equality

The National Council of Resistance of Iran has pursued a persistent and incessant fight against the catastrophic oppression and inequality of women in Iran. It introduced a clear plan 33 years ago to obliterate gender inequalities. Unanimously adopted, the Plan underlined the need for Iranian women to attain their rightful place in society. It thus inspired Iranian women to wage a struggle for their freedom and equality. Likewise, women's place in the NCRI, its member organizations, and the National Liberation Army of Iran opened a new chapter in the status of women in Iranian society. On the other end of the spectrum is a regime that could not even tolerate a stage-managed women's committee in its parliament and changed its title to the Family Committee.

## The Autonomy of Ethnic Groups

Another issue that the NCRI has tackled is the autonomy of oppressed ethnic minorities. Of course, since the beginning of Khomeini's rule,



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*In 2002, the National Council of Resistance of Iran ratified the Plan for the National Solidarity Front. The NCRI declared that it was prepared to cooperate with all forces that seek to establish a republic and a democratic, independent political system in Iran based on the separation of religion and state, provided that they pledge to reject the mullahs' religious dictatorship in its entirety, including all its internal factions.*



the groups and forces which later made up the National Council of Resistance of Iran stood up against the suppression of our Kurd, Arab, Turkman and other ethnic compatriots by the regime.

The NCRI underlines in its plan that all ethnic groups and all the various nationalities of our country will enjoy internal autonomy. The plan also underscores that their cultural, social and political rights and freedoms are respected within the framework of the country's unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Specifically, the NCRI drew up a 12-point plan for the Autonomy of the Iranian Kurdistan which was adopted in 1983. After three decades, it remains one of the world's most comprehensive models in this regard.

## **A Model for a Democratic Iran**

Since the outset, the NCRI President has said, "We wish to present a model based on which we could solve all the problems remaining in a post-Khomeini Iran, while operating in a democratic atmosphere and in line with our people's interests."

The NCRI has pledged not to seek power, but rather to transfer power to the people of Iran. Based on the plans adopted by the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the Provisional Government must hold free elections for the National Constituent and Legislative Assembly within a maximum period of six months. As far as the Provisional Government is concerned, its mandate of transferring power to the people will end as soon as the National Constituent and Legislative Assembly is formed.

Among other values, customs and democratic traditions upheld by the NCRI is the rejection of the balance of power principle

in its internal relations. The NCRI operates under the premise of "equal vote" and "one vote for every member" regardless of that member's political weight, be it an organization as big as the PMOI/MEK or a single individual.

This method is unprecedented in the history of political coalitions, because every coalition is formed based on the balance of power among its constituents. All decisions and agreements are subsequently made based on that equilibrium. As a result, individuals or smaller groups may not end up playing a sufficient role.

As observed by members, over the years, the NCRI President has never made a decision without the consensus of all constituent organizations and personalities. The NCRI relies on debates and persuasion, without any exception, for the adoption of its plans and documents. This bears great significance particularly since we are in exile and away from our homeland. Preserving a coalition of this scale, protecting its unity and ensuring collective progress is an extremely difficult task.

The NCRI's Platform stipulates that everyone must pass the test of "public opinion polls and general elections," and additionally adopt the method of "free public debates and general consensus" as much as possible.

By offering a progressive platform and groundbreaking plans for the future of a free Iran, the National Council of Resistance of Iran has raised the bar and has positively contributed to the progressive nature of the resistance movement and of Iranian society as a whole.

The credibility of NCRI plans and documents emanate from its commitment to a relentless resistance against the clerical regime. They have had a great impact on inspiring progressive generations



in Iran and leading them towards freedom. This constant struggle fuels the NCRI's endurance and growth.

In my view, the NCRI is the only example in contemporary political history where the departure, expulsion or treason of its members or their defection to the regime have been transparently reported to the people of Iran, one by one, via statements, resolutions, publications and particularly through reports by the NCRI President. Never in the past 40 years, have we been instigators of a dispute with any individual or any group. As the NCRI President has repeatedly announced on various occasions, we have always been the party to terminate a problem, since the sole criterion for us [in dealing with any problem] is our struggle to overthrow the regime.

This has been particularly so with regards to individuals who have crossed the NCRI's red lines, seeking rapprochement with the mullahs, or those who fell into traps placed by the regime's Intelligence Ministry and later posed as being "critics" of the NCRI and the PMOI/MEK. This approach has also been one of the high

points of the NCRI's history in recent years.

There is an old saying that a blacksmith can be trusted only if the sound of his hammer carries on from dawn to dusk. The Iranian people trust this movement because they hear the sound of the movement's hammer against the regime ceaselessly.

To protect the sacrifice and suffering of the people of Iran and their most valiant children, and to guarantee Iran's future, the NCRI President founded this alternative, guaranteeing its endurance during 40 years through numerous trials and tribulations and with great suffering.

The steadfast members and loyal supporters of the NCRI have also shown in the past four decades that they are profoundly aware of this mission. They have shown that in order to protect this independent alternative, they will not cave in to any power or government, and they will not tolerate the slightest distortion of its principles. They have shown that they would pay any price to protect the demarcations and red lines of the people of Iran against the religious dictatorship in its entirety. They have shown that in every storm, in every trial, in every difficulty and under any form of pressure, they refuse to abandon their struggle to overthrow



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the regime. They have given their all for the struggle for freedom. This is why various enemies of the people of Iran, led by the mullahs, are so infuriated and terrified of hearing the voice of this Resistance. They hear their death knell through the voice of this Resistance. The clerical dictatorship and its hirelings and mercenaries shake to their core when they hear a single word about this Resistance or its gatherings.

The NCRI is the essence and outcome of 40 years of struggle by the people of Iran, filled with numerous tests and ups and downs. The NCRI is part of Iran's history and is, in reality, a political umbrella for the people's struggle to achieve freedom, independence, justice, and economic and social progress.

Iran's future history will pay homage to the special place of the NCRI President and his momentous initiative, and it will be profoundly affected by this democratic alternative and the great contributions it has made to advance the cause of the Iranian people's freedom and sovereignty.

Since the outset, the National Council of Resistance of Iran has proudly remained steadfast in this historic battle, and it will do so until the day of victory when sovereignty is transferred to the people of Iran.

On the anniversary of the Eternal Light Operation, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Iranian people's immortal martyrs slain during that operation. They rose up and gave their lives to achieve the objectives for which the NCRI was formed. And our Resistance movement remains committed to this mission and will successfully implement its mandate by relying on the people of Iran.

I thank you all.

## **Maryam Rajavi's Ten-point-Plan for the Future of Iran**

### **June 20, 2020**

- 1.Rejection of velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule). Affirmation of the people's sovereignty in a republic founded on universal suffrage and pluralism;
- 2.Freedom of speech, freedom of political parties, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and the internet; Dissolution and disbanding of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the terrorist Qods Force, plainclothes groups, the unpopular Bassij, the Ministry of Intelligence, Council of the Cultural Revolution, and all suppressive patrols and institutions in cities, villages, schools, universities, offices, and factories;
- 3.Commitment to individual and social freedoms and rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disbanding all agencies in charge of censorship and inquisition. Seeking justice for massacred political prisoners, prohibition of torture, and the abolishment of the death penalty;
- 4.Separation of religion and state, and freedom of religions and faiths;
- 5.Complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural, and economic rights, and equal participation of women in political leadership. Abolishment of any form of discrimination; the right to choose one's own clothing freely; the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation

against women under any pretext;

6. An independent judiciary and legal system consistent with international standards based on the presumption of innocence, the right to defense counsel, right of appeal, and the right to be tried in a public court. Full independence of judges. Abolishment of the mullahs' Sharia law and dissolution of Islamic Revolutionary Courts;

7. Autonomy for and removal of double injustices against Iranian nationalities and ethnicities consistent with the NCRI's plan for the autonomy of Iranian Kurdistan;

8. Justice and equal opportunities in the realms of employment and entrepreneurship for all of the people of Iran in a free market economy. Restoration of the rights of blue-color workers, farmers, nurses, white-color workers, teachers and retirees;

9. Protection and rehabilitation of the environment, which has been massacred under the rule of the mullahs; and

10. A non-nuclear Iran that is also devoid of weapons of mass destruction. Peace, co-existence and international and regional cooperation.





