

Euro MPs meet with Maryam Rajavi

Friends of a Free Iran
European Parliament

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STATEMENT BY FRIENDS OF A FREE IRAN

This evening, April 19, a parliamentary delegation consisting of 13 members of the European Parliament and from the Belgian Senate met Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, at her residence in Auvers-sur-Oise.

In the meeting, Mrs. Rajavi said, "For the ruling mullahs, nuclear bombs, domination of Iraq and export of terrorism and fundamentalism are considered as guarantees for their survival. As such, they will never abandon them." She added, "Time is running out in trying to prevent the mullahs from acquiring a nuclear bomb and dragging the region into war and catastrophe. Any delay in adopting a decisive policy would be the greatest boost to the mullahs to realize their evil objectives."

Mrs. Rajavi noted that the key to resolving the Iranian problem and the definitive response to the mullahs' threats is regime change and the establishment of democracy by the Iranian people and Resistance. Widespread popular protests reflected the Iranian people's desire for change, she added.

The parliamentary delegation expressed its support for Mrs. Rajavi's third option and democratic change in Iran. It stressed that in the past two decades the policy of appeasement had only helped an oppressive and ruthless regime remain in power.

It also underscored that the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran was a legitimate resistance movement and that the terrorist label against the Mojahedin had no justification whatsoever. The terrorist label has been a major blow to democracy in Iran and peace in the region and deprived the international community from a vital ally to thwart the mullahs' nuclear weapons drive.

The delegation further condemned any restrictions imposed on Iranian dissidents, especially in France, at the request of the Iranian regime. It reiterated that the National Council of Resistance of Iran was a genuinely democratic alternative that should be supported. The parliamentary delegation demanded the adoption of a firm policy against the clerical regime by the European Union and the United Nations Security Council.

Belgian Senator Margriet Hermans said, "Similar to the European Parliament, we are opposed to the terror label against the Mojahedin. We adopted a resolution in the Belgian Senate unanimously, calling on the EU to review the blacklisting of the Mojahedin."

The delegation also lauded the People's Mojahedin's efforts in advancing the political and democratic process in Iraq and exposing the regime's terrorist and fundamentalist meddling in that country. It noted that disregard for the Iranian Resistance's warnings about Tehran's interference had resulted in plunging Iraq into bloodshed and destruction. "Large parts of the country are now under the control of Iranian Revolutionary Guards and many government agencies are completely influenced by Tehran. If the Iranian regime's efforts and advances in Iraq had been thwarted, it could not have tried to export fundamentalism and undermine peace in the region," the delegation emphasized.

"The time has come for the EU to recognize the Iranian Resistance as the most serious factor in establishing democracy and human rights in Iran as well as peace and tranquillity in the region, the Parliamentary delegation said."

Alejo Vidal Quadras, First Vice President, European Parliament

Paulo Casaca, Co-Chair, Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group, PSE

Struan Stevenson, Co-Chair, Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group & Vice President of PPE-ED Group

Paris, 19 April 2006



Alejo VIDAL-QUADRAS ROCA

First Vice-President of the European Parliament

Madam President, I believe it is nonsense to say that to remove the PMOI from the terrorist list now would mean to break the bridges with the Iranian regime. Because the bridges are already broken. They have broken them. So It's absurd to have still some hopes that diplomatic action and appeasement will work. We have all evidence that this way is absolutely blocked. So, something really effective must be done. And of course as you have said very rightly, and very cleverly: Military action would be a disaster, would be a catastrophe from all points of view, because the situation that could be created after a military action in Iran now could be really out of control and we cannot even imagine how terrible the consequences could be at all levels. So, what can we do which is effective, which is direct, which is clean, which is strong and which is cost-effective to promote, to support, to activate, to give the democratic opposition the capacity to do their work? This is what we must do. So all the members of parliament who are here, we must redouble our efforts to convince the European institutions, our national governments also the European Council, the American administration, to the extent that we can also influence them to remove the PMOI from the list and to give you full support to be the real democratic opposition that Iran needs at this moment and more than ever.

Recent developments in Iran, particularly the announcement about Tehran completing the nuclear fuel cycle, are matters of grave concern. We are at a very critical juncture and the international community can no longer ignore the threat of the Iranian regime to peace and stability in the region and the world.

The Iranian regime clearly crossed the red-line by declaring that it successfully enriched uranium. In this way, Tehran has clearly rejected the Security Council Presidential statement.

This is a moment of choice for Europe and the International community. We can ill afford to make the wrong choice. We have to take a decisive position and implement it.

The threat posed by the theocratic regime in Iran is no longer confined to its borders. In addition to our concerns about the human rights situation in Iran, we also have a duty and responsibility to protect our own constituents. A nuclear Iran, under the present regime which also seeks to export terrorism and fundamentalism, is a security threat not only to the regional countries but also to Europe.

Given the rogue behavior of the Iranian regime, the UN Security Council must impose sanctions on the Iranian regime. The lack of action and further negotiations would only embolden the Iranian regime. I fully agree with Mrs. Rajavi that inaction and continued negotiations with Tehran would either lead to Iran obtaining nuclear weapons or making the war inevitable.

Therefore, we have to make it absolutely clear to those who continue to advocate a policy of fruitless negotiations that they are laying the ground for a tragedy. They can not claim to be champions of a moral approach to this crisis. Indeed, advocating the policy of appeasement, no matter how it is justified, is the most immoral approach. It ignores, not only the suffering of the Iranian people, but makes the war inevitable. We in the European Parliament fully support the third option offered by Mrs. Rajavi: Democratic change by the Iranian people and their organized resistance.

I believe it is time for the EU to seriously and fundamentally change its policy toward the regime and its opposition.

For many years, Europe's policy was based on encouraging the non-existent moderates in Iran. That

policy has failed and we are now witnessing its devastating consequences. And Europe is not the innocent party to this outcome.

Iran's main democratic opposition movement, the People's Mojahedin Organization was included in the EU terror list as part of the policy of rapprochement with the Iranian regime, not out of concern over terrorism. I have personally made inquiries about terror tag on the PMOI, and discussed this matter with EU officials. But I have not come across any evidence to suggest that PMOI has had any link with terrorism.

PMOI's blacklisting has not only sent the wrong message to the Iranian people, but it has been practically used by the Iranian regime to extend to Europe the crackdown on its democratic opposition. Therefore, we believe that EU should immediately remove the PMOI from its terrorist list and recognize the National Council of Resistance of Iran as the democratic alternative to the fundamentalist regime in Iran.

Madam President, I can assure you of our continued support for your efforts to bring freedom, democracy and respect for human rights to Iran. Your struggle for freedom is our struggle.



Maryam RAJAVI

President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

Dear friends,

The actions and policies of the clerical regime have created a sensitive and critical situation which has profoundly affected Iran, the region and the world.

After two decades of appeasement and concessions to the mullahs ruling Iran, Western governments bear heavy responsibility for this situation.

Today, at your presence, the elected representative of European nations, I would like to call urge these countries to abandon the policy of appeasement and welcome democratic change in Iran in order to prevent the mullahs from obtaining a nuclear arsenal and another war from breaking out in the region.

Three weeks ago, a United Nations Security Council Presidential statement gave Iran 30 days to suspend its uranium enrichment. The mullahs responded to the international community by resuming uranium enrichment. But the international community reacted with delay and was extremely soft toward Iran's impudence.

I want to warn all those who seek to prevent war that more negotiations, further delay and wasting time are not the way to prevent war.

The regime's President announced the production of enriched uranium last week. More delays will further shock the world if the mullahs announce they have tested the bomb. Time is running out. Comprehensive sanctions must be imposed against the regime to prevent the catastrophe of the mullahs obtaining nuclear weapons.

Of course the catastrophe is not limited to nuclear weapons. Several days ago mullahs' supreme leader Ali Khamenei took part in a conference purported to support Palestine, in which he emphasized three points. First, Islamic regimes ruling Muslim countries, meaning the export of fundamentalism and the establishment of a global Islamic empire. Second, reiterating the rhetoric about the destruction of Israel. Third, brazen support for terrorism and suicide attacks. These three issues are in line with Tehran's efforts to acquire the nuclear bomb and meddle in Iraq.

That is why for the past three years, the Iranian Resistance has repeatedly warned Tehran's meddling in Iraq is more dangerous than its nuclear program. The mullahs are trying to dominate the whole region by using Iraq as a platform. Ignoring this threat has paved the way for the mullahs in that country.

In addition to controlling Iraq's political and security organs, the clerical regime has conspired against the democratic process in Iraq by organizing the assassination of hundreds of anti-fundamentalist university chancellors and faculty as well as physicians and intellectuals in the past three years.

In one of the biggest heists of the current century, the mullahs have smuggled more than 20 billion dollars worth of Iraqi oil to Iran through Iraq's southern borders. To this end, the ruling dictatorship has divided the southern oil rich region among its affiliated groupings that are entrusted with patrolling those regions and oil facilities. This has given them free reins to plunder Iraq's oil. To do this, they use police cars and uniforms. The stolen oil, up to 500,000 barrels a day, provides for the huge expenditures their meddling in Iraq entails.

Today, the most effective solution to stop the mullahs' meddling in Iraq is to thwart the clerical regime and its operatives in Iraq. That is the only way to neutralize the mullahs' domination and hegemonic advances and guarantee peace, democracy and tranquility in the region. Not much time is left to do so. We must not allow the mullahs to benefit from negotiations while they solidify their position in Iraq.

The fact of the matter is that the mullahs will never abandon their nuclear weapons. Nor will they stop trying to dominate Iraq. These are the guarantees to preserve their regime.

They have, therefore, undermined all efforts and attempts to compromise. Today, there is only one way to prevent the mullahs from acquiring a nuclear arsenal and a war: democratic change in Iran, which is only possible by the Iranian people and Resistance.

And that is why it is now very important to remove the terrorist label from the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, the Resistances' pivotal force. The PMOI was blacklisted at the request of the mullahs and in the framework of appeasement. This label is the most important obstacle to change in Iran.

Those who are trying to maintain this label in order to keep their bridges with the mullahs are providing the greatest assistance to the mullahs in their quest for the bomb.



No pressure is more effective on the mullahs than removing the unwarranted restrictions from the Iranian people's Resistance.

The Iranian people hold the key to solving the Iran crisis. With an organized resistance movement, the people of Iran have demonstrated their determination for change by staging more than 4,000 acts of protest last year alone.

Allow me therefore to announce on behalf of the Iranian people:

1. The mullahs' nuclear program is unpatriotic and against the highest interests of the Iranian people. Contrary to the regime's claims, a vast majority of Iranians oppose it.
2. The United Nations Security Council must impose sanctions on the mullahs' regime.
3. The mullah's regime must be kicked out of Iraq.
4. The PMOI must be removed from the terror list as soon as possible. This is the litmus test of an end to appeasement policy.
5. The mullahs' regime is not worthy of being a member of the world community. We demand the expulsion of the clerical regime from the United Nations and the recognition of the Iranian people's Resistance for democracy.

Thank you very much.

Paulo CASACA

Co-Chair of the Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group from Portugal (PSE)

I would like to tell you first that it is a great honour for me to be sitting beside one of the most remarkable democratic leaders of our contemporary history. I have had the honour of knowing her since some years now. The clear and deep analyses that we just heard, are signs of a leader well beyond the borders of her proper country.

This also reminds us of how shameful it is for the West to witness terrorist threats continue to flow in from the Iranian regime claiming openly to have trained 40,000 terrorists to attack the West and at the same time call terrorists those who are exactly the principal victims of the Iranian regime's terrorism.

This regime is also responsible for assassination of thousands of Iraqi intellectuals; all those who can hamper the theocratic invasion by Iran are systematically assassinated in Iraq.

This is something I cannot understand. How is it possible to see all this and then continue the same old policy? I think we have to change our policy completely and change all our positions. One has to end listing the Iranian Resistance as a terrorist organization. Instead, the Iranian regime should be listed as such. Thank you for your invitation.

Coming to Auvers-sur-Oise is like going to Ashraf. I like to thank you very much for the extended and comprehensive analysis of the situation that you made. As Mr. Vidal Quadras, our first Vice president, said and to which I fully subscribe, it was exactly the same as my analysis. Allow me as well if I may to stress here that the weight of the Portuguese Socialist delegation, we have the pleasure to be here, my dear friend and compatriot and a vice president of the European Parliament, Mr. Manuel dos Santos, coming from North of Portugal, and my dear colleague Mr. Emanuel Jardim Fernandes from Madeira and me coming from Azores. So the Islands are very much



represented here and I think it shows that your message is going forward and we are appreciating it and we are more and more viewing what you are saying as an obvious common sense comment.



Struan STEVENSON

Co-Chair, Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group & Vice President of EPP-ED Group from UK

Thank you very much President.

This large cross party and influential delegation representing the European Parliament and our colleague from the Senate of Belgium is here to send a wakeup call to the West.

This time we have come with a much bigger delegation but it is good to hear that despite all the pressure you are under, you are still very strong and robust. And that gives all of us who are helping you as best we can, it gives us great spirit to come here and hear your words.

We are here because we are in danger here now in the West of watching history repeat itself. It is only 60 years since we struggled out of the smoking embers of the last Holocaust brought about by a fascist regime. A fascist regime which if it had the access to nuclear weapons, would certainly have used them

Now we are seeing exactly the same lessons of history repeating themselves and we don't seem to have learned those lessons. We see a fascist regime in Tehran with expansionist policies, as can be seen from their meddling in neighbouring Iraq, and with a hatred of the Jews expressed by Ahmadinejad and his colleagues again and again who want to wipe Israel off the map.

With the daily oppression of minorities, hangings, stonings, gaugings, amputations, children being hanged in public, this regime maintains its grip on power. Only in August 2004 a 16- year-old girl was hanged from a construction crane in public. We've seen 120,000 members of the opposition executed since this regime came to power 27 years ago.

We see them actively rearming. They say this is a peaceful nuclear programme. Why do they need seven meters of concrete on top of the nuclear bunkers if it is a peaceful nuclear programme? We are witnessing ladies and gentleman, a looming catastrophe and yet we are talking now about appeasement. Jack Straw from the United Kingdom is in Saudi Arabia today with his usual honeyed words trying to say that appeasement is the only course that can be taken. Meanwhile in the pentagon we have the hawks of the Bush administration even contemplating, according to news reports, a limited nuclear strike against Tehran.

There is an alternative and that is why we are here to show our solidarity and support with the People's Mojahedin of Iran and the National Council of Resistance and Mrs. Rajavi. There is a peaceful, secular democracy which we could support and which the people of Iran would actively support but instead of that we have shackled the opposition and have put handcuffs of them. We have had to come here to meet Mrs. Rajavi because she cannot come to Brussels. She cannot go to the Pentagon to give her powerful message of resistance to the mullahs and demonstrate the powerful Resistance which could replace the fascist regime in Iran with a democratic, secular democracy. Instead of that, she is on the terror list, which is a farce. We have to remove the Mojahedin from the terror list and we have to give them our full support.

I always like to quote poetry being a Scot and the great Persian poet in the Divan-e Hafez, said:

"I walked where tulips blossomed red and whispered to the morning breeze,

Who are you martyrs cold and dead, whose bloody winding sheets are these?"

Well let us offer, hope and peace and security and democracy to the people of Iran and not bloody winding sheets.

Senator Margriet HERMANS

First Vice President, Women Committee in Belgian senate, Liberal Party (VLD)

First of all, let me tell you that I am very impressed by the fact that such a powerful woman is the president of this opposition. It does not only comfort me but it also gives me a comfortable feeling and I have followed with interest your analysis of the actions of Iran, of the situation in Iraq. I think everybody, all of these people here, are convinced that war is a bad solution and indeed democracy, opposition and resistance is the only way to get further. Otherwise, innocent people are going to get killed again. People who do not want this and so I am proud to tell you that in Belgium, the Senate, we have already voted a resolution in which we asked the European police to abolish the fact that you are on this list of forbidden terrorist organizations and though it's going to be a long way. I know the message for us all is going to be very hard, because there is still a lot of resistance, even in our countries and we also all know why, because there are lots of economic considerations. We have to be honest on this. Everybody wants to have his own oil company but I think we should try to convince our leaders, try to convince our companions and parliamentary colleagues that it is very important to give this democratic solution a chance.



Stéphane RAJAVI

Jurist and son of late Prof. Kazem Rajavi

Switzerland is the first European democracy to have clearly severed ties with the policy of appeasement vis-à-vis Iran.

This tiny independent and courageous country decided, in contrast to all expectations, and in the middle of the nuclear rises, to issue an international arrest warrant against Ali Fallahian, the right arm of the leader of the Iranian regime.

As the former Minister of Intelligence for Rafsanjani, the latter took part in the assassination of more than 250 political opposition members all over the world. He took part in and planned numerous anti Semite operations in the world and is today providing every possible counsel to promote a policy of coercion, especially against Iranian Resistance members and against all democracies.

So what the tiny Switzerland has done in judicial manners could be repeated by great Europe in political terms, by accepting to take off the PMOI from the terrorism list, in order that in the end an anti-thesis represented by the Iranian Resistance led by Maryam Rajavi to Islamic fundamentalism would be able to expand and allow Iran witness democracy.



Manuel Antonio dos SANTOS

Vice President of European Parliament from Portugal (PSE)

First of all, I would like to thank you for your invitation, and for your hospitality. It is very kind of you and it is very important for me to be here.

I just briefed you on the strong Portuguese presence here. We have lived during some forty years under dictatorship in Portugal, where we had a situation similar to yours. Democracy finally conquered Portugal especially because of the existence of resistance outside the country. If democracy won in 1974, it did so thanks to the democratic resistance established outside the country especially in France.

Our first socialist leader lived here in Paris where he taught for some time. And it was from here that he carried out all the resistance to build democracy in Portugal. So we perfectly well understand your situation and we have much sympathy towards your movement. This is a historical explanation.

I also thank you for your comments on the Iranian situation, which is very rational, very intelligent and very moderate. You are so fond of peace, as much as you hate war; you are a person of good intention. I think we can help you.

I do agree with all that was said on the political choices available to us by Mr. Vidal-Quadras, as well as by Mr. Casaca. There are three choices: war, appeasement and the solution based on the power being handed over to democratic forces of Iran and naturally to your movement.

I would also like to say that you have my absolute solidarity. I do have a leader in this respect, and that is Mr. Casaca, and I carry out everything he tells me on this subject. I can offer you my comprehension, and especially my solidarity as well as my efforts in the European Parliament.



André BRIE

Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee from Germany (GUE/NGL)

Madam President, I fully agree with your speech and I think that the alternative you have mentioned is the only realistic and responsible way. There are two wrong and two very dangerous ways, the one is appeasement policy by the European Union and the other which has already explained would be a military intervention or military strike, even we could not exclude that it not ruled out yesterday a nuclear strike that would cause a dangerous and extremely negative development in the national security and especially between the Islamic and the Western world. Nobody can be interested in such a development. And, therefore, I of course support this third alternative.

It's not an easy way, it's not a short way, but there is one very easy, very immediate and very effective stand that would be the removal of the PMOI from the terrorist list. This would give the democratic opposition in Iran much more possibility to influence future developments in Iran and to come to democratic development as a country.

I visited Ashraf twice, it was not easy for me, it was a problem to be an opposition to the regime in Iran and



enemies of such a regime have of course some sympathy to visit a camp of the organization that is on the terrorist list. I wasn't sure my visit would be acceptable by my own country, but I wanted to get an own impression, an authentic impression, and I was allowed to move freely in the camp, to speak to all the people I wanted, to ask all questions, even the most critical questions and I've got sufficient and very convincing answers and especially I have met people this democratic behaviour, this culture and very self confident and highly educated. Therefore, I was a witness to the democratic character of the PMOI and I think it is a real scandal that they are on the terrorist list.

If the Americans could find any terrorists they would of course have published it. But never the less I have got my own picture and I would like to invite specially the journalists to go there. It is the only secure place in that part of Iraq and you can speak to everyone and you can visit any place and you will find them very competent, well-educated with a democratic behaviour.



Romana JORDAN CIZELJ

Vice President of Slovenian Democratic Party (EPP-ED)

I am very honoured to be here, to be invited to this meeting and that I am very impressed Mrs. Rajavi by your kindness, by your charm and I am also a little bit surprised by the role which women play in the Iranian opposition. We cannot only see the president but also other women which have influence in your opposition.

Iranian people deserve a democratic Iran and democratic state and respect for human rights and fundamental liberties.

I completely agree with you that war and military interventions and also appeasement are not solutions. So, I believe in democracy and I know that the People's Mojahedin Organization is one of the key elements of this opposition and I agree that it is very important to ensure its removal from the terrorist list.

On the question of nuclear, I would like to mention that in my opinion peaceful use of nuclear energy is acceptable only in democratic states with independent experts and high level of safety culture to make sure it is only for peaceful use of energy. Moreover, I consider as dangerous covert nuclear programs no matter which country it is. When a country with intolerant military leaders is in power then nuclear weapons can easily endanger humanity. That's why I expect a fair position on the international community towards this issue. I also truly agree with what you said and I think that the removal of PMOI is really our next action.

I am here today because I would like to help with the promotion of the democratic forces that work inside and outside of Iran and support to the establishment of a democratic state, respectful of human rights and fundamental liberties. Unfortunately, in Iran this is not the state of affairs at the moment.

I'm sure that the best would be to rebuild Iran through people's participations. This seems the only sustainable solution. Domestically as well as internationally for the revelation of such a goal in my opinion, the crucial rule of the People's Mojahedin Organization and I see as a necessary step, a balanced relationship with PMOI, and its removal from the terrorist list.

I hope we won't be too late in limiting the oppressive regime that is in power and stopping the nuclear program they are developing for obviously not so peaceful purposes.

In a nutshell we shall act decisively, coherently and fast enough.



Helmut MARKOV

Leader of German PDS Group (GUE/NGL)

First of all I would like to say thanks for having the possibility to be here for a second time and to have a debate with you. I think as we look around, we are coming from very different countries; we are members of very different parties, we are Christians, Muslims, and non-believing persons. Nevertheless, we have the same aim, we have the aim to build up a democratic society for all countries around the world, without any actions from the outside, without war but only in the way that the population has to decide by themselves which way they intend to go. I think personally your organization is the real democratic

opposition against the mullahs in Iran and therefore we have to support and do whatever we can do and we have to demand first of all, if we haven't done already a number of times that it has to be removed from the terrorist list. Nevertheless, we have to repeat all the time that the Mojahedin organization must be removed from the terrorist list because this is the first step that must be taken. At the same time, we have to condemn the mullahs' regime for what they are doing in Iran. Indeed, it is indescribable what they are doing, hanging, stoning and violating the rights of women. I think when we look to your country what we can see is big change from the students side, from the educated side. There is a possibility to build up from the other Iran so that I hope and I am sure you will have the possibility and we will support you to build up another Iran and I do not know how long that will take but finally we will win and we will have a democratic peaceful Iran. Your country has such a wide culture, with such an input in the past. I wish you all the best and you can be sure you will have our support.

Tunne KELAM

Member of Foreign Affairs Committee from Estonia (EPP-ED)

I am thankful for your hospitality. But I am inspired by your courage and your determination to stand up against evil, against forces which are suppressing their own people for many years and I am glad to see behind your back our national flags. This is a good symbol of our solidarity. And I am glad also that two Iberian countries are represented here but it's important that all countries participate from Iberia to Scotland to Slovenia and several other places because we are speaking about appeasement. I think this is a very important key word to describe the present situation and the question is whether the present regime which has become so dangerous for international community is bound to be the result of our participation in this appeasement. I think the regime would have been normalized already; there will be freedom for citizens if we had been decisive. Therefore, what Struan Stevenson, my dear colleague said, a regime which is capable of committing such atrocities day by day against their own citizens, this regime is for sure capable of launching a nuclear war if they would have these nuclear weapons. Therefore, our time to react today is very limited. We need to learn the lessons of history.

I come from a country which has experienced the soviet communist regime. I spend 51 years of my life under this regime and therefore I think it's our duty to help and demonstrate our solidarity not only in words and good feelings but also in practice to help such a big and important country and nation as Iran to normalize the situation, to provide freedom and dignity for it's citizens. This is our common fight. We cannot keep ourselves separate from



it, not anymore and I think therefore it will be our very clear and strong message to our colleagues and our national governments to react now and end this policy of illusions, hoping that regime would provide them with good treaties and short gains. It's not possible. The bridges have been burnt already so we face a new situation and we have to react with seriousness and the responsibility.

We understand that putting the Mojahedin Organization on terrorist list was part of a compromise. Part of a rapprochement between political leaders of the EU and the Iranian regime. It was done at the expense of the main opposition force.

If we are sincere in advancing freedom and democracy we need to concentrate right now on the main issue the real issue that is the danger which Iranian regime presents not only to Iranian people but to the whole world. Therefore, not military intervention but the third way allowing the Iranian people to start to liberate themselves is important and we see the only practical force to advance this issue in the form of National Council of Resistance.

I think it is a shame seeing the leaders for this main opposition to be forced to sit here and not allowed to travel freely across Europe to America to explain this issue.

And I think it is our task to make it clear to our colleagues in the European Parliament to send a very strong message to the European Commission and make it our political priority to address this issue to allow the Iranian people to free themselves.



Vytautas LANDSBERGIS

Former President of Lithuania and member of Foreign Affairs Committee (EPP-ED)

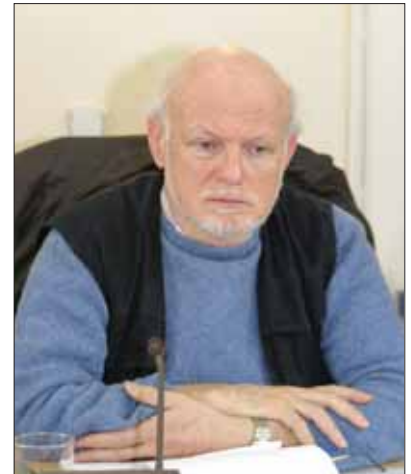
Madam President, I could only offer words of encouragement to you. I am very grateful to be here. The legitimization of the Iranian Mojahedin is a number one issue. This is important from an international perspective as well, because it would give your movement freer hand to act. I am thinking about how we could work to normalize the situation in Iran through sound political steps taken in conjunction with efforts by European nations or the European community alone. In meantime you have a strong moral and natural to commitment to present the alternative Iranian voice. Iran

would not be seen through the views and acts of its repressive rulers but through its alternative which you represent.

I wonder what message could be sent to Iranians from Europe with your assistance or by your initiative. I have wondered several times about the inability of European policy makers to make a clear distinction with respect to the Iranian community. We should not create obstacles that would undermine the work of the opposition and at the same time allow the Iranian regime to pursue their ambitions. While legitimate facilities for peaceful purposes should be allowed, they should not be confused with military sites. We must clearly denounce any plan or effort to pursue the military path. There has to be full international control about what the Iranian regime is doing because that regime today lacks credibility. Every word they are talking about is that they don't have any military intentions, but their actions make us think otherwise. The Russians are helping them and so on. So their claims are not credible. The second issue which is the most important is the understanding that the present Iranian regime is a danger for entire Iranian nation, not only for people involved in human rights but for entire Iranian nation because in the worst case it may cause a nuclear conflict. Maybe they would be happy to liquidate Israel but that might result in their own regime being liquidated.

Erik MEIJER

Member of Foreign Affairs Committee from the Netherlands (GUE/NGL)



The member states of the EU pretend to defend democracy and human rights. That should be a reason to seek solidarity with the forces elsewhere in the world, who try to defend or to promote the same standards for their own country. That should be especially the case for countries in the direct neighborhood of Europe, like Iran. As to-day a horrible system of government and punishment is ruling Iran, for Europe there is no lack of reasons to support the Iranian opposition in exile. This regime likes to kill its opponents and to provoke conflicts. It is even proud to show how horrible it is. Those fundamentalists don't only organize a society for themselves on the basis of their theocratic believe, but they try to destroy and to oppress everybody who has an other view. And they don't limit their terror to their own country.

At this moment European leaders are double interested in what is happening in Iran, but it is a very limited kind of interest. Europe, like America, likes to get rid of the thread of nuclear weapons and likes to import oil. But Europe has to seek another kind of position, not dominated by fear or by economic advantages but by democracy and human rights. The public opinion inside Europe has to be aware of the character of the the regime and the need to support democratic change. It had to be shown that it is becoming more and more a scandal that Europe doesn't try to isolate the non-democratic regime but the democratic opposition.

The choice is not between accepting and tolerating a nuclear and arrogant Iran or a military intervention, like was done in Iraq and Afghanistan.. We have a third option to support the Iranian people and its organized resistance. This was proposed by Mrs Rajavi when she spoke in the European Parliament and I support this approach. No military intervention from outside, like in Afghanistan and Iraq, which mainly serves interests from outside and even provokes support for a hated regime, but solidarity with the democratic opposition.

As a first step, the People's Mojahedin must be removed from the terror list. Europe should support the Iranian opposition, in its struggle for democratic regime change.

Jaroslav ZVĚŘINA

Member of Committee on Legal Affairs from Czech Republic (EPP-ED)



I am here to express my solidarity with your policy and with all members of the Iranian national resistance movement. We, the people from the post-soviet countries, have our own experience with living under dictatorship. Such a cruel regime which is contemporary Iranian government of the president Ahmadinejad, brings great suffering and stress to the people of your country.

I fully agree that it is not a good idea to change the Iranian regime by military power. We should try to give as soon as possible support to all existing elements of political opposition. Among these elements, I see the Mojahedin being very important part. The official politics of the European Union towards these movements should be changed as soon as possible. Having the People's Mojahedin on the list of terrorist organizations is inappropriate and ridiculous. The very first step should be to remove the POMI from the "List".

Emanuel Jardim FERNANDES

Member of Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly from Portugal (PSE)

I'm very pleased to see you for the second time Madam President. First time it was in December 2004 in the European Parliament. I was listening to your speech very carefully today. In your attitude I did not see a glimpse of hatred or anger. Nor did I notice any radicalism or preaching of violence in your words, because you are truly a strong and competent leader.

The regime of Iran is a great preoccupation for the world. From China to EU, France to the U.S. It is a great preoccupation. That is the reason we reject the war. The embargo on Iran by the UN I think is a way that we shall seek but the best way to be sure and to stimulate the people of Iran is the Resistance in Iran. But the resistance of Iran the resistance of the Mojahedin must be helped. If we think that the best way to assure a stabilized regime, not a radical regime, is to assure democracy and for that reason I think we cannot accept that the best representative of the third option for democracy is penalized as terrorists.

Today we heard from the President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the description of the murder of Mr. Kazem Radjavi, a prominent Representative of National Council of Iranian Resistance in Switzerland by the Iranian regime. We have to put an end to this and other serious atrocities by supporting a regime change, whilst respecting Iran's right to self-determination, in order to restore democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in this bastion of civilization.

It will only be in this manner, in a process furthered by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) and supported by the United Nations, that Iran will free itself from the claws of dictatorship! As such it is important to revise the label of "terrorist organisation" against the PMOI, so that this organization may resume its activities of peaceful resistance to the regime inside and outside of Iran.

