NCRI-US: 45 Years Since Shah Fled and Monarchy Was Buried in Iran For Good

Today, Iranians believe the Shah's suppression of opponents, single-party rule, and the destruction of democratic institutions paved the way for the mullahs.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, January 17, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Forty-five years ago today, on January 16, 1979, after decades of corruption, despotic rule, and mismanagement, which had led to nationwide popular uprisings against his rule, the Shah was forced to flee the country. With him, the monarchial rule was buried in Iran for good.

45 Years Since Shah Fled and Monarchy Was Buried in Iran For Good
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BEHIND THE IRAN HEADLINES
Commentary By Alireza Jafarzadeh
Deputy Director, U.S. Representative Office, National Council of Resistance of Iran

Alireza Jafarzadeh, the deputy director of the U.S. office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, says when Shah was forced to flee Iran forty-five years ago, after decades of despotic and corrupt reign, the monarchial rule was also buried in Iran for good.

A few months earlier, following months of million-strong anti-monarchic protests in streets across Iran, the Shah had wept on national TV, begging Iranians to let him stay in power.

Broken and defeated, he said, "You, the people of Iran, have risen against oppression and corruption. ... I will pledge never to repeat the mistakes, unlawfulness, oppression, and corruption of the past." But it was too late.

In 1953, following the CIA-engineered coup and in collaboration with the fundamentalist clergies, the sole democratic functioning government in Iran's contemporary history headed by Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq was overthrown, and the deposed Shah was reinstalled.

He began ruling with an iron fist, creating a despised secret police, the SAVAK, which for decades brutally murdered and tortured political activists and intellectuals, including authors, academics, artists, and poets.

In November 1976, Amnesty International reported about Shah's torture methods, including

beatings, hanging upside down, rape, electric shock, pulling nails, pulling teeth, and using a hot iron rod to burn the mouth.

On March 3, 1975, the Shah spoke on national television, and the State-run newspaper "Etela'at" published Shah's speech with the headline: "His Majesty declared the formation of the single-political-party." Indeed, the arrogant Shah had put his own downfall in motion.

Today, millions of Iranians believe the Shah's suppression of pro-democracy opponents and the destruction of democratic institutions paved the way for the mullahs, whose network was strengthened by the Shah, to eventually usurp the leadership of a genuine pro-democracy 1979 popular revolution and assume power. The Iranian people see the mullahs' regime as the theocratic version of the Pahlavi dictatorship.

On March 3, 1975, the Shah spoke on national TV, and the State-run newspaper, "Etela'at" published Shah's speech with the headline: "His Majesty declared the formation of the single-political-party." The single-party rule speeded up the downfall of the arrogant Shah.

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> For Iranians, who are advancing a forward-looking revolution, the choice is not the lesser of the two evils of monarchs or ayatollahs. Rather, they seek a democratic, representative, secular republic."
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> *Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy Director of NCRI's Washington Office*

That is why one of the most popular slogans chanted across Iran in uprisings since 2017 has been "Down with the oppressor, be it the Shah or the [Supreme] Leader [Khamenei]."

For Iranians, who are advancing a forward-looking democratic revolution, the choice is not the lesser of the two evils of monarchs or ayatollahs. Rather, they are seeking a democratic and representative republic based on the separation of religion and state. And that is why a free democratic republic in Iran is imminent.

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BACKGROUND
The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) is a democratic coalition of Iranian opposition

organizations and personalities and was founded in Tehran, Iran, in July 1981 as the alternative to the clerical regime, a month after the onset of the nationwide resistance to overthrow the ruling dictatorship.

The NCRI is committed to the affirmation of the people's sovereignty in a republic founded on universal suffrage and pluralism; gender equality; separation of religion and state and freedom of religions and faiths; freedom of thought, press, and association; support for peace in the Middle East; plan for the autonomy of Iranian nationalities and ethnicities; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as embodied in Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's 10-Point Plan for Future Iran.

The NCRI would serve as a provisional government led by its President-elect, Mrs. Rajavi, and its primary responsibility will be to hold free and fair elections for a national and constituent assembly within six months to ensure the peaceful transition of power to the elected representatives of the Iranian people.

Iran's largest, most organized opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also referred to as the MEK, is the principal member of the NCRI.

For more information:
🏴 NCRI-US: https://www.ncrius.org/
🏴 Maryam Rajavi: https://www.maryam-rajavi.com/en/
🏴 NCRI: https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/
🏴 MEK: https://english.mojahedin.org/

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