



IRAN LIBERATION

No. 312

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

7 March 2011

Worldwide support for democratic change in Iran

*Former US officials press for immediate delisting of PMOI by Department of State
UN and US urged to guarantee protection of Ashraf residents and end their
psychological torture and medical restrictions*



Front row in the panel from left: Senator Robert Torricelli; Emile Blessig, French MP; Tom Ridge, former US Homeland Security; Governor Howard Dean, former Chairman of the US Democratic National Committee; Governor Bill Richardson, former US Energy Secretary; General James Jones, former National Security Advisor to President Obama; Maryam Rajavi; Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; Irene Khan, former Secretary General of Amnesty International; Françoise Héritier, Renowned French Anthropologist; Maria Conception Gutierrez, Member of Spanish Senate; Aude de Thuin, founder of Women's Forum for Economy and Society; Nariman Al-Roussan, Member of Jordanian Parliament; Anissa Boumediene, former Algerian First Lady, and at the podium, Teodor Melescanu, Deputy Speaker of Romanian Senate. Delegates from various countries are sitting in the rear rows.

General James Jones:

It is time for those of us who have come to know you [Maryam Rajavi] and your colleagues, and your goals, and your ideals, to do what is required, to recognize the legitimacy of your movement, and your ideals

Howard Dean:

It's time to stop talking and start doing, and the thing we could do is protect the human rights of the people in Ashraf and to delist the MEK

Bill Richardson:

Clearly, delisting the MEK is something that is good for the Iranian people, and I will say for the security of the United States

Tom Ridge:

Now is the time for the US to understand that it is indeed in the interest of the world to protect the people at Camp Ashraf and delist the MEK

Mary Robinson:

I share concerns and the need to support and to protect some 1,000 women dissidents who are in Camp Ashraf, a large number of whom have suffered severe torture in Iranian jails

Irene Khan:

The UN, the US and the Iraqi government cannot shrug their responsibilities to ensure the basic rights and safety of the people living in Camp Ashraf

Teodor Melescanu:

We strongly support the third option by Maryam Rajavi, which promises a democratic change by the Iranian people and its Resistance

Paris International Conference: Democratic change in Iran by Iranian people guarantees democracy, freedom in the region

In an international conference in Paris on February 26, top US officials from Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations and senior European political figures emphasized that democratic change in Iran by the Iranian people guarantees the trend towards democracy and freedom that has engulfed the Middle East, North Africa and the Islamic World.

Parliamentary delegations from Italy and Austria announced declarations by majorities in those parliaments in support of the Iranian people and the residents of Ashraf.

Parliamentary as well as human and women's rights delegations from France, Spain, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Afghanistan, Romania, Canada and Australia also took part in the conference. The parliamentary delegation from San Marino announced the decision voted on February 24 by its Parliament officially recognizing the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The participants expressed support for the uprisings in Iran which erupted in Tehran and other major cities in February, challenging the regime in its entirety.

They stressed that the world community in general and the West in particular must stand with the Iranian people and their demands for regime change.

The conference was jointly chaired by Monique Auguste, Member of Board of Directors of the International Federation of Women Against Fundamentalism and for Equality (WAFE), and François Serres, President of the International Committee of Jurists in Defence of Ashraf.

Announcing the program for the event, Mrs. Auguste added that several distinguished UK parliamentarians who could not attend the conference had sent messages of solidarity and gave out their names that included: Kate Hoey MP, Nicky Morgan MP, Cathy Jamieson MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Caroline Dineage MP, Louise Bagshawe MP, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Baroness Deech, Baroness Hamwee and Baroness Flather. Mr. Jean-Marie Bellet, Deputy Mayor of Puteaux, the town in which the conference was held, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Mayor to Puteaux.

Excerpts from remarks by the speakers follow:



Jean-François Legaret

Mayor of Paris 1st District

You are, Madam President, an extraordinary woman. Today, you called the world, and the world is there to show solidarity and loyalty to all that you represent, to your struggle and your resistance.

Be aware, Madam President, that all men and all women of good will have in their heart the spirit of resistance. We dedicate you this spirit of resistance, and we hope that each of our voices will help you.

Jean-Marie Bellet

Deputy Mayor of Puteaux



This is a great honor for me to welcome you to our town of Puteaux, since the CNIT (the conference hall) is in Puteaux, this conference, a hot topic about a country and especially a people now suffering repression by a regime that openly denies the principles of which we cannot compromise: human rights, human dignity, the rights of women. These very principles that we share and are dear for us.

Nariman al-Roussan

Member of Jordanian Parliament



we are all yearning for peace, peace in our world that is yearning for democracy and justice and love and coexistence, peace on the woman who is the creator of the brilliant future of the coming generation, peace be on women in Tunisia, Palestine, Egypt, and Iraq. Peace be on all those women who are building the bridges of freedom of compassion of sacrifice of their children and loved ones for the sake of a better future, for the coming future generations, for democracy and dignity. Peace be on our valiant sisters, patient and who are struggling against tyranny, those who are defying repression and humiliation, those who are demonstrating against Maliki and Iran.

I am calling upon the free peoples of the world to support the Iranians in defying repression and dictatorship. Now it's the time for all peace and democracy loving people to stand against dictatorship in Iran, and to put an end to their attempts to spread horror and chaos to the world. It is important for these people to support the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran; this organization is yearning for peace and democracy and dignity for the Iranian people and for the region, and that is by establishing new relations based on the will of the people to elect their own governments and to have their own democracies based on the respect for human rights.

From me and from the women of Jordan, we express our heartfelt appreciation to you, we express our pride for your efforts. We are looking forward to achieving democracy and to bolstering our determination and to stand against all regimes of repression, whatever dictators, whatever brutal force those dictators have used.

Mary Robinson

President of Ireland (1985-1995), UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002)



Irene Khan

Secretary General of Amnesty International (2001-2009)



UN must stop psychological torture of Ashraf residents with loudspeakers

When people rose up in protest after Iran's disputed election in 2009 the security forces arrested 6,000 individuals and that's not my figure, but that is official figure of the Iranian government.

Since the beginning of this year we have seen an upsurge of executions in Iran. Iran is the world's second highest executioner after China. In the month of January alone more than 75 people were executed in Iran and this has been interpreted by many as a deepening of human rights crisis in the country. Amongst those executed were individuals accused of being supporters of the PMOI among them Jafar Kazemi, Mohammad Haj Agha'i and Ali Saremi. In the cases of Mr. Kazemi and Mr. Saremi there was evidence that they visited their family members in Camp Ashraf. The residents of Camp Ashraf themselves are living under constant threat by Iraqi authorities and they are under constant action of speakers I have seen photographs of those loudspeakers they have not just loudspeakers, but they are big pillars with enormous velocity, and I believe that this kind of constant barrage of noise is psychological torture and United Nations must insist that it should stop.

The UN, the US and the Iraqi government cannot shrug their responsibilities to ensure the basic rights and safety of the people living in Camp Ashraf. These are dark days for human rights in Iran and I would say particularly for women of Iran, women in Iran face far more discrimination under the law. Iranian history has been replete with history of great women, poets, writers, thinkers and activists on the forefront of the struggle and it is no coincidence that today some of the most persistent struggles for freedom, equality, justice and democracy in Iran are being led by women in Iran and abroad.

Now, more than ever, we must support the women of Iran. Women's movement the world over has been the strongest resistance against fundamentalism against repression.

As long as women are denied their human rights anywhere in the world there can be no justice and peace. Recognizing women's equal right is an essential requirement for creation of a strong sustainable and stable society.

As we look around the world now, as we look at the changes that are happening in the Middle East, we need to think what are the changes that we are really seeing what are the demands what are the women's voices. Don't forget the women of Iran because if we do not support those women we have left behind in that society the injustice that actually creates instability.

So let's remember today the residents of Camp Ashraf who are suffering, who do not have their basic rights respected. Let's think about the women of the Middle East, let's think about the women and the children the young people the 40 per cent unemployment among young people among women in Iran. Let's think about them but let's remember the central role the human rights plays in establishing stability and it's only when people feel safe when they feel equal when they think they have been treated freely. That is when you get peace and stability.

Women in Ashraf and Iran need our solidarity and support

I am very pleased to be invited to speak on the subject of fundamentalism and equality for women, because I believe it is one of the key human rights challenges of the world today.

I am aware that this conference wants to shine particular light on the situation of women and human rights in Iran, and indeed the struggle of women and men in Camp Ashraf in Iraq. I share these concerns and the need to support and to protect some 1,000 women dissidents from Iran who are in Camp Ashraf, a large number of whom have already suffered severe torture in Iranian jails. They are the women activists who stood up against oppression and claimed their rights as so many of their sisters are doing today in demonstrations in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Palestine and in Iran itself.

The Elders, a group of world leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela, to which I belong, issued an early statement of strong support in which we said, "As Elders we stand with all those crying out for freedom and basic rights. The universal yearning of people to be free, to have their voices heard and to participate in the decisions that affect their lives and communities cannot be extinguished. We are therefore extremely dismayed by the tragic loss of life that has occurred in recent days and the repressive tactics to which some authorities have resorted in suppressing the protests.

I think that this forum focusing on fundamentalism with a particular attention to Iran can help us to open up more of an alliance, understanding solidarity, and sisterhood. It is that solidarity and sisterhood which also identifies and highlights the plight of those courageous Iranian women in Camp Ashraf and struggling in Iran itself today. They need our solidarity. They need the collective voice from this conference to bring greater strength and support for their cause.



Maryam Rajavi:
"Now is the era for democracy
and freedom for the people of
Iran and the region"

The tide of freedom has engulfed the entire region. No country will be spared from this tide. We must now ask ourselves why these uprisings have become so explosive. What factors had until now retarded their eruption? What course has Western policy towards this country has taken? And what are the prospects and what are our responsibilities?

The reality is that:

- Peoples of these countries have always suffered under dictatorship, poverty and corruption;
- Their fundamental rights, legitimate demands and democratic ideals have been trampled upon in the worst possible manner;
- For decades, dictators, mostly posturing as Presidents of the Republic – and of course lacking the popular vote – have ruled with an iron fist;
- They have pillaged or destroyed the wealth and resources of these countries.

Two factors prolonged the reign of dictatorships in the region:

First, the Iranian regime as the Godfather of fundamentalism and second, the gravely mistaken policy of the United States and Europe.

Without these two factors, dictatorships in the region should have been overthrown many years ago and democratic trends should have taken their natural course.

Precisely for this reason, their overthrow has taken on explosive characteristics.

At the same time, with the spread of the tide of freedom in the whole of the region, the clerical regime is again waiting in the wings.

The regime's Supreme Leader for life is trying to realize his evil designs under the banner of "Islamic awakening." In this case, are we facing a vicious circle? Not at all. There is a possible and necessary way out: the overthrow of the mullahs' anti-human regime and the establishment of democracy in Iran.

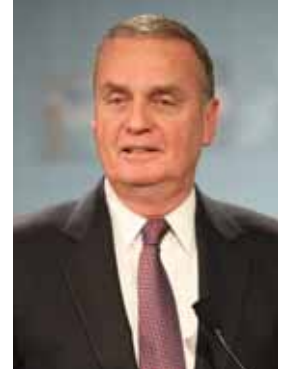
Allow me to summarize:

1. The path to a peaceful and democratic Middle East, where women and youths could play their rightful role, inevitably passes through regime change in Iran. Without this change, democracy and stability would be impossible in this region as the regime would mislead the course of developments.
2. The solution for the Iranian crisis is neither appeasement nor war. Our option is one which would benefit the entire region: democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance.
3. Our message to our sisters and brothers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and to all risen nations in the region is "Beware of the fundamentalist mullahs, the murderers of Iran's women and youth." Your struggle will come to fruition in virtue of your sacrifice and blood on the condition that you safeguard your struggle from this sinister threat.
4. If Western countries are interested in playing a positive role in the new history of the Middle East, as the first and an inevitable step, they must change their policy; change from reaching out to religious fascism to reaching out the Iranian people. The most important step for the West to abandon a policy that has been to detriment of the Iranian people and the whole of the region is to recognize the Iranian people's resistance movement.
5. International sanctions against the regime are in no way sufficient. We offer several necessary measures: a ban on purchasing oil from the regime in Iran; referral of the mullahs' human rights dossier to the UN Security Council; a halt on the interaction between western intelligence services and the mullahs' Ministry of Intelligence; shutting down the IRGC's front companies.
6. Recognizing the alternative which the Iranian Resistance represents. This alternative has challenged the mullahs by presenting a democratic platform: A republic based on the separation of church and state, a pluralist democracy, a society based on gender equality, respect for human rights, abolishment of death penalty and rejection of the mullahs' Shaira laws, a blossoming economy based on equal opportunity to all and a non-nuclear Iran that is at peace and coexistence with all its neighbors.

Now is the era for democracy and freedom for the people of Iran and the region.

**General
James
Jones**

*Former
National
Security
Advisor to
President
Obama*



On 24 November of last year, the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee met and passed a resolution, asking for immediate measures by the United States for unjust treatment against Camp Ashraf people. On 7th February, the Senate Armed Services Committee, under the chairmanship of Senator Levin and Senator McCain also expressed concern for the current position that we take with regard to the people of Camp Ashraf.

We also had a court decision that requires the State Department to reevaluate the current designations and suggested they are out of step with the prevailing attitudes around the globe with regard to the movement led by Mrs. Rajavi. Specifically Camp Ashraf security, it seems to me that the time has come to do the right thing for those who want democracy and freedom and who want the people of Camp Ashraf to live in peace and security. We should I think remove the shackles that impede the potential that we see before us at this time. Iran's temporary regime I use the word temporary in a hopeful way cannot stand this situation much longer. Everything that has been happening around Iran must make the leaders of Iran wonder what in the world is happening. It cannot be that they see this as a good thing. We have to offer the options for the regime to define itself as I say, and they have now defined themselves and they have defined their intent.

Madam Rajavi, it is time for those of us from the United States who have come to know you and your colleagues, and your goals, to do what is required, to recognize the legitimacy of your movement, and your ideals.

I intend to work towards that goal personally

I hope that all U.S. participants, we unite in this effort. Beautiful speeches must now produce beautiful results. I agree with you, Madam Rajavi, that it is now America's turn.

Long live the Iranian people, long live freedom, the greatest hope for all human beings.

Howard Dean

Former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Governor of Vermont



Bill Richardson

Energy Secretary in the Clinton Administration



Tom Ridge

First US Homeland Security Secretary



The regime in Iran has nothing to do with Islam... These [Despotic] rulers are using religions as an excuse for their abominable behavior, they are not religious people.

We have to live up to the high moral ground which is in the constitution of the United States and in the declaration of independence. That means standing up for freedom and democracy, even when it may not be in our geopolitical interest. And that is why we must change our position on the MEK and stop calling them a terrorist organization. They have their own bill of rights, which is an extraordinary thing under the leadership of Madam Rajavi, and we appreciate what she has done greatly.

Let me quote from Madam's 10 point plan for the future of Iran: From our point of view, the ballot box is the only criterion for legitimacy, we want a plural system, freedom for parties and assembly, we will commit and support the abolition of the death penalty, we will establish the separation of church and state. This does not sound like a terrorist organization to me. MEK is not a terrorist organization.

It's time to stop talking and start doing, and the thing we could do is protect the human rights of the people in Ashraf and to delist the MEK.

The government of Iran is a terrorist organization, and we should treat it accordingly with the appropriate sanctions. I agree that

I sense that this is the end, I sense, of a political campaign where you pick up that there is a lot of momentum on your side, things are going good, you are not quite there yet with victory but things are moving in the right direction. In America they say "with momentum", the tide is moving your way, and I feel the movement that is represented here by Mrs. Rajavi and by you. History is on your side!

A momentous event on February 14, where the people of Iran rose up and the leadership, the regime tried to repress them, but what the people of Iran were saying on that day is: they didn't say they wanted reform, they wanted a new government and regime change.

I was one of those that felt that it is important to dialogue with your adversaries but finally this has shown not to work with Iran.

Clearly, delisting the MEK is something that is good for the Iranian people, and I will say for the security of the United States for three reasons:

The first, there are no terrorist links in the MEK.

Secondly, the MEK has provided valuable intelligence information on nuclear development to America.

Third, what you are seeing is an MEK that is representing the aspirations of the Iranian people, not just in Iran but around the world. And it is important that America takes that position on behalf of people.

Now is the time for the voice of the MEK and the democratic resistance be heard. Now is the time for the United States to understand that it's not only the interest of the MEK, the interest of Iran, the interest of the region, but it is indeed global interest, the interest of the world to protect the people at Camp Ashraf and delist the MEK.

Military and political leaders in the region for years have said that the greatest threat to stability in North Africa and the Middle East particularly is Iran.

No nation provides more military, political, or financial support to fundamentalists and terrorists around the world than Iran. This is a global issue and the people in Camp Ashraf, the democratic resistance, are prepared to help, if we help them and it's about time that we did. Iran is a problem for the entire world and the entire world must understand that economic sanctions and UN resolutions just won't be enough. I would suggest that instead of another UN resolution condemning the assault on human dignity and the violation of human rights in Camp Ashraf, they send a multinational force to protect the people of Camp Ashraf...

The only permanent answer to the nuclear threat in the world, from Iran, the potential destabilization of that, the only answer is regime change in Iran. The change affected by the will of people.

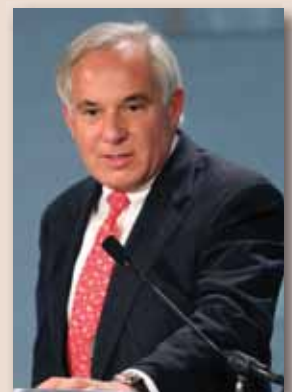
When thousands of people can be executed, a revolution is hijacked, terror has a state sponsorship, all these voices can rise for Tunisia and Egypt, but people remain coward about the mullahs. Has not even the prospect of a nuclear weapon program intimidated many nations around the world?

History will be a cruel judge. There is a wonderful Churchillian quote. The former British prime minister said that America can always be counted upon to do the right thing after it's tried everything else.

Jimmy carter tried to send an ambassador [to Iran], Ronald Reagan sent a cake, Bill Clinton sent a nice note, Hillary [Clinton, Secretary of State] tried to shake the [Iranian] foreign minister's hand. We have tried and tried. If appeasement had brought peace and human rights for Iran, I would be for appeasement. If there were reconciliations and having patience, I would be for patience. But at some point in life you accept the reality. The reality is; the government in Iran is not going to change because it is not interested in change. And policy must change accordingly...

When the United States army disarmed them [Ashraf residents] when we offered them protection- when they pledged non violence change - The people at Camp Ashraf became the responsibility of the US and the UN and that responsibility is on them.

When that list is used for cynical, political purposes to convey a favor, with the mullahs in Tehran, it is not simply just wrong for the MEK, it is wrong for the United States and the course of combating terrorism.



Robert Torricelli
Former Member of US Senate



Raymonde Folco

*Member of
Canadian
Parliament*

We can grasp and appreciate the courageous struggle of Iranian women and women of Ashraf for freedom, democracy and equal rights. Mrs. Rajavi reason: To see true democracy in a country, we must look at the level of participation of women and the number of positions they occupy. Millions of men and women in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, are preparing to write a page of history. We all know that the time has come for the US government to show its support for democratic forces in Iran and declare once and for all that PMOI is not a terrorist group. We urge Mrs. Hillary Clinton to remove the PMOI from the list, as already done by the United Kingdom and the European Union. PMOI is a resistance movement, in good faith, fighting against the mullahs' regime, not with weapons but with ideas and within democratic structures.

Teodor Melescanu

Deputy Speaker of Romanian Senate

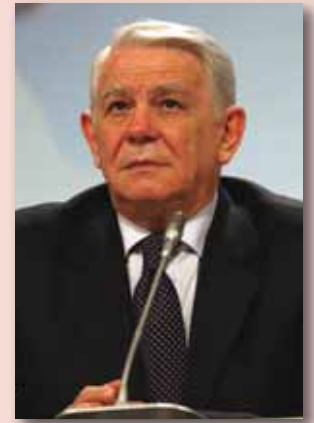
When I was studying at the University of Geneva, I met a young Iranian student who despite his youth, was already a man of wisdom and a man of action. His name was Dr. Kazem Rajavi. For me his greatest quality was his total dedication for the others, sometimes putting them even before himself and his family.

I am sure you can very well imagine how shocked I was when I heard he was assassinated in Geneva for his active role in the United Nations with regards to human rights violations in Iran and I am convinced even starting from this only point that he can really be called the great martyr for human rights in Iran.

When in North Africa and Middle East there is a clear move towards democracy and freedom, the attempts of the current rulers of Iran to divert liberation movements in this region towards Islamic fundamentalism would be fatal for the whole world. In this regard, the antithesis to fundamentalism and extremism which believes in tolerant and democratic Islam deserves unequivocal support by the international community. Therefore we are strongly supporting the third option suggested by Maryam Rajavi, the President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which promises the prospects for a democratic change by the Iranian people and its resistance.

We will urge our government to cut the economic, political and trade relations of Romania with the Iranian regime and support the referring of the dossier on the suppression and human rights violation to the United Nations Security Council for imposing effective sanctions against the regime. We also call on our government to acknowledge the Iranian Resistance against religious dictatorship and to start a direct dialogue with the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

I cannot conclude my remarks without also strongly demanding protection by the US forces and the United Nations for the residents of Camp Ashraf who are protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention.



Marya Nedelscheva

*Member of European
Parliament from Bulgaria*

The European Parliament says no to the current conditions of the residents of Camp Ashraf. The European Parliament says yes when asking the High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to urge the US to follow the example of the Union by removing the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran from their blacklist and to require the UN to provide urgent protection at Camp Ashraf.

The European Parliament is aware that we are living a historic moment in North Africa and the Middle East. The European Parliament says no to violence, no to the oppression of demonstrations. The European Parliament says yes to the aspirations of freedom, yes to the right of peoples to express themselves freely, yes to peace, democracy and human rights.

Maria Conception Gutierrez

Member of Spanish Senate

In Spain, we salute and support the ground swell for freedom and democracy in the North Africa and the Middle East. Let me say that we strongly condemn the loss of life and all human rights violations and we are particularly concerned with the situation in Camp Ashraf. As you know, the National Court in Spain, in accordance with the principle of universal justice, has launched an investigation to bring to justice those criminals responsible for the violation of human rights in Camp Ashraf. In Spain the Senate is following the case. And we expect to have security for the residents there.

I would like also to express my support to the 10-point program by Mme Rajavi. We are working in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Senate to improve democracy and to promote and support democracy in Iran by the Iranian people. Thank you very much for your example. Thank you very much for this convention and congratulation.





Françoise Héritier

Renowned French Anthropologist

we are going through exciting time when peoples rise up and get, by their very peaceful pressure and their willingness, their dearest rights, that of freedom, as they are subjected since decades to brutal and corrupted tyrannies. Iran may soon follow the same path. Women, in fact, are actors of these revolutions, in the foreground and they aspire, too, freedom, dignity, happiness. But more importantly, they aspire to true equality in the collective look that is focused on them. They are on the barricades and in action. Will they fall again into the muffled silence and anonymity of ordinary violence that prevent them to exist by themselves? The source and model of all inequalities in which humans are victims, is the gender inequality: If we reach its heart, it will be easier to overthrow the rest. This objective lies in the fundamentally democratic and secular positions of the NCRI. We must support it, we, human beings throughout the world, men and women, support it with all our strength: there will never be true freedom for humans without the complete gender equality, not lip service recognition, but recognized with all the arguments of reason, not on paper but in practice every day.



Aude de Thuin

Founder of Women's Forum for Economy and Society

In the current events in all Arab countries revolutions, we see women everywhere leading movements, blocking and using all the modern communication technology to communicate what they see and what they hope. They often have 20 to 25 years and know they have everything to gain and nothing to lose. This is a message of hope they send us, hope and courage. And that's what I like most about women: courage and determination. They know the role they have to play, and play now in many countries. Maryam Rajavi, who continues her struggle against the regime since Europe is the best example for all of us in the world. We will monitor what happens at home and particularly in Camp Ashraf and try to send as much as possible message to our fellow citizens of the press so that things are moving positively. Remember you are not alone, that we are thinking of you today and we can just send you our most sincere thoughts against your fate and the most friendly too.



Monique Auguste

President of WAFE

I am the president of the International Federation of Women Against Fundamentalism and for equality. We are an organization that has been established seven years ago in Geneva and is comprised of several nongovernmental agencies under the umbrella of what we call right now WAFE and we are having not only the pleasure to welcome you today but also to have our general yearly assembly tomorrow in Paris which you are all welcome to attend.

François Serres

Lawyer, President of International Committee of Jurists in Defense of Ashraf

US troops should come back and take the control of Camp Ashraf. Based on R to P (Responsibility to Protect) UN observers, a large number of UN observers should come back to monitor the situation of Camp Ashraf.



Parliamentary majorities support Ashraf residents, urge US to delist PMOI



Italian parliamentary delegation presenting the document signed by majority of Italian MPs

Italy

Carlo Ciccioli MP

I wish to bring to your attention a statement signed by 317 members of the Italian Parliament, a majority in the parliament, in support of the Iranian Resistance led by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi. The statement calls for removal of the PMOI from the US blacklist and protection of Ashraf residents.

The Iranian regime fears the PMOI for its popular support inside and outside the country as it offers a genuine alternative to the regime. The Western governments must recognize the National Council of Resistance of Iran as a legitimate alternative to the ruling dictatorship in Iran.

Elisabetta Zamparutti MP

Our committee, which is comprised of parliamentarians and Italian citizens, as the voice of majority members of the parliament, strongly condemns suppression of Iranian people and the residents of Ashraf. The committee calls on the international community to support Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's third option for democratic change in Iran and recognize the Iranian Resistance.

Austria

Suzan Neuwirth

Deputy Speaker of Austrian Senate



Mrs. Neuwirth announced the support of majority members of Austrian Parliament for the Iranian Resistance and said:

"In the name of many Austrian parliamentarians, I call on all movements that advocate peace and human rights. I urge all women who work for peace. I would like to demand the end of the harassment of Ashraf city immediately. This is now the time that UN security Council and the international community talk and stand and boycott this regime and respect the Iranian opposition, whose president is today here and a very successful woman, I must admit I am very impressed.

Parliament of San Marino urged to initiate dialogue and recognize the Iranian Resistance

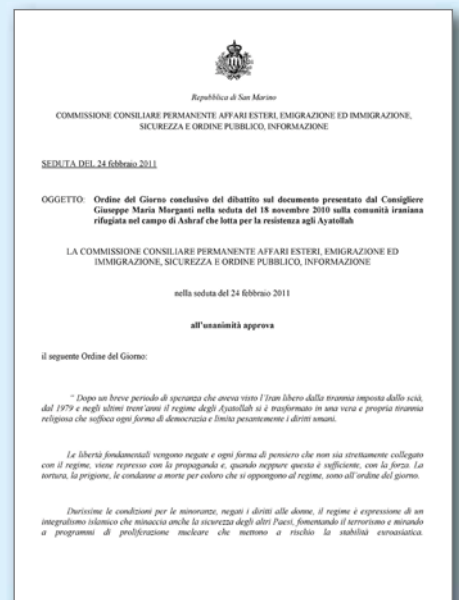
San Marino parliamentary delegation presenting the document signed by majority of MPs



Parliament urged to invite Maryam Rajavi for a state visit to San Marino

Giuseppe Maira Morganti MP

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we are particularly happy to be here today where a page of history of Iranian people and our small country can be written. We are here on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Security and Public Order of San Marino Parliament. We wish to announce the historic recognition of the Iranian Resistance led by a Muslim Iranian woman on behalf of all parliamentary committees."



Ms. Maria Luisa Berti MP read out the statement on behalf of all committees in the San Marino Parliament that states:

"The Parliament of San Marino to establish a diplomatic relation with the elected government of the Iranian Resistance's Parliament with the aim of offering recognition to it and to learn about the political realities it represents, and to invite Mrs. Maryam Rajavi for a state visit to the Republic of San Marino."