

Ladies and Gentlemen, friends of the people of Iran

On the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, observed on 10 December, it is good to be here today to discuss human right issues in relation to the theocratic mullah regime in Iran. At the same time it is an abomination that after so many years the need for it is larger than ever. Not only is the Iranian regime a danger to its own citizens since too many years, it is also a danger to its neighbours in the Middle East and to world stability. There is every reason to be deeply concerned about the alarming number of executions in Iran, which have reached 743 since the beginning of 2023, and about the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, fuelled by Iran.

At first glance, these two situations may seem unrelated. However, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) has brought to our attention a crucial point that cannot be ignored. It asserts that “the head of the snake” lies in Tehran, indicating that the Iranian regime is the primary cause of the current conflict in the Middle East. Why? Because for the Iranian regime, Palestine is just business, and a perfect means of diverting attention from its own murderous misconduct and failures towards its own people. The ensuing polarization resulting from Iran’s blatant support to terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah is an existential threat to Middle East peace and hence to world stability.

This leads us to the question why the Iranian regime needs this war. We must not forget the protests that swept through Iran last year after the state-sanctioned murder of Mahsa Amini. The 2022 Iran Uprising demonstrated that Iranian society is a powder keg, capable of igniting at any moment, and its volatility has only increased. This uprising brought the regime to the brink of overthrow. The persistent presence of resistance units challenging the regime's suffocating grip across Iran remains a significant and unresolved problem for the regime. The fear of a popular uprising seizing power undermines the regime's stability.

To overcome this precarious situation, the regime intensifies domestic repression and engages in foreign wars. Ayatollah Khamenei has repeatedly stated that if they do not fight in Syria, Iraq, and Palestine, they will have to fight within their own borders, implying that they will confront the Iranian people. Indeed, Khamenei needs war, crisis and destruction wherever he can initiate it to divert attention away from Iran.

In fact, due to its inherently reactionary nature, the Iranian regime does not envision a future for itself except in times of crisis and war. It has never been committed to free elections within Iran, disregarding the public's votes. Now, Khamenei vocalizes his concerns about Middle East peace with the sole purpose of destroying every possibility for adversaries to find some sort of compromise. In this deceptive act, his primary concern is the survival of his own criminal regime. In this context it is a bloody shame that next week the Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi will attempt to be present at the Refugee Forum in Geneva.

In this context, the most significant revenue for Khamenei from the Gaza war has been the execution of approximately 170 people in Iran, including a juvenile before reaching the legal age, while the Gaza war has deviated attentions from Iran. This is precisely what we mean when we say that the "head of the snake is in Tehran."

So, what is the solution to this protracted and complex war with no prospects of ending? There is a clear path forward. The world must focus on the Iranian regime and target the "head of the snake" in Tehran.

But how can this be achieved? Here are some actions to consider:

1. Designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

2. Implement maximum sanctions and activate the mechanism of sanctions.
3. Remove every attempt at appeasement which will only lead to more misery for more people during longer periods from all dealings with the Iranian regime.
4. Stand firm against every attempt of the Iranian regime to develop nuclear arms.
5. Support the democratic opposition, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and its leader, Maryam Rajavi.

But will these actions remove the “head of the snake” in Tehran? It is crucial to realize that the world does not have to fight for the Iranian people. Iran has its own courageous fighters who are more than capable to achieve this aim. The MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq), with 100,000 martyrs, has demonstrated its readiness to pay the price for freedom. It is sufficient for the West to fulfil its duty by not granting concessions to the regime, by not turning a blind eye to its crimes, and by holding it accountable. Otherwise, the Iranian regime is prepared to create a new crisis every day to ensure its own survival.

On the occasion of this International Day of Human Rights, let us unite in our commitment to justice, peace, and the pursuit of freedom for all people, especially those suffering under oppressive regimes. Together, we can work towards a better and more humane future. The democratic forces inside and outside Iran deserve every support that the world can give. There is no freedom and democracy for those who are afraid.

In summary: Long live a free and democratic Iran.

Thank you for your attention.

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Prof. dr. C.A. (Kees) de Lange