



Association of Anglo- Iranian Women in the UK

Prime Minister's Office
Rt Hon Theresa May MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

London, 4 January 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you on behalf of the Anglo-Iranian communities in UK to urge the Government to support the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people amidst a week of nationwide popular uprising against the theocratic regime in Iran.

You certainly follow the latest developments on Iran and are aware of the alarming reports of Iranian authorities resorting to heavy crackdown, mass arrests and restriction of internet to crush the popular protests that have targeted the Supreme Leader and the entire theocratic establishment.

The paramilitary force Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has been deployed to several Iranian provinces to crush the anti-regime demonstrations, according to reports from Iran and in the international press. At the same time, the number of protesters killed by the repressive security organs continues to rise and have now surpassed 30 including the 13-year-old Armin Sadeghi.

In addition, over 1000 have been arrested during the week of protests with 450 in Tehran alone just in the first three days, according to the regime's own officials and IRGC commanders.

On Monday, 1 January 2018, the IRGC Brigadier Hossein Zolfaghari, the security deputy of the Interior Ministry, threatened protesters to reinforce more control and acknowledged that more than 90 percent of the detainees are youths and teenagers with an average age of under 25.

Fearing the escalation of the nationwide anti-regime protests, the head of the Iranian

regime's Judiciary, Sadegh Amoli Larijani, who is on the EU sanctions list for his role in human rights violations in the country, said: "I ask all prosecutors across the country to enter And their approach must be firm."

He went on to urge the regime's repressive law enforcement institutions and judicial authorities to deal with the "rioters" in remarks that was broadcast by the state television on 1 January 2018 and said: "People with insight and supporting Vali-e faqih will respond firmly as they did in 2009".

A day later, the head of regime's Revolutionary Court warned that arrested protesters could face execution when their cases come to trial. Regime's chief justice Mousa Ghazanfarabadi was quoted in Tasnim news agency, affiliated with the IRGC, saying that "Obviously one of their charges can be Moharebeh (waging war against God)", which is an arbitrary offence in Iran that carries the death-penalty.

At the same time, the Iranian authorities are cutting off Internet and filtering social media in order to prevent the spread of uprising and release of its news.

Under such alarming developments, we expect the Government and FCO to be more vocal in their condemnation of the regime's suppression and support for the Iranian people's democratic aspirations for change.

This desire is clear in the slogans heard on the streets and across Iranian cities during the popular protests, which challenge the theocratic regime in its entirety targeting its president Hassan Rouhani as well as the Supreme Leader [Seyed Ali] Khamenei.

The chants included, "No to the Islamic Republic", "Down with Dictator", "Down with Rouhani", "Seyed Ali [Kahemenei] shame on you, leave our nation" and "Reformists, Principlists, the game is over". The protesters include Iranians from all walks of life with women and the youths at the forefront. As the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), Maryam Rajavi, said "This is an uprising for freedom, democracy and equality, and separation of religion and state. This is an uprising for social justice, and this is a movement that will carry on until final victory."

We, the Anglo-Iranian communities in UK, urge the Government to not only reiterate the Iranian people's right to peaceful protests but also to openly support their demand for democratic change while engaging with our allies at the UN and EU to take concrete measures to stop the regime from slaughtering defenceless protesters on the streets.

Furthermore, we expect the Government and the UK Ambassador to the UN to

support the call by the US for an emergency Security Council meeting in New York and the Human Rights Council in Geneva regarding Iran to discuss the heavy crackdown of the anti-regime protests.

We also expect the Government to join the US, and call on the EU, to publicly name and shame those responsible for killing and arresting Iranian protesters and impose punitive measures against them for their atrocities.

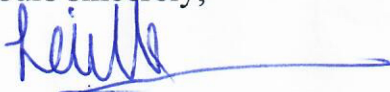
Finally, we call on the Government to recognise the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) and its 10-point democratic platform for future Iran presented by the NCRI president-elect, Maryam Rajavi, as the viable alternative to the current theocracy and to engage with the NCRI to find ways to support the ongoing protests against the theocratic regime.

The Government's continued silence and inaction will place UK on the wrong side of the history as millions of brave Iranians have taken to the streets to bring freedom and democracy to their country, a struggle that once victorious will bring stability and respect for human rights in the region and peace to the world.

Today, this victory is within reach and the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. The UK should stand with the Iranian people, rather than the regime.

Thank you for considering our letter and we look forward to your response in this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,



Laila Jazayeri

Director

Association of Anglo-Iranian Women in the UK

Anglo-Iranian Academics in the UK
Anglo Iranian Eng. & Architecture
Association of Iranian Political Prisoners- UK
Anglo-Iranian Student Society
Phoenix Society for The Revival of Persian Art and Culture
Iranian Young Musician Society in Greater London
Iranian Lawyer Committee in the UK

Anglo-Iranian Academics
Iranian Medical Association - UK
Iranian Community of Greater London
Iranian Community of South Yorkshire
Anglo-Iranian Businessmen in London
Iranian Professional Society in Liverpool
Anglo-Iranian Committee of PMOI Martyrs' Family
Centre for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law in Iran
Anglo-Iranian Experts in Information Technology
Committee of Iranian Professional Decorators
Association of Anglo Iranian Photographers
Middle East Promotion Forum
London Association of Iranian Editor
Administration and Support Centre for Iranian in Exile
Iranian Society of Midland
Iranian Society of Greater Manchester
Iranian Society of Wales
Iranian Community of South of England
Iranian Community of West of England
Anglo-Iranian Society of Oxford
Anglo-Iranian Society of Liverpool
Iranian Dental & Hygienist Association in the UK
Union of Iranian Businessmen in Kent
Association of Teachers in Leeds
Iranian Society of Mechanical Engineers, UK
Iranian Association of Computer Engineers in the UK
Centre for Cultural Exchange in Anglo-Iranian Communities
Association in Support of Political Prisoners in Iran
Anglo Iranian Women Network for Freedom and Progress in Iran
Pioneer Women Association Against Fundamentalism and Discrimination