



Förenade Föreningar för ett Fritt Iran

*Nej till krig, Inga eftergifter,
Stöd oppositionen för en demokratisk förändring i Iran*

H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ambassador Blanchard,

I write to you on behalf of the United Associations for a Free Iran in Sweden (FFFI) with regards to the resolution on the human rights situation in Iran sponsored by Canada, which will come up for a vote at the UN General Assembly later this week.

We applaud Canada for their principled stand on human rights abuses in Iran and are grateful for the efforts by the past and current governments to take the lead internationally in highlighting the Iranian regime's atrocities in an annual resolution on Iran to the UN General Assembly.

This year's resolution on Iran is particularly important as it provides a window for the international community to acknowledge and address the tragic 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran.

In August of this year, new revelations about this massacre surfaced in Iran and the brutality with which the authorities carried out these mass executions shocked both Iranian society and the world. These new revelations follow the publication of an audio recording from a meeting between the Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, the deputy Supreme Leader in Iran at the time, and members of the "death committee" in Tehran who were tasked to implement the execution orders in the capital.

In the light of these revelations, there is a growing call for justice for the victims, and the demands by family members and survivors for the prosecution of the perpetrators of this crime. This movement is gaining momentum both in Iran and abroad.

We believe that Canada will and can play a vital role in the global efforts to bring the perpetrators of these mass executions to justice. This is essential for our efforts to halt executions, arbitrary arrests and torture in Iran, as many of those who committed the 1988 massacre are currently holding senior or ministerial posts in Hassan Rouhani's government.

Canada now has the opportunity to continue its tradition of supporting Iranian human rights activists in their campaign to increase pressure on the regime. An Iran resolution that raises the 1988 massacre would also remind the international community of its responsibility when human rights abusers in Iran are promoted rather than facing justice.

We would therefore be grateful if the Canadian government could make sure that the 1988 massacre is mentioned in the resolution on human rights situation in Iran. The paragraph should also call on the UN to investigate this crime against humanity with the purpose of prosecuting the perpetrators, many of whom are known today to the international community.



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We thank you for your attention and appreciate the opportunity to raise our concerns on this important matter, which we also have raised with the Swedish government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on several occasions.

We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Massud Kiani

*Secretary of the United Associations for a Free Iran in Sweden (FFFI) on behalf of its members
Stockholm, Monday, 2016-10-24*

CC:

*The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Honourable Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran, Dr Ahmed Shaheed
Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Programme Director, Mr Philip Luther
Amnesty Iran Team*