

**Speech on the occasion of a conference organised by
The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom
House of Commons
London, 11 December 2014**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege and a great pleasure to be here today as a guest of The Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom. This feeling of being privileged arises also from the fact that I consider Britain as the European cradle of democracy. My pleasure in being here is enhanced by the fact that together with the Netherlands Britain is my second home country, since the days that I did my Ph.D. at the University of Bristol. Moreover, the topic of today on Human Right in Iran is very close to my heart as a private person as well as a member of the Senate and of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Netherlands.

As we are celebrating the International Day of Human Rights, this year's slogan is **Human Rights 365** and it encompasses the concept that every day is Human Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal Declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times, is entitled indiscriminately to the full range of human rights. Human rights are part of each of us and bind us together as a global community, with the same ideals and values.

Alas, we know that in Iran there is not a single day that executions are stopped; there is not a single day that people have a right to freedom of expression; there is not a single day that under the current Iranian regime believers of other faiths are not suppressed, tortured or massacred.

The present theocratic regime in Iran has caused more than enough bloodshed. It is time for Tehran's rulers to be held accountable for their massive crimes to their own populations and as exporters of international terrorism. In addition, I denounce the regime's ill conceived and poorly disguised efforts to develop nuclear arms. Therefore, on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights I fully agree with Mrs. Rajavi's proposal for referring Iran's human rights dossier to the UN Security Council. I will raise this issue in my country with my colleagues and will do everything in my power to help promote this idea.

Finally, I am appalled by the unacceptable medical siege imposed on innocent residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq. This is a cruel act against people who are refugees and "*protected persons*" under the Fourth Geneva Convention. I wholeheartedly subscribe to the valuable initiative taken by more than 100 British MP's in supporting the Early Day Motion 343 on Iraq and Camp Liberty in the UK House of Commons. I will do my best to attract the support of my colleagues in The Netherlands for this important parliamentary resolution of yours.

Prof. dr. C.A. de Lange