



The Revolution of the Iranian Nation, an Outlier in the History

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Over the past six months, the remarkable popular movement that has swept across Iran has revealed to the world the true character of the Iranian people. After nearly half a century of oppression under the Islamic regime, Iranians have demonstrated that they are the heirs to one of the world's oldest civilizations, a nation whose identity is rooted in culture, human dignity, and a rich historical legacy spanning millennia.

The conduct of the Islamic regime bears no resemblance to the historical, cultural, and moral values of the Iranian nation. By rising together, Iranians have sent a clear message to the world: the Islamic regime does not embody Iran. It is a mafia political power imposed upon the country, fundamentally alien to the nation's identity. Nothing illustrates this rupture more tragically than the massacre of tens of thousands of Iran's sons and daughters in less than two days.

For months, millions of Iranians have taken to the streets in hundreds of cities and towns across the country, while countless others have demonstrated in dozens of countries around the world. In terms of its scale, persistence, and geographical reach, this movement stands as one of the most remarkable popular mobilizations of modern history exceptional in the world. It reflects the Iranian people's unique determination to shape the future of their nation.

Yet despite the fact that Western democracies proudly present human rights as one of the pillars of their political systems, their response to nearly five decades of repression under the Islamic regime has too often been hesitant, inconsistent, and inadequate.

Likewise, although many Western media outlets proclaim their editorial independence, the Iranian national movement has received only limited coverage. Some media organizations largely echo the official positions of their governments; others appear to practice self-censorship whenever Iran is concerned.

During nearly half a century in power, the Islamic regime has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iranians. Deprived of freedom, millions have been forced to leave their homeland and rebuild their lives in exile. Its policies have brought conflict, destruction, and instability not only to Iran but to the entire Middle East, while imposing military and economic costs amounting to trillions of dollars.

The National "Lion and Sun Movement" has also become a profound lesson for all Iranians. Its first lesson is clear: lasting success depends on greater unity among Iranians of every political, philosophical, and religious background.

Its second lesson is equally important: **the greatest force capable of leading Iran toward freedom lies within the Iranian people themselves in their ability to organize, to build responsible leadership, and to cooperate beyond political and ideological differences.** Until a free, democratic, and secular Iran has been established, national unity must take precedence over partisan divisions.

Today, the Islamic regime continues to use every instrument at its disposal to prolong its survival. Despite its growing weakness, it seeks to preserve its grip on power for as long as possible.

Iranians inside the country must therefore prepare themselves for the decisive moment that may not be far away a moment when they will once again be able to rise, reclaim their future, and bring an end to a regime they regard as alien to the nation's identity.

At the same time, Iranians living abroad will continue their efforts to ensure that the voices of those struggling for freedom inside Iran are heard throughout the democratic world. The struggle of the Iranian people is not merely a national struggle for political freedom. It is the struggle of an ancient civilization seeking to reclaim its rightful place among the free nations of the world as a nation committed to peace, cooperation, human dignity, and mutual respect.