

# Distinguished American Speakers at 2020 Free Iran Global Summit Deplore 1988 Massacre in Iran, Call for Justice

*NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi: The 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners is "one of the most horrifying and indescribable crimes" of the regime.*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, August 1, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Over the July 17th weekend, the Iranian Resistance held its annual "Free Iran Global Summit." Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's gathering was hosted virtually over the course of three days in Ashraf 3, home to members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also referred to as the Mojahedin-e Khalq ([MEK](#)). The first day brought together supporters of a free Iran from six continents, at more than 30,000 locations in over 100 countries, including Iran and Albania.



Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, keynote speaker at the 2nd day of 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, "Call for Justice," July 19, 2020.

The second day was devoted to the 1988 Massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, mostly MEK members and supporters, executed during five months of evil largely ignored to this day by the international community. The massacre was carried out per a fatwa (religious decree) issued by then Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini. Many of the current officials of the mullahs' regime played active and key roles in this crime against humanity. The culprits include the regime's current Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, who was president at the time, and Ebrahim Raisi, currently head of the Judiciary who in 1988 was a member of the "Central Death Commission" in charge of executing political prisoners.

Mrs. [Maryam Rajavi](#), President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran ([NCRI](#)), delivered the keynote speech at the Free Iran Summit. She described the 1988 Massacre as "one of the most horrifying and indescribable crimes" of the regime. "With his fatwa sanctioning the massacre, Khomeini intended to annihilate the MEK," she added.

The Call for Justice movement, initiated by Mrs. Rajavi in 2016, has played a pivotal role in shedding light on the 1988 Massacre and other crimes against humanity committed by the mullahs' regime. "Over the past 32 years, the Iranian Resistance has held hundreds and thousands of conferences, rallies, marches and symbolic trials in this regard and divulged numerous documents, names of victims and locations of their unmarked graves," the Iranian opposition President continued.

Paying tribute to the tireless efforts of MEK martyrs and Iranian Resistance

leader Massoud Rajavi, Mrs. Rajavi concluded her speech by saying, "For 40 years, the mullahs have been viciously crucifying the MEK and the Iranian Resistance, particularly Massoud Rajavi, every day with a barrage of lies and unfounded allegations, just like they killed and tortured our people... But today Massoud Rajavi's name inspires the rebellion and the fight for freedom, just as his name inspired the perseverance and resistance of political prisoners during the 1988 Massacre... There will come a day when his dream of a free Iran will come true. Yes, the day will come when the flowers of freedom and popular sovereignty will bloom in Iran."

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*Maryam Rajavi, the NCRI  
President-elect*

The Summit's second day also saw an array of distinguished political and human rights figures address the event, several Americans among them. Ambassador Lincoln Bloomfield, former State Department Special Envoy

and Former Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs, went into detail about the disinformation campaign of the regime and its attempts to discredit the NCRI and MEK, both internationally and in Iran. In his words, "I have studied the allegations against MEK and NCRI, and they were not supported by credible evidence. I prepared an independent report and became very interested in the deeper story. The more I looked, the more I found the true story of the MEK has been erased and misrepresented. They advocate democracy and freedom of speech.

"Is there any other resistance group advocating universal democratic values in Iran? Is there any



Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, keynote speaker at the 2nd day of 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, entitled "Call for Justice," July 19, 2020.

other resistance group standing for gender equality against a brutal and corrupt regime 100% controlled by men? Is there any other resistance group that is capable of organizing a worldwide virtual meeting with thousands of people in over 100 countries? You'll recognize that picture. It's a remarkable sight. The world has never seen anything like that. The regime sees these events and they know the NCRI and the MEK more than anyone else are fully capable of organizing a democratic transition to legitimate constitutional government after the fall of the regime," Ambassador Bloomfield said.

Distinguished civil rights lawyer Alan M. Dershowitz said: "The greatest human rights crisis in the world today is in Iran. The Iranian government is the greatest, most serious human rights violator on this planet... We know that the Iranian attempt to suppress dissent and human rights goes well beyond its own borders, and we know that Iran will stop at absolutely nothing to preserve its illegitimate, undemocratic regime."

Regarding the Iranian Resistance, Mr. Dershowitz said: "This is a very important organization that does more to bring the problem of human rights in Iran to the attention of the world than any other organization. It operates effectively as a counterforce against the violation of human rights by Iran."

Appealing to some of the core values of the western world, he added: "If you care about human dignity, human rights, civil life, join the current campaign against the regime in Iran. The world, the people of Iran need regime change. If you're a supporter of human rights, you must be an opponent of the regime of Iran. History will show you are on the right side of history."

Former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission Kenneth Blackwell spoke: "We must expose this regime and its reign of terror with what we can. We must demand that the



Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, visits the memorial dedicated to the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the 2nd day of the 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, entitled "Call for Justice," July 19, 2020.



From left: Amb. Kenneth Blackwell, Amb. Lincoln Bloomfield, and Mr. Alan M. Dershowitz, addressed the 2nd Day of 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, entitled "Call for Justice," July 19, 2020

world court try these criminals for their crimes against humanity. We must bring support to the men and women who are willing to do what they are able to do inside of this repressive regime in Iran. By supporting the people of Iran, we give humanity and freedom a fighting chance. We must be the points of light in the shadow of darkness. We must be agents of change, take the risks to be supporters that there be actions taken against this regime of darkness and terror. Let's commit to be a force for change."

Former political prisoners and MEK members also gave heart-wrenching testimonies of the torture they suffered at the hands of the mullahs during the summer of 1988. Homa Jabari urged world leaders to stand on the side of justice and to "remember the suffering of the Iranian people" when they craft policy towards the regime. "We were the generation who went to the execution chambers because we chose freedom. We chose this path with open eyes and full knowledge, and decided to sacrifice everything for freedom. The world must know what happened to the MEK in the past 40 years. European leaders should know that when they shake hands with this regime, they must remember the suffering of the Iranian people."

Another MEK member and eyewitness to the atrocities, Damona Taavoni, said, "My father was executed by the regime. I was taken to prison with my mother when I was six years old. I remember the shouts of prisoners in torture chambers. As I grew up, I heard inspiring stories about the victims of the 1988 Massacre. Prisoners were asked a single question: 'Do you support the MEK?' Those who said yes were executed. Those who said no, survived. We know that 30,000 said yes.

"I'm here to be the voice of the 30,000 political prisoners who died. They made a decision to sacrifice their lives so people in our country don't have to sell their body parts to put food on the table for their families," added Taavoni.



MEK members and former political prisoners from top left: Damona Taavoni, Kazem Panahi, Bahador Kiamarzi, Homa Jabari



MEK members, residents of Ashraf 3 in Albania, watch the live streaming of 2nd day of the 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, entitled "Call for Justice," July 19, 2020.

Bahador Kiamarzi, also a MEK member and eyewitness to the 1988 Massacre as a child, told the summit, "When I was a child, I was in prison with my mother. I had never seen my father. Once, I was told I would get to visit him, but I only got to peek at him through the frame of the cell door. The regime didn't let me see him because they wanted to enforce the utmost pressure on him. He was executed shortly after, along with 30,000 other political prisoners in the Iranian regime's prisons... We will continue our struggle for our people. The sacrifice of the prisoners will not be in vain. We are more determined than ever in Ashraf 3 to overthrow the regime."

The last eyewitness to address the second day of the Free Iran Summit was MEK member Kazem Panahi: "I was an engineering student in Tabriz after the 1979 revolution. I was arrested in 1981 for being an MEK supporter... We have repeatedly called on the United Nations and UN Human Rights Council to investigate the regime's crimes. The regime leverages its lobbies outside Iran to launch a demonization campaign against the MEK, who are in fact the primary victims of the regime's crimes. The goal of these demonization campaigns is to simply say that there is no democratic alternative to the regime. The regime wants to force the world to come to terms with them. But the MEK will never give up their efforts to overthrow the regime."

The summit drew together a variety of speakers from around the world, all of whom noted that in word and deed, the NCRI and MEK have demonstrated that they want to return sovereignty to the people of Iran, not to seek power at any cost. Many groups and movements have said as much before, but as the testimony of the former political prisoners and experts at day two of the Free Iran Global Summit underscored, actions speak louder than words, and nothing speaks louder than the MEK and NCRI's selfless resistance in the face of an evil, murderous regime.

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