

Foreign Affairs Committee

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA



Dear members of the Foreign Select Committee,

02.12.22

Ref: Foreign affairs committee meeting with Ms. E. Geranmayeh on 06.12.2022

The Foreign Affairs Committee is to hold a one-off oral evidence session regarding the current events in Iran with Ms. Ellie Geranmayeh and Mr. Kasra Aarabi on 06.12.2022 at 14.30 GMT.

Ms. Ellie Geranmayeh, a senior policy fellow for the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations, has had a recent opinion published by the Washington Post on 01.12.2022.

In this article, Ms. Geranmayeh discusses why the West will still need a nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic. There is no doubt that her speech on Tuesday may reflect her opinions on the Iran nuclear deal.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been steadfast in its desire and determination to obtain nuclear technology. The majority of the progression in furthering nuclear technology was achieved during the very same period that Western democracies were entertaining the Islamic Republic with a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Ballistic missile technology was perfected during the original JCPOA, allowing the Islamic Republic to place the entire near east and the European continent in its missile range.

It is now evident that the Islamic Republic has reached an advanced stage in its nuclear technology and has successfully stalled negotiations. JCPOA has now reached an impasse, especially in light of recent events in Iran.

During the Spring of 2022, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Natfali Bennet, published documents alleging that the Islamic Republic of Iran stole various documents from

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which allowed the government in Tehran to deceive IAEA inspectors in Iran.

The documents discuss how information was obtained illicitly as well as doctoring files for the IAEA inspectors. Documents reveal that the Islamic Republic's replies to IAEA's request and inquiries were 'formulated' as the Iranians had illicitly obtained IAEA documents and paperwork.

Iran's Atomic agency chief, Mr. M Eslami recently announced that the Islamic Republic has started uranium enrichment centrifuges that have been newly installed.

The Islamic Republic has also denied monitoring access to the IAEA, as well as disconnecting 27 surveillance cameras from nuclear sites.

In response, the United Nations nuclear watchdog has now censured the Islamic Republic. The IAEA has also published a report on undeclared nuclear materials found at three nuclear sites and has raised serious concerns regarding Tehran's cooperation and behaviour.

Despite these obvious red flags and Tehran's desire to obtain nuclear technology, Western democracies are still hoping to pave a way forward with diplomatic discussion and hopeful agreements that are shy of appeasement in order to halt, even for a period of time, the Islamic Republic's relentless march toward nuclear technology.

Since the murder of Mahsa Amini on 16.09.2022 and the subsequent protests, uprisings, and now revolution in Iran calling for the removal of the Islamic Republic, the international community has witnessed a brutal and inhumane crackdown by the Islamic Republic security and para-military forces resulting in the deaths of hundreds on unarmed protestors, including over 50 minors.

Over 15,000 protestors have been arrested and there are reports of systematic torture and rape. Many others have recently been arrested at their homes or simply kidnapped from the streets and their fate remains unknown.

After the Islamic Republic parliament voted unanimously for the execution of the arrested protestors for the crime of enmity toward God and pollution on earth, we have witnessed recent executions of innocent protestors who were subjected to sham trials under torture, duress, and with no legal representatives.

These executions and further unlawful killings of protestors follow the decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council to set up a fact-finding mission to fully investigate the breaches of Human Rights by the Islamic Republic. Such is the boldness and confidence of the theocratic dictatorship in Tehran, that a U.N Human Rights mission is not enough to deter the unlawful murder of unarmed protestors and minors and the unlawful execution of protestors.

Ms. Geranmayeh has historically interacted with the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) and has had many meetings and interviews with this organisation.

NIAC is said to be a lobbyist for the regime in Tehran and in recent times, especially now, they have set up an agenda to whitewash and dilute the intensity of crimes of

the Islamic Republic. NIAC has also historically supported the JCPoA and played a fundamental role in 2015.

Since its establishment by Mr.T. Parsi in 2002, NIAC has portrayed itself as a nonpartisan organisation dedicated to advancing the interests of the Iranian-American community. Many of the Iranian diasporas accuse NIAC of being a lobbyist and apologist for the Islamic Republic.

One outspoken critic of NIAC is Mr. Daioleslam, who is the head of the Iranian American Forum. This group has claimed that NIAC lobbies policymakers in the U.S. in order to weaken sanctions against Iran.

In a libel case against Mr. Daioleslam, NIAC lost the Federal court case in 2012, and U. S district judge J.D Bates severely criticised NIACS's failure to co-operate and wrote in his ruling summary that *"Mr.Parsi occasionally made statements reflecting a balanced, shared blame approach is not inconsistent with the idea that he was first and foremost an advocate for the regime"*.

In a democracy and a political system that protects free speech, such as the U.K., Ms. Geranmayeh has the right to discuss and voice her opinions regarding the recent events in Iran, and she certainly has the right to voice her thoughts regarding the Iran nuclear deal.

We ask that the Foreign Affairs Committee reflects on the four decades of the Islamic Republic's breaches of Human Rights, the unlawful execution of political prisoners, rape and torture of opponents as well as failure to adhere to international laws and norms.

The Islamic Republic has a resume that includes kidnapping, assassinations, sea piracy, downing civilian aircraft, establishment and funding of multiple terror organisations, aiding the war effort in Syria, Yemen, and now in Ukraine, kidnapping, and hostage-taking of dual nationals and European nationals in Iran.

The world has now witnessed how the regime has murdered, tortured, and raped with impunity unarmed civilians and minors with no remorse.

The Foreign affairs committee may wish to reflect on the Islamic Republic's uncooperative behaviour regarding the nuclear deal, its non-compliance with the IAEA, and the relentless, uncompromising pursuit of developing military nuclear technology.

The world is witnessing an organic homegrown revolution in Iran against a theocratic dictatorship by unarmed Iranian civilians, and this has been spearheaded by brave Iranian girls and women.

The Iranians do not need military support from the democracies of the world, but they do require democracies, that uphold Human Rights and value the sanctity of life, to restrict their ties with a regime that murders unarmed civilians and children and to introduce sanctions that will affect the economy of the Islamic Republic, thus curtailing their ability to function and kill unarmed civilians.

The thought of a nuclear-armed Islamic Republic is a concern and a threat to world peace and stability. Regardless of negotiations, appeasements to a brutal dictatorship, that may temporarily favour the Islamic Republic in order to halt, even for a while, Tehran's ability to obtain nuclear technology, the Islamic Republic will continue with its agenda. This will be done regardless of a new step-by-step agreement as advocated by Ms. Geranmayeh.

Iranians are standing firm, despite heavy losses, arrests, torture, beatings, and rape to rid themselves, Iran, and the world of the Islamic Republic. The world's only guaranteed solution to stop the Islamic Republic's nuclear ambitions is by withdrawing its ambassadors from Iran and placing the regime under strict sanctions to help the Iranians who are unarmed stand firmer against a rapidly weakening and failing regime.

Yours Sincerely,

Association of Iranian Human Rights and Allies

Cc:

Alicia Kearns	(Conservative)
Chris Bryant	(Labour)
Neil Coyle	(Independent)
Andrew Rosindell	(Conservative)
Henry Smith	(Conservative)
Graham Stringer	(Labour)
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