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Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe

Declaration by 123 MPs support democratic change in Iran



- We support opposition leader Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's "third option" for democratic change by the people and resistance and urge the United Nations Security Council, the Council of Europe and the European Union to take urgent action for the release of political prisoners and prevent the suppression of the uprising.
- Iranian regime wants Iraqi forces to eliminate its 3,400 opponents in Camp Ashraf in order to stop uprising in Iran.

Page 3

Arrests, mass trials, executions continue in run up to February uprising

- Two political prisoners hanged
- 11 others sentenced to death
- 16 more put on trial
- "More than 20 PMOI members who were involved in organizing riots have been arrested and are charged with moharebeh (enmity toward God)," says the mullahs' Deputy Minister of the Intelligence and Security



Maryam Rajavi:

The hanging of the two is a new phase in the medieval regime's barbarity. It is a clear sign of the regime's weakness and exasperation in face of the nationwide uprising

Page 6

The Washington Post - Editorial:

"The key to dealing with Iran: Press ties with opposition"

Page 8

Inhumane siege on Ashraf continues

Page 5

In European Parliament session

MEPs condemn crackdown in Iran



On January 19, 2010, in a debate in a session of European Parliament on "Situation in Iran," MEPs condemned regime's crackdown on protesters and its nuclear program .

Page 2

EU Foreign Affairs chief Catherine Ashton:

"In terms of Camp Ashraf, we consistently and repeatedly reminded Iraq that this complex issue must be managed in full accordance with international law and indeed without any violence."

Nationwide uprising continues:

Protestors burn portraits of Khomeini and Khamenei in Shiraz

Chants of "death to dictator" in rally in holy city of Qom

Page 7

Euro MPs voice concern over mullahs' nuclear threats, condemn crackdown on uprising



On January 19, 2010, in a charged debate in a plenary session of the European Parliament the "Situation in Iran," was discussed and MEPs condemned Iranian regime's crackdown on protesters and its defiance to comply with the international community's demand regarding its nuclear program.

"Deeply concerned over the violent suppression"

Opening the debate, the EU's new foreign affairs chief, Catherine Ashton, told the House in Strasbourg, "I am deeply concerned over the reports of violent suppression of demonstrations and arbitrary detentions in Tehran and other Iranian cities during the recent Ashura commemorations at the end of December. The use of violence against demonstrators seeking to exercise their freedom of expression and rights of assembly is not acceptable. These are uni-

versal human rights that must be respected and those detained for peacefully exercising those rights should be released."

Iran "still producing enriched uranium"

Baroness Ashton said, "Iran does not respect its international obligations". She told the House that she regretted Iran had not agreed to engage in meaningful talks to broker a settlement either with the European Union or the wider international community.

MEPs from all sides paid tribute to the courage and vibrancy of the protestors and condemned the regime's repression of protest and dissent. Many urged a tougher policy toward Iranian regime. The following are excerpts from their interventions;



Marietje Schaake
Netherlands

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Recent arrests of human rights reporters by the intelligence office of the Revolutionary Guard show that the Iranian regime takes an increased interest in closing off the country... It is high time that Europe takes a united stance regarding Iran, and the world is waiting.



Frédérique RIES
Belgium

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Iran undoubtedly going through the worst crisis of its history since 1979. It is important to call for smart, targeted sanctions. We will do better if we help the Iranian youths who shout their rebellion.



Marco SCURRIA
Italy

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

We must ask, Baroness Ashton if it really makes sense to send a delegation to Tehran with the Iranian government not agreeing with a shared program, a program that allows us to listen to the reasons and the voices of opposition.



Charles Tannock
United Kingdom

European Conservatives and Reformists

Ahmadinejad's ruthless ambition to develop nuclear weapons represents, in my view, the gravest threat to world peace today. Only through a united and coordinated approach will the EU's diplomacy eventually succeed. Renewed sanctions must now be targeted and must be extremely damaging to the regime in Tehran. But, equally, we should recognise that Iran's people and the Iranian regime are not the same thing... We MEPs in this House long to see a democratic and free Iran, which no longer exports terrorism via Hamas and Hezbollah.



Lena KOLARSKA-BOBIŃSKA
Poland

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Internal situation in Iran is deteriorating dramatically from day to day, from week to week. Human rights are brutally violated through terror that our eyes have not seen for decades. They try to suppress those who fight for a better future in the country.

Death penalty against the opposition is unacceptable under the pretext of "moharebeh", or enemy of God. The European Union therefore needs a new approach to the situation in Iran. European Union High Representative Ashton should send a strong and clear message to the people of Iran confirming our willingness to defend human rights.



Mariya NEDELICHEVA
Bulgaria

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Our task is to support as much as possible the Iranian civil society and its resistance movement. The right of existence of the opposition and the right to a free competition between parties to represent the plurality of opinion in the Iranian society are things that are long overdue and we are far from that to be observed in Iran.



Bastiaan BELDER
Netherlands

Europe of freedom and democracy Group

There is no doubt that the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic is a very serious security risk. I still hope, therefore, that the international community at last going to realize that and act accordingly and I believe all options should remain on the table. Is there a European platform for the rigorous tightening of sanctions against the Iranian regime? Closure of commercial ties between a number of prominent EU members and the Islamic Republic would cause serious obstacles to the nuclear issue.



Fiorello PROVERA
Italy

Europe of freedom and democracy Group

The internal situation in Iran continues to worsen, in addition to this, there is a lack of international cooperation and Iranians are denying the IAEA access to uranium enrichment sites. This clearly shows the real intention of Iran's nuclear program. If they were only peaceful they would not need to be hidden. Europe must therefore express strongly its concern.



Monica Luisa MACOVEI
Romania

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

I have decided to use most of my time for this intervention to highlight the names of people who, reportedly, are in detention in Iran, some sentenced to death, for criticising the political regime or for defending civil rights. What these people have in common is to have reported on, or voiced their concerns about the situation in Iran. What is the Commission or the Council going to do for the release of those imprisoned for political purposes? What funding does the Commission provide to human rights NGOs working on Iran?

Declaration by 123 MPs supports Maryam Rajavi's plan for democratic change in Iran



On Thursday, January 28, the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe announced a written declaration on Iran calling for an end to suppression of people's uprising by the clerical regime and support for democratic change in Iran. The Iran Declaration has been signed by 123 members of the assembly so far. Among the signatories are 12 heads of delegations and five Vice-presidents of the assembly.

Text of the declaration:

Millions of Iranians are demanding freedom and democracy. Suppressive forces have killed, injured or arrested thousands and are prosecuting some as "Mohareb" (waging war on God). Officials reiterate that since the organised and legitimate opposition People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran still exists, any support for or relations with it is an act of "Moharebeh" and punishable by execution under Islamic penal law. In order to stop the uprising, the regime wants Iraqi forces to eliminate its 3,400 opponents in Camp Ashraf. The attack last July left 11 killed and 500 injured. None the less, the uprising continues with chants of "Down with Khamenei" and "Down with the principle of absolute clerical rule" the goal being to change the entire regime.

We support opposition leader Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's "third option" for democratic change by the people and resistance and urge the United Nations Security Council, the Council of Europe and the European Union to take urgent action for the release of political prisoners and prevent the suppression of the uprising. Continued relations with Iran must be based on complete improvement of human rights. The United Nations must protect Ashraf residents, and US forces must guarantee they would not face violence or forcible displacement in Iraq.



Potito SALATTO
Italy

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

The most serious violation of civil rights by the Iranian government, which has also signed the UN treaty, to protect the minors yet it is sentencing the minors to death.

I wish that after this debate, Baroness Ashton assumes the commitment to indicate a common line throughout Europe and around the European Parliament on Iran.

I wish that the Commission now gives support to the opposition and holds discussions with representatives of the opposition who are in exile. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the person that we should be speaking to.



Geoffrey VAN ORDEN
United Kingdom

European Conservatives and Reformists

Baroness Ashton, you were talking about the Iran delegation. The delegation was due to go to Iran from 8-10 January, but that delegation visit was cancelled. In fact it was cancelled by the Iranian authorities. Many of us pressed for the delegation visit to be cancelled earlier than that – though in fact the chairman of the delegation took no notice of us – in the light of the testing of long-range missiles, the shooting of demonstrators and all the other disturbances that took place over the Christmas period. That delegation visit has been cancelled, and that action should actually have been taken earlier in Parliament to cancel it.



Tunne KELAM
Estonia

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Mr President, I have to say to Mrs Ashton that our hopes of convincing the Iranian regime of our concerns will, I am afraid, be in vain. In fact we are dealing with a dictatorship of yesterday and what is needed now is to concentrate on the opportunity for change. The regime is coming apart at the seams, and the Iranian people have courageously shown, since last June, that they do not trust and do not support this deceitful and aggressive dictatorship. Why should we continue to do so?

We need seriously to support civil society and the democratic opposition, including the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which is the only organisation that has come out with a very clear democratic program for a nuclear-free Iran.



Bogusław SONIK
Poland

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

The situation in Iran is causing growing concern in the world. Chancellor Merkel said that Iran has not responded to the proposal put forward by the West for cooperation on nuclear program. Patience, which has demonstrated so far by the international community in dialogue with Tehran, has come to an end. World cannot be held hostage to an aggressive and provocative policy of the current political leadership in Iran. Spanish Presidency and Mrs. Ashton should hold discussions on this issue with Russia to convince Moscow to a common policy focus on Iran.



Struan STEVENSON
United Kingdom

European Conservatives and Reformists

The day of dialogue and engagement with Iran has long since passed. People are dying in the streets almost every day in protests against this fascist regime. Only yesterday, as you have heard, a kangaroo court in Tehran called for the death penalty against five protesters arrested during the Ashura riots on 27 December. Enough is enough. No more talk; no more appeasement. We need tough sanctions. That is the only way that we will show the ordinary people of Iran that we back their protests.



Alexander ALVARO
Germany

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

While a regime like the one in Tehran, which is not only anachronistic, but against his own people using death penalty, stoning and going on with other means, ... I would like at this point use harsh and strong words of the High Representative for foreign and security policy and say that sanctions against Iran, not only we demand but want to be enforced.



Piotr BORYS
Poland

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

We need to protect human rights and express our strong concern about what has been happening for several months on the question of human rights of the opposition. At first and foremost the European Union should be most active when it comes to nuclear program. Iran, armed with atomic weapons is a huge threat for the whole of the Middle East.

PMOI challenges US terror listing

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, heard a challenge to a decision by the Secretary of State to maintain the terrorist designation of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The State Department counsel conceded at the hearing that the unclassified material was devoid of adequate evidence to support the listing of the PMOI. He also acknowledged that the decision was solely relied on "confidential material" which the PMOI had no access.

The unjust listing has been used by the religious dictatorship to justify its brutal crackdown, including the execution of opponents inside Iran. The clerical regime's authorities also use the label to pressure the Iraqi government to carry out killing and inhumane treatment of the residents of Camp Ashraf, where 3,400 PMOI members and supporters reside.

Arguing in front of the three-judge panel on behalf of the PMOI during Tuesday's hearing was Mayor Brown partner Andrew Frey.

In his opening remarks Mr. Frey said that PMOI is unique among designated organizations that have petitioned this Court. It represents the principle opposition to the current tyrannical regime in Tehran. "It is totally committed to democratic, secular, non nuclear Iran at peace with its neighbors."

Referring to the widespread support for the PMOI Mr. Frey said: The Secretary seeks to denigrate PMOI's status as a principle Iranian opposition group, but I think that's belied by the extraordinary amicus support that has appeared before this court today.

The five amici in support of the PMOI's case were; members of US Congress, Several Iranian American communities across the US, former US military servicemen who had served in Iraq and were familiar with Ashraf, members of UK House of Lords and House of Commons, and 264 members of European Parliament and national parliaments of EU Member States.

The panel questioned the government as to why it had failed to provide the PMOI with pre-designation hearing, as required by the same court in its June 2001 ruling. The scope of the judicial review was also thoroughly discussed during the hearing. While the government argued that the court should not consider the quality of the information the PMOI counsel insisted that making a determination whether the Secretary's decision is supported by substantial evidence requires the court to look into the information.

The PMOI counsel argued that for the Secretary to maintain the PMOI on the list "there has to be some concrete evidence, some substantial support".

He further argued that had the PMOI were engaged in terrorist activities the Secretary should have been able to identify them as such act cannot be classified.

Referring to one of the allegation in the administrative record Mr. Frey said the government's document acknowledges that the source of the information was "unknown" and "as such the access, voracity, and motivations were unknown." He added "that kind of thing does not constitute substantial evidence."

He urged the court to look behind the conclusory assertions.

More than 100 spectators, many in support of the PMOI, attended the argument on Tuesday, according to Legal Times.

On July 15, 2008, the PMOI filed a petition with the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, requesting that the PMOI's designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) be lifted because the circumstances of the organization had substantially changed so as to warrant a revocation.

The PMOI provided three supplemental briefs and exhibits to assist the Secretary in her decision making.

On January 7, 2009, Secretary Rice denied the petition. In doing so, she failed, however, to grant the PMOI the right to pre-designation hearing as required by the Court of Appeals in its prior rulings, thereby violating the PMOI's due process rights.

Consistent with the statutory provisions, the PMOI filed a timely challenge to the Secretary of State's decision within 30 days of being informed that it would be maintained on the FTO list.

The Washington Times

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

PMOI's place on the terrorist watch list

People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran should be cleared

Editorial (Excerpts)

Today, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit hears the case of People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran v. United States Department of State. The State Department says the PMOI is a terrorist organization. The PMOI says the United States is falling for Iranian propaganda.

The PMOI has assisted the United States in Iraq by warning Coalition troops against planned attacks by Iraqi insurgents. The PMOI also has provided critical information on Iran's secret nuclear program, such as the first reports of hidden facilities at Qom and Natanz. These revelations were at first viewed skeptically, given the flawed information that Iraqi emigre groups provided about Saddam Hussein's program to develop weapons of mass destruction. But Frank Pabian, a senior adviser on nuclear nonproliferation at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, stated that the PMOI is "right 90 percent of the time."

Removing the PMOI from the list of foreign terrorist organizations is one of the few issues on which both parties in Congress agree. No doubt, the same type of bureaucratic inertia is at work on this matter as that which kept South African President Nelson Mandela on a terrorist watch list until 2008.

The United Kingdom and European Union have removed the group from their terror lists, which has created a disconnect with America's allies that complicates policy-making. The political rationale that put the PMOI on the U.S. terror list also has changed. The Clinton administration tagged the PMOI as terrorists in October 1997 as a means of reaching out to Iran's newly elected moderate leader Mohammad Khatami.

Tehran uses the PMOI as an all-purpose scapegoat to discredit reformists, never failing to note in its denunciations that the United States calls them terrorists. The regime blamed the PMOI for murdering Neda Soltan, the young woman shot by pro-regime thugs during demonstrations last summer. In December, the Islamic regime claimed the PMOI killed Seyed Ali Mousavi, nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi. The mullahs can accuse any liberal reformer with being in league with the "terrorist" PMOI and use the United States terror list as justification for imposing a death sentence. Ironically, America's terror list has become an enabler for Iran's state terrorism.

For the past year, the Obama administration has been trying to reach out to the regime in Tehran and been brusquely rebuffed. It is a good time to send the Islamic regime a new signal. Taking the PMOI off the terror list acknowledges that the group has put violence behind them, creates a credible incentive for other terror groups that might desire to reform their ways, and removes a tool from the hands of a theocratic regime bent on terrorizing its own people.

Inhumane siege on Ashraf continues

Medical blockade

Over the past three months, the Iraqi committee at the Prime Minister's Office tasked with suppression of Camp Ashraf residents has prevented entry of fuel supplies to the Camp. This inhumane siege has triggered Medical blockade

Iraqi forces have continued and stepped up the siege and pressures on Ashraf residents to make living conditions unbearable for them. A blanket ban on medical supplies and medical care is now one of the most critical problems at Ashraf. Many patients suffering from serious ailments and a large number of those wounded during the July raid need urgent medical attention.

The restrictions on the entry of medicine and physicians have been in place for one year. Since last October, however, the Iraqi forces have completely prevented specialist doctors from visiting Ashraf. Since November 25, they have even prevented the entry of physicians sent by the Diyala Province's Health Department. The residents of Ashraf have set up operating rooms so that Iraqi specialists could treat the patients. But the Iraqi forces do not allow surgeons and anesthesiologists who have been approved by the Iraqi government to go to Ashraf. There are cases that have turned malignant and can no longer be cured because of the delay in treatment. A number of patients are losing their eye sights.



This is while until a few months ago, Iraqi specialists could go to Camp Ashraf to treat the residents who paid for the services.

In addition, the residents of Ashraf are having difficulty buying medicine and only a small percentage of their medical needs are allowed to enter the Camp.

Ban on fuel and petroleum products

No fuel has entered Ashraf in the past four months. The Iraqi Committee tasked to close Ashraf has been preventing the entry of fuel to Ashraf, causing many difficulties for the residents. Because of frequent power outages, the residents of Ashraf rely on generators to provide electricity and they are also running out of fuel.

Families of Ashraf residents arrested, receive harsh sentences in Iran

In fear of spread and deepening nationwide uprising, Iranian regime has intensified pressure on relatives and members of families of Camp Ashraf residents and continues to arrest many more of them.

The clerical regime recently arrested three other relatives of residents of Camp Ashraf; Aliasghar Nabavi, Reza Gholizadeh, Hanif Hosseindoust. Three of those previously detained were sentenced to heavy prison terms; Seyyed Zia Nabavi, Monireh Rabi'i, Hassan Tarlani.

Aliasghar Nabavi, 25, resident of Ghaemshahr (northern Iran) was arrested on January 7 only for having relatives in Camp Ashraf. Reza Gholizadeh, Mr. Nabavi's brother-in-law, was arrested on January 8. Five other members of this family are currently imprisoned in cities of Karaj (central Iran), Semnan (northern Iran) and Tehran: Tayabeh Nabavi, Atefeh Nabavi, Fatemeh Nabavi, Seyyed Jalal Nabavi, Alireza Nabavi. Mr. Seyyed Zia Nabavi, another member of this family, has been charged with "association and collaboration to disturb national security, propaganda against the system, disturbing public order, creating anxiety in public," and cooperation with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI).

Hanif Hosseindoust, 28, married with a 2-years-old child, was arrested on January 17 for having his mother and uncles, in Camp Ashraf. Mr. Hossindoust's cousin, Monireh Rabi'i, a 32 year-old engineer, had been arrested on October 7, 2009 on the same charges. She was sentenced to five years in prison and currently being held in Ward 350 of women's section of Tehran's Evin prison.

Mr. Hassan Tarlani, a 23-year-old student, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison on similar charges. He recently was transferred from Ward 350 of Evin prison to a prison in city of Kerman (southern Iran) where the ordinary and dangerous prisoners are held. Mr. Tarlani is the grandson of Hassan Ali Safai, a well-known Tehran bazaar merchant who was executed in 1981 for supporting the PMOI.



Atefeh Nabavi



Zohour Nabavi



Hamideh Nabavi

Three members of a family imprisoned for having relatives in Camp Ashraf

Amnesty International: Ashura protesters at risk of execution in Iran

On January 8, 2010 Amnesty International urged Iranian regime "not to sentence to death protesters arrested" during Ashoura Day protest.

"At least five demonstrators arrested during protests on Ashoura, 27 December, have been charged with moharebeh (enmity against God), which carries the death penalty," AI reported expressing fears that they could be tried imminently.

It added, "Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Jafari-Dolatabadi reportedly confirmed the five to be members of the People's Mojahedin Organization (PMOI)."

In reference to a group of five relatives of Ashraf residents, AI said, "The PMOI has confirmed to Amnesty International that five people - who all have children in the PMOI in Iraq - have been detained since the Ashoura protests. These are Ali Mehnia, 70, Parviz Varmazyari, 54, Majid Rezaii, Alireza Nabavi and Ali Massoumi."

"The offences the protesters are accused of do not amount to the 'most serious crimes' for which the death penalty may be applied under international law. Even if they have committed such offences, they should not face the death penalty if convicted," said AI's Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui.

"The authorities should ensure that anyone suspected of criminal offences related to the demonstrations, including stone throwing or acts of arson, is tried promptly and fairly, in proceedings which meet international fair trial standards, and that no one is sentenced to death."

"The news comes amid signs that the Iranian authorities may be planning to increase the use of the death penalty as a means to deter demonstrations," AI concluded.

Arrests, mass trials, executions continue in run-up to February uprising

- **Hanging of two political prisoners provokes international outrage**
- **11 sentenced to death by mullahs' kangaroo court**
- **Maryam Rajavi: People's courageous uprising will continue until overthrow of the regime despite these barbaric crimes**

Kangaroo trials to justify execution of uprising detainees charged with PMOI links

On January 18, the clerical regime staged a kangaroo court chaired by a henchman identified as Salavati acting as judge, where it was requested that "the most severe punishment" be handed down for five of the detainees of the uprising which took place during the holy day of Ashura (December 27), on charges of cooperation with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and "Moharebeh (waging war against God), and assembling and colluding against national security." In order to avert revelations about its repulsive theatrics, the clerical regime has refused to even divulge the names of the defendants.

The criminal judge did his utmost to round up a series of statements to tie the uprising to "satellite networks and calls of news outlets," "cyberspace," and "American intelligence and research networks." At the same time, he failed to hide his trepidation about the attack of protestors on "the principle of velayat-e faqih [absolute clerical rule]," which he described as "the intensification of foundation-shattering measures" aimed at "the pillar of the ruling system." He also could not conceal his relief about the fact that the "system" has managed to survive another day in the face of the anger and rage of protestors. (State-run Fars news agency, January 18, 2010)

He falsely claimed that the defendants "were trained in Iraq and European countries [by the PMOI] to engage in terror and riots" and were given "assignments like bombing and terrorism, which they would then blame the system for."

Such ludicrous lies, which are reminiscent of the allegations of the Shah's secret police (SAVAK) during his regime's dying days, only serve to reveal the fear of the clerical regime and its suppressive organizations and forces over the prospect of certain demise.

Salavati also stated in the so-called court session that since the "core of the PMOI has not been eradicated, Article 186 of the Islamic Punishment Act would still apply to the PMOI." In accordance with this article, "As long as the core of that organization remains in place, all of its members and supporters ... are mohareb [enemies of God], even if they have not been involved in its armed wing."

Prior to this, mullah Ebrahim Raeesi, First Deputy of the regime's Judiciary Chief and one of the mullahs' officials responsible for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988, had said: "The PMOI is an organized movement," and "anyone who helps the PMOI under any circumstances and in any way ... will be considered as mohareb." Raeesi had emphasized that using sticks and stones would also deserve the "moharebeh" charge, which carries the death penalty (State-run TV, December 30, 2009).



A mullahs' Henchman identified as Salavati acting as judge in a kangaroo court that ordered protesters hanged



"New phase in the medieval regime's barbarity"

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described death sentences issued for 11 political prisoners on the bogus charge of "mohareb" (waging war on God) and the hanging of two as a new phase in the medieval regime's barbarity.

She stressed that this was a clear sign of the regime's weakness and exasperation in face of the nationwide uprising. Resorting to such crimes would only strengthen people's resolve to change the religious dictatorship, she added. The people of Iran and youths in particular will no doubt continue with their courageous uprising until the overthrow of the clerical rule in its entirety and establishment of freedom and democracy in their country, Mrs. Rajavi emphasized.

Two political prisoners hanged

Two political prisoners were hanged on January 28 for "organizing protest demonstrations" and having links to "recent riots," although they had been arrested months before the nationwide uprisings that were sparked by the sham elections in June. They had been imprisoned throughout this period.

11 sentenced to death for "mohareb"

Mullahs' judiciary had sentenced 11 political prisoners to death in a mass kangaroo trial. Those on trial have reportedly been arrested during the uprisings in recent months.

Deputy intelligence minister:

"20 PMOI members among 1,000 Ashura detainees"

TEHRAN, (AFP) Jan. 27 - The Iranian deputy intelligence minister said on Wednesday (Jan. 27) that 1,000 people had been arrested during the Ashura riots, but did not specify whether these arrests were made only in Tehran or across Iran.

The arrested included 20 members of the exiled opposition movement, People's Mujahedeen.

"These people were guiding and leading the riots," the deputy minister said.

"They have confessed to the charges and since this is an armed organisation and has carried out armed operations against the Islamic republic of Iran, they will be considered as mohareb (enemy of God)."

According to Islamic sharia law, moharebs are punishable with death penalty.

Executions Censured Worldwide

AI: “Unfairly convicted, unjustly killed”

Amnesty International condemned the hangings, saying “these shocking executions show that the Iranian authorities will stop at nothing to stamp out the peaceful protests that persist since the election. These men were first unfairly convicted and now they have been unjustly killed. It is not even clear they had links to this group as their ‘confessions’ appear to have been made under duress.”

EU: “Strongly condemned”

The European Union’s foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton condemned the executions in a statement on Friday. “The European Union strongly condemns these two executions and expresses its profound concern at the death sentences imposed on persons tried in these mass trials,” she said. The EU “opposes the death penalty, whatever the circumstances,” she added.

U.S.: “Ruthless crackdown”

Deputy White House spokesman Bill Burton “strongly” condemned the executions, saying they marked a new low in Tehran’s “ruthless crackdown” on peaceful dissent. “Murdering political prisoners who are exercising their universal rights will not bring the respect and legitimacy the Islamic Republic seeks,” he said. “It will only serve to further isolate Iran’s government in the world and from its people.”

UK: Appalled by the killing

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said he was “appalled” by the hangings, declaring: “The trials and now these subsequent executions undermine Iran’s claimed commitment to justice, human rights and democratic values.”

Canada: “Deeply concerned”

The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon, said in a statement, “Canada is deeply concerned by reports that the Government of Iran executed Mohammad Reza Ali-Zammani and Aresh Rahmani-pour on January 28, 2010. The Iranian government’s ongoing persecution of Iranians for their political or religious beliefs or their ethnic affiliation is unacceptable. The increase in the number of arbitrary detentions, death sentences and executions in Iran since its presidential election in June 2009 is a disturbing trend that Iran must reverse. Canada notes that the Government of Iran continues to deny political prisoners fair and transparent trials, and furthermore that more trials are scheduled.

Protests Continue

Ongoing uprising in Lar

Courageous uprising of Lar residents in southern Iran continued on Friday, February 5, for fifth day running. People’s protest was so intense and widespread that the authorities could not hold the weekly Friday prayers in the city. A large crowd, kilometers long, gathered outside the Hosseinieh Azam mosque chanting anti-regime slogans.

On Thursday evening, the Special Guard units attacked protesters by pellet bullets injuring at least 40. The suppressive forces wounded a large number of people including children, women and elderly men when attacked the crowd with batons.

At lunchtime on Friday, angry people retaliated the suppressive forces’ aggression on the previous night and attacked the headquarters of the State Security Forces in the city. The suppressive guards had to run away in fear of people’s wrath.



Chants of “death to dictator” in large rally in Qom

On January 28, 2010, a large number of pilgrims gathered inside and outside the Massoumeh shrine in the holy city of Qom and held protests with chants of “death to dictator” on the fortieth day after the death of Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri. The protests came amid the hanging of two political prisoners by the regime and the sentencing of 11 more on charges of “moharebeh” (waging war against God).

The demonstration took place even as in recent days the regime’s suppressive forces established a visible presence across the city of Qom and carried out suppressive exercises to bolster the atmosphere of intimidation and fear in an attempt to prevent the formation of anti-regime protests. A number of regime elements in the premises chanted “death to hypocrites” (the regime’s pejorative word in reference to the PMOI).

Protesters burn Khamenei and Khomeini’s portrait in Shiraz

On January 29, 2010, the residents of southern Iranian city of Shiraz who had gathered on the fortieth day after the death of Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, ripped and burned the two meter wide portrait of symbols of the clerical regime, Khamenei and Khomeini, in city’s Nowdan Boulevard.

In a similar ceremony held in central city of Qom, a number of young people who had participated in the event were arrested. They were beaten and transferred to an unknown location.

Students chant “Down with dictator” in Tehran

Students of Tehran’s Azad University (South Tehran branch) staged a protest rally on January 14 to call for the release of their detained classmates. They chanted “Down with dictator” and “Free detained students.”

Students of Tehran University’s Technical Department announced their plan for staging a sit-in to protest the arrest of their fellow students. They said that they would not participate in exams unless their classmates are released. The announcement follows similar calls for boycotting exams that was made by students in other universities across the country in the past few days.

Students of Tehran’s Khajeh Nasir Toosi University (KNTU) refrained from taking exams in protest against widespread arrest of students on Ashura anti-government protests.

Two Kurdish political prisoners sentenced to death

Iranian regime sentenced two Kurdish political prisoners to death in an appeal court. Mohammad-Amin Abdollahi, 25, and Ghader Mohammadzadeh were accused of organizing unlawful groups among other charges. Mr. Abdollahi was originally sentenced to 20 years in prison, but on 16 January a court sentenced him to death, on charges of “acting against national security and waging war on God.” The same court changed Mr. Mohammadzadeh’s sentence from 32-year prison to death.

Shiite and Sunni clergies arrested

The Iranian regime agents arrested Mr. Mohammad-Taqi Khalaji, a clergyman close to the late Ayatollah Montazeri, on January 12, at his residence in Qom. Another clergy, Sheikh Mohammad Qureyshi, who leads the Sunni mosque of Jame Mohammadih in Talesh in Northern Province of Gilan, was arrested on January 10, and taken to the local intelligence office in the province. A number of Sunni theologians were also arrested in the city of Khash in Sistan and Baluchistan province, southeastern Iran, in late December.

Maryam Rajavi receives medal of honor, inaugurates “Tehran Hall”



On January 17, the inauguration of Tehran hall took place in Magny-en-Vexin municipality building in solidarity with people’s uprising in Iran.

In a report on January 29, the French weekly *L’Echo régional*, wrote, “Mayor Jean-Pierre Muller, strongly committed to the values of freedom, presented Maryam Rajavi the medal of the city of Magny engraved with her name.” The daily quoted Mr. Muller saying, “Your movement and the PMOI are the spearheads of the fight against the infamous barbarians. Your fight for freedom, for a free and democratic Iran against the cruel and repressive regime of the mullahs is ours.”

The president-elect of the Iranian Resistance presented Mr. Mayor and Vice-President of the General Council in Val d’Oise province a painting about Tehran. She said, “It is an honor for me to attend the inauguration of the hall of Tehran. On behalf of the Iranian people and resistance, and residents of Camp Ashraf, which embodied the hopes of the Iranian people, I thank you deeply for this initiative.”

New Year wishes for a free Iran

On January 8, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, offered her New Year wishes and greetings to the people of the town of Auvers-sur-Oise and province of Val d’Oise in France, where she resides.

Mrs. Rajavi spoke at the event saying: Currently, the Iranian crisis is the most important issue on the international stage. 2009 was the year that clearly demonstrated the failure of the appeasement policy vis-à-vis the religious dictatorship.



The Iranian Resistance said that this regime was unstable and that the Iranian people were ready to revolt. We’ve seen the truth of that assessment in recent months. The third option, which is democratic change by the Iranian people and their Resistance, is the only viable option for Iran. Last year, the solidarity of France’s elected representatives with the Resistance reached new heights. More than 2,000 French mayors supported the Iranian Resistance. France, moreover, displayed a more firm policy towards the mullahs. I hope this policy will continue and help remove the obstacles placed on the path of the Iranian Resistance.

Jean-Pierre Béquet, mayor of Auvers-sur-Oise, said: The Iranian people show unlimited courage as they confront the ruling dictatorship. They are demonstrating their determination to bring about regime change.

Dominique Lefebvre, mayor of Cergy-Pontoise, referred to the Iranian regime’s plans in Iraq to forcibly displace Ashraf residents and prepare the stage for their massacre, and said: A forced displacement of Ashraf residents constitutes a gross violation of international law. So we cannot compromise on this issue. Right now they need others to stand at their side and shoulder-to-shoulder with their resistance with more strength and determination, as the regime is falling apart.

Pierre Bercis, President of New Human Rights, said: The year 2010 is here and it looks as though the sun has risen. It gives us hope. It’s as though we have run together in a long marathon. I hope that we are in the final stages.”

The Washington Post

The key to dealing with Iran: Press ties with opposition

Editorial (Excerpts)

January 30, 2010

President Obama promised last year that if Iran did not respond to offers of high-level “engagement” with the United States and negotiations on its nuclear program, he would seek international support for “crippling” sanctions against the regime. Tehran did not respond, and true to its word, the administration has been engaged in a vigorous-looking diplomatic effort this month to win agreement on a new resolution by the U.N. Security Council... administration officials continue to express optimism that they will be able to bring tough new sanctions to bear... In the meantime, the administration is still dodging a larger question: whether Mr. Obama’s two-track strategy needs to be overhauled in light of the unprecedented and increasingly radical opposition the Islamic regime is facing from its own people.

Many experts outside the administration, and many in Congress, think it does. The hardline clique that has emerged around Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, they say, has lost legitimacy, and in any case is composed of those elements most opposed to accord with the West. The best chance of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear capacity lies in a victory by the opposition...

To his credit, Mr. Obama has spoken out with increasing forcefulness against the regime’s crackdown on the opposition... But the president’s advisers say he is sticking to a regime-centered approach...

The problem with this strategy is that it keeps the administration focused on the least likely scenario for success – a deal with the current regime – instead of the more likely one, which is an opposition victory... The latter would include more support for independent broadcasting into the country, and funding for groups that can help the opposition circumvent Iran’s Internet firewall. Mr. Obama himself might make a difference by speaking out more forcefully and more often in support of Iranians’ right to free speech, free assembly and justice for those who have been killed or imprisoned.

The regime professes unconcern about another round of sanctions – perhaps with some reason. But it does not hide its terror and paranoia about the possibility that the United States would help to sponsor a popular “color revolution.” If the object of sanctions is to punish the regime and force it to make concessions, why not begin to do what it fears most?