



IRAN LIBERATION

Meeting
Tuija Brax,
Finnish
Minister of
Justice



Special Issue

News Bulletin of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

March 2010



Pertti Salolainen: Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman



Ilkka Kantola: Parliament's Human Rights Group Chairman



Paula Kokkonen: Deputy Mayor



Jukka Paarma: Archbishop of Turku

MAJORITY MEMBERS OF FINNISH PARLIAMENT SUPPORT IRANIAN PEOPLE'S UPRISING AND ASHRAF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS

Maryam Rajavi meets Finnish officials and parliamentary leaders



Representatives of seven parliamentary groups in the meeting of Eduskunta Human Rights Group



Kimmo Sasi: Presenting Parliament Majority Support

The Iranian Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, visited Finland's capital Helsinki to meet senior officials and parliamentary leaders. During her meetings, Mrs. Rajavi discussed the latest developments in Iran, as well as the protection and security of Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where about 3,400 members of the main opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) reside.

During her visit, Mrs. Rajavi met with Finnish Justice Minister, Chair of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, The Archbishop of Turku, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Chair of the Finnish Delegation at the Council of Europe, Chairs of the Parliament's Constitution Law Committee, Legal Affairs Committee, Employment and Equality Committee, Committee for the Future, Parliament's Human Rights Group.

Press Coverage



PARLIAMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

At the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Finnish Parliament, Wednesday morning, 10 March, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance took part and addressed a hearing of Finnish parliament's Foreign Affairs committee.

In the meeting, chaired by the Committee chairman, Mr Pertti Salolainen, members from ruling and opposition parties, while welcoming Mrs Rajavi's presence at the Finnish Parliament, expressed their solidarity with the Iranian people's resistance for democracy and Human rights. The President-elect of the Iranian resistance explained about the situation in Iran and the people's resistance for freedom.

The president-elect of the resistance, also reminded the pressures and plots of the Iranian regime to destroy Ashraf and reiterated the necessity for the UN to take over the



Pertti Salolainen, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, Kimmo Kiljunen, Elisabeth Naucler and Maryam Rajavi

protection of Ashraf and again stressed the need to guaranty the rights of PMOI members in Ashraf as "protected persons" as it has been underlined by the European Parliament resolution of 24 April 2009

MEETING PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS

On the second day of her trip to Finland, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, met with a number of the country's senior officials and parliamentary leaders.



From Left: Marja Tiura, First Vice-chair of the ruling National coalition party, chair of the Committee for the Future along with Sari Palm, member of the Grand Committee from Christian Democratic Party



From Left: Janina Andersson, Chair, Legal Affairs Committee; Maryam Rajavi; Sirpa Asko-Siljavaara, Vice Chair, Social Affairs and Health Committee; Ulla-Maj Wideross, Chair, Swedish Parliamentary Group; and Suvi Kohlemainen



Arto Satonen, Chair, Employment and Equality Committee



Sinikka Hurskainen, Chair, Finland Delegation to the Council of Europe and her assistant, Kirsi Airio

MAJORITY SUPPORT OF FINNISH PARLIAMENT



At a meeting organized by the Human Rights group of the Finnish Parliament, and in the presence of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, at the parliament Auditorium, a declaration of support by the majority of the country's lawmakers for the Iranian people's uprising and the rights of Camp Ashraf residents was announced. A book containing the signatures of the lawmakers was presented to Mrs. Rajavi by Mr. Kimmo Sasi, Chairman of the Finnish Parliament's Constitutional Law Committee.

The declaration by majority members of the Finnish Parliament in support of the Iranian people's uprising and the rights of Camp Ashraf residents was signed by more than 100 lawmakers, including seven parliamentary committee chairs, 11 committee vice-chairs, and leaders of parliamentary groups or their deputies.

The meeting was attended by parliamentarians, advisors, party leaders and political figures. Representatives from all political parties; the National Coalition Party, the Center Party, the Socialist Democratic Party, the Leftist Coalition, the Green Party, the Swedish Party, and the Christian Democratic Party

condemned human rights violations in Iran on behalf of their respective parties and voiced support for the Iranian people's resistance and the residents of Camp Ashraf, Iraq, home to 3,400 members of the main opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).

At the meeting, Chairman of the Constitutional Law Committee of the Finnish Parliament, Mr. Kimmo Sasi, announced the intention to create the Finnish Parliamentary group for human rights in Iran.

In her remarks, Mrs. Rajavi talked about the systematic and brutal human rights violations in Iran.

Mr. Kantola, who also chaired the meeting, said: The situation of human rights in Iran and the circumstances surrounding the residents of Ashraf are both profoundly distressing for us.

Mr. Kantola added that when it comes to a dictatorship pursuing nuclear weapons program, I agree with Mrs. Rajavi that the best response is democracy, especially because the Iranian regime relies on religion and carries a multitude of threats for the international community.

MEETING PARLIAMENT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

From right: Sari Palm, Member, Grand Committee; Marja Tiura, Chair, Committee for Future; Ilkka Kantola, Chair, Human Rights Group; Paula Moisander, Secretary, Human Rights Group and Secretary of International Affairs of the Parliament; Tuulikki Ukkola, Member, Grand Committee; Ville Niinisto, Chair, Green Parliamentary Group and Parviz Khazai, NCRI representative in Nordic countries



MEETING FINNISH JUSTICE MINISTER

In a meeting on Thursday morning, March 11, in Mrs. Tuija Brax's office, Mrs. Rajavi explained about the latest developments regarding the nationwide uprising for democracy and freedom in Iran and especially the brutal repression of women and young people. She stressed on the need to change EU states' policies towards Iran. The Finnish Minister of Justice stressed her deep concern over the human rights abuses in Iran and expressed her solidarity with the people of Iran.

Mrs. Brax also paid attention to the situation of residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq and expressed her deep distress over the bloody attack against Ashraf on 28-29 July 2009.

While reminding her good relationship with the late Lord Slynn, the Justice Minister praised the great humanitarian personality of Lord Slynn and his devotion to the cause of the Iranian resistance and Camp Ashraf.



Mrs. Rajavi presented Mrs. Brax a book containing names and particulars of twenty thousand martyrs of the PMOI.

MEETING ARCHBISHOP JUKKA PAARMA

While on a visit to Finland, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, met with Archbishop Jukka Paarma at the historical cathedral of Turku city, which is the main church and one of the most recognized symbols in Finland.

While visiting the church, Mrs. Rajavi signed a book of visitors and presented the church a book listing 20,000 martyrs of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).

On his part, the Archbishop expressed concern over human rights violations in Iran and prayed for freedom of the Iranian people.



SOLIDARITY BETWEEN FINNISH AND IRANIAN WOMEN

At a conference entitled "Solidarity between Finnish and Iranian Women" at the Helsinki Conference Center, 11 MARCH 2010, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, discussed the situation of Iranian women and their role in the struggle for democracy, freedom and uprooting the absolute clerical rule in Iran.

The conference was chaired by Mrs. Piia-Noora Kauppi and attended by experts, jurists, officials on women's issues in Finnish political parties, and members of women's and students' NGOs. Ms. Anissa Boumediene, jurist, Islamic scholar and former Algerian First Lady during the presidency of Houari Boumediene, and Lady Odile Slynn, were also present at the gathering.

Ms. Kauppi informed participants about the statement issued by the European Parliament's Solidarity Group with Women for a Free Iran. Later, a number of the attendees spoke at the event, including Ms. Sarah Ruokonen, from the Women's Network of the Christian Democratic Party of Helsinki, and Ms. Sato Wartiovaara, lawyer and member of the Helsinki Bar Association.



From left: Satu Wartiovaara, Sara Ruokonen, Pia Noora Kauppi, Maryam Rajavi, Anissa Boumediene and Lady Slynn

